

WHAT'S NEW?

COVID-19 Testing Extended
Details, page 10

City Careers
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Extended Care Registration Open
Details, page 6

Rent Stabilization Allowance
Details, page 4

Memorial Day
Monday, May 30
City offices and facilities closed

Trash/Recycling Collection
Monday, May 30
No yard waste collection

Look for this icon throughout this issue
See page 10

May is Bike Month!



Here Comes Bike to Work Day 2022: Registration is now open for the Bike to Work Day on May 20. Whether you are commuting to work or looking for a morning activity between your bed and your home office, join the City of Takoma Park at two pit stops on the Sligo Creek Trail or in Old Takoma. Register in advance for a free t-shirt, bike safety swag, and more! To register, visit: www.biketo-workmetrodc.org

Ready Your Rides for Bike to School Day: Grab your helmets and join Plan-



ning Division staff to celebrate Bike to School Day on Wednesday, May 4. The Safe Routes to School program will work with the local elementary and middle schools to hand out free bike safety gear, information, and prizes for students and families riding their bikes.

Resources for Riders

Takoma Park Bike Map

Takoma Park is a great place to ride a bike for your daily commute, running errands, or just for fun. Take some of the guesswork out of your ride and check out the Takoma Park Bike Map! Learn about designated, on-street bike routes, Capital Bikeshare stations, and our incredible, regional, multi-use trail networks! With access to the Sligo Creek Trail and Metropolitan Branch Trail, downtown Washington and nature are all easily within reach. Check out our Takoma Bike Map here: <https://tinyurl.com/TkPkBikeMap>.

Takoma Park Bike Repair Stations

Takoma Park has three bike repair stations, located at the Community Center outside the entrance to the Police Station, on New Hampshire Avenue near the Sligo Creek Trail, and on the Metropolitan Branch Trail across from Belle Ziegler Park. The stations include air pumps and the basic tools needed to make emergency bike repairs.

Capital City Bikeshare

The City has seven Capital Bikeshare stations in Takoma Park connecting to those in nearby Silver Spring and Washington D.C. Pick up one of the iconic red bikes in the city and ride to any of Capital Bikeshare's 600+ stations in the Metropolitan Washington area. Learn more at <https://secure.capitalbikeshare.com/map>.

We Belong Together: Equity Walk Gets a Fresh Coat of Paint

The colorful pavement markings and stations got a refresh last month, just in time for springtime strolls! Visit one of the two interactive activity trails to spark play and discussion surrounding equity with family, friends, classmates, and those in your community.

Look for the colorfully painted sidewalks along the Community Center and/or Anne Street. Scan the QR code located at each station to access maps and conversation prompts, use the questions and quotes to guide your discussions, and check out the additional resources to support your learning. After you're done, fill out our short survey (<https://bit.ly/3Du6j6z>) to receive a fabulous free t-shirt.



Equity Walk refreshed in time for spring strolls

Make Your Mother's Daisy With These Takoma Park Florists

By Sean Gossard

Mother's Day is just round the corner and what better way to celebrate the women who do it all than by checking out what some of Takoma Park's local florists have to offer. Takoma Park is blooming with local flower shops, from longtime establishment Park Florist at 6921 Laurel Ave. to the new sprout in town Forever Bloom Arrangements at 1011 University Blvd.

Park Florist, one of the oldest florists in the D.C. area, has been in Old Town Takoma Park since 1935 and owner Jeanne Ha says that makes them the old



Forever Bloom Arrangements is offering specially crafted floral boxes for Mother's Day.

community," said Ha, who co-owns Park Florist with her husband Dennis.

For many florists, Mother's Day is one of the biggest flower days of the year, coming right at the intersection of the spring and summer growing seasons. "Mother's Day is our biggest holiday," Ha said. "It's not all florists biggest day, sometimes it's Valentine's or something else, but Mother's Day is our biggest." And orders have already started for the holiday on Sunday, May 8.

"The generous sons give flowers to their mothers and wives and aunts; it's

Inside

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Friends of the Library Book Sale Page 8

ThunderBolts Season Opener Page 11

DOCKET

Official City Government Meetings

City Council Meetings: The City Council meetings are conducted in a hybrid format, with the City Council and most staff typically present in the Auditorium. Participation on Zoom will continue to be an option for members of the community who do not wish to or cannot attend meetings in person. Zoom video conferencing will also be used to minimize travel time for some contractors and consultants, as well as for the City Attorney on most occasions.

For members of the public who wish to comment on Zoom, we request registration on Zoom *before* 5 p.m. on the day of the meeting. Any resident who cannot attend in person or use Zoom for public comments should contact the City Clerk's Office for assistance. Call Irma Nalvarte at 301-891-7214 or email irman@takomaparkmd.gov.

The public can continue to view meetings as always: on City TV (RCN – 13, HD 1060; Comcast/xfinity – 13, HD 997; Verizon Fios – 28), on the City Council Video Page of the City Website; on City TV YouTube, or on City TV Facebook. There is no need to register on Zoom to simply view a meeting.

Other Public Meetings: City Boards and Committees have the option of continuing to meet on Zoom or may resume in-person meetings. However, boards and committees are encouraged to provide a Zoom option even if meetings are held in the Community Center. Several meeting rooms are equipped with Smartboards that enable a hybrid virtual/in-person meeting. Please contact the City Clerk with questions.

Receive Weekly Agenda and Meeting Notice Emails: Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and committee calendar update by e-mail can sign up by sending an email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, May 25, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 8, 7:30 p.m.

CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 24, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, May 12, 7:30 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 26, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

ETHICS COMMISSION

Thursday, May 19, 6:45 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 3, 6:30 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

Tuesday, June 7, 6:30 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, May 16, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 19, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Weekday, time, location

TREE COMMISSION

Wednesday, May 11, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Friday, May 13, 4:15 p.m. (Hybrid Meeting – Hydrangea Room and Remote/Virtual)

Friday, May 27, 4:15 p.m. (Hybrid Meeting – Hydrangea Room and Remote/Virtual)

Friday, June 10, 4:15 p.m. (Hybrid Meeting – Hydrangea Room and Remote/Virtual)

ADA Notice

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing is invited to contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

City Council Action

Only negative votes or abstentions are reported here. Resolutions and ordinances are published online after adoption.

On **March 16, 2022**, the City Council adopted a new ward map by **Ordinance 2022-7**. The map is effective for the 2022 City Election and is available on the City website. Resolution 2022-6 was adopted, appointing Mark Brochman (Ward 5), Michale Shands (Ward 3), and Pamela Houedjissi (Ward 4) to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs.

At the meeting on **March 23, 2022**, the City Council adopted **Ordinance 2022-9** approving a contract for a Public Space Management Plan. The contract for services was awarded to CH Planning Ltd. in an amount not to exceed \$75,000. **Ordinance 2022-10** was approved, authorizing execution of a contract for a red-light camera enforcement program.

The contract was awarded to Conduent State and Local Solutions, Inc. **Resolution 2022-7** was adopted to approve sole source designation for the University of Vermont Spatial Analysis Laboratory for a Tree Canopy Analysis. The analysis and related mapping and data evaluation will be completed for \$14,941.31.

Three resolutions expressing appreciation to departing staff members were adopted on **April 20, 2022**. **Resolution 2022-8** recognized Alex Cross, director of housing and community Development, **Resolution 2022-9** recognized Tracy Smith, human resources director, and Resolution **2022-10** recognized Grayce Wiggins, housing services manager. The Council approved **Resolution 2022-11** to endorse amended FY2021, FY2022 and FY2022 Community Development Block Grant projects. The funding (\$273,000) will be used for Neighborhood Development Initiatives in Ward 5.

Applications Now Being Accepted for City Boards and Committees

We welcome residents with all different types of experience and knowledge and seek diverse members to represent our community. Your experience living in Takoma Park and interacting with our community daily and/or working in your chosen profession can give you what you need to be a part of a board or committee.

City boards and committees are appointed by and report to the City Council and focus on a particular priority area. These groups can:

- Leverage residents' technical expertise and lived experiences to inform City policies and programs;
- Provide tangible recommendations or help fulfill City regulatory functions;
- Ensure that the Council has regular and timely information to use when needed; and
- Create an opportunity to engage residents on issues that are important to them, as well as assist in community education and outreach.

Meetings are open to the public and residents are welcome to observe anytime.

Appointed board and committee members will receive \$40 for each meeting attended.

The City Council is now accepting applications for the following. To apply, go to takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees. Questions? Contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov.

Application Deadline: Friday, June 3.

Arts & Humanities Committee: Focuses on matters relating to the arts and encourages the appreciation and participation of City residents in the arts and humanities.

Emergency Preparedness Committee: Assists in City planning and preparations for emergency operations and engages residents in how to plan, prepare, and recover from emergencies.

Grants Review Committee: Reviews and recommends grant applications for the Community "Quality of Life" Grants awarded annually to nonprofits and business associations that serve City residents by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences.

Sustainable Maryland Committee (Green Team): Supports City efforts to achieve Sustainable Maryland certification, which in turn helps the City Council to meet its environmental goals and priorities.

Recreation and Community Engagement Committee: Concentrates on serving the varied recreation needs of our residents, emphasizing youth, seniors, and diverse resident backgrounds, on uses of City facilities, and on a wider range of related community needs such as health, leisure, education, enrichment programs.

Board of Elections: Plans and conducts all our City elections in coordination with the City Clerk. The Board also does voter education and outreach in our community and reviews City election laws and procedures after an election to recommend changes as needed.

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA): Represents the interest of tenants and landlords and hears cases in matters affecting rental housing in Takoma Park.

Ethics Commission: Certifies compliance with state and city ethics requirements hears complaints on potential City ethics violations and advises on how the City ethics law applies to covered individuals.

Tree Commission: Hears appeals of City tree permit decisions in keeping with the City's goal to preserve, protect and promote our community's urban forest.

City Election • Tuesday, November 8, 2022

2022 is an election year in Takoma Park. The Nominating Caucus is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. Election day is Tuesday, November 8.

This year's election will be conducted by mail.

A complete election calendar is available on the City website. Contact Jessie Carpenter, jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 for additional information.

FLORISTS
From page 1

almost like women's day here," Ha said. "We enjoy this busy holiday. Of course, it's stressful, but we're well organized and a well-run machine here. We're prepping the new designs now and photographing them, so people can view them online."
Of course, Mother's Day also comes at the perfect time of the year for many people's favorite varieties of flowers. "For Mother's Day, everybody loves peonies, which are available now through Mother's Day. It's a critical week with the season changing," Ha said.



Credit: Forever Bloom Arrangements
Forever Bloom Arrangements opened at 1011 University Blvd. in February.

Forever Bloom Arrangements is the new florist in town, opening around Valentine's Day this year. This will be their

first Mother's Day, and they could not be more excited. "We just want to get people nice and unique arrangements," said Leslie Leiva, who runs the florist with her sister, Edda, and cousin, Evilda. "We sell a lot of things not found in other flower shops - custom arrangements, succulents, terrariums, herbs and more."
They also make preserved flower arrangements for those wanting to keep precious bouquets for many years. And, of course, they have your sweet treats covered. "We also sell chocolate covered strawberries and many other confections," Leiva said "Everything in the arrangement is edible like the letters and

flowers. We can do things for birthdays, graduations, or any other events and everything is personalized." For the mothers out on the town there this year, Leiva has specially made flower and chocolate boxes prepared.
Both shops will be open for part of the day on Mother's Day, but Ha and Leiva are urging customers to order early to make sure customers get what they want.
To order flowers from Park Florist, visit parkflorist.us. For Forever Bloom Arrangements, visit foreverbloomarrangements.com.



Important City Department Phone Numbers

Table with 2 columns: Department Name, Phone Number. Rows include City Information, City Clerk, Communications, Finance, Housing & Community Development, Library, Neighborhood Services, Police, Public Works, and Recreation/Facilities Rental.



Using the Takoma Park Project Directory

What is going on in Takoma Park? The Project Directory can fill you in! The Project Directory lists all major projects currently being worked on or planned citywide and includes need-to-know information for each one. takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory

Table with 4 columns: GOVERNMENT, SERVICES, INITIATIVES, NEWS. The 'Project Directory (All City Projects)' is highlighted under INITIATIVES.

- 1. To access the Project Directory from the City of Takoma Park website, on the home page under initiatives, select "Project Directory" as shown above.

Two screenshots of the Project Directory website. The first shows the main directory table with columns for Project Title & Link, Project Classification, Target Completion Date, and Ward. The second shows a table of completed projects with columns for Project Title & Link, Project Classification, Completion Date, and Ward.

- 2. You'll be taken to the "Project Directory" page, which lists all major projects being worked on or planned citywide. Projects are grouped by classification based on their purpose.

STREETLIGHT REPLACEMENT PROJECT

About the Streetlight Replacement Project

The goal of the streetlight replacement project is to improve the quality of street lighting in Takoma Park. Benefits of the project include energy savings, cost savings, reduced light pollution, improved reliability, and an improvement in overall quality of street light. On October 24, 2018, the City Council approved staff recommendation to replace the existing streetlight with LED fixtures through the PEPCO conversion program.

Current Project Status

Lighting Maintenance Inc. a subcontractor for PEPCO began the street light replacement the second week of December, 2018 and completed the work in July, 2019.

Residents who wish to request additional shielding on the new streetlights in the case of light intrusion into bedroom windows can send an email with the request, address, and your contact information to: publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov. Please include the pole number for the fixture and nearest address.

Project Background

The discussion concerning the benefits of replacing the City's streetlights began about ten years ago. The discussion has included staff presentations to City Council in April, 2015, March, 2016 and October, 2016. At the October 2016 meeting, City Council authorized staff to pursue the conversion of existing streetlights to LED technology via Resolution 2016-41. The Council Resolution directed staff and Pepco to ensure that all replacement fixtures be International

Streetlight Replacement Details

Project Info & Timeline

- Completion date: July, 2019
- Takoma Park's role in Project: Lead
- Departments Involved: Public Works

Budget & Funding Source

The City currently pays approximately \$253,000 annually for street light electricity and fixture maintenance. \$180,000 is paid to Pepco for maintenance and operation, taxes, and fees; \$53,000 is paid to WGL for the electricity use (100% Wind).

Based on Pepco's calculations, the reduction in energy use and maintenance costs will result in a savings of approximately \$50,000 to \$100,000 annually. The overall cost of the program is expected to be \$372,000 and the City anticipates a \$260,000 rebate from the Empower Maryland Program. Based on the projected annual savings, the program will pay for itself in less than two years and those savings from reduced energy use and maintenance costs will carry through for the life of the fixtures.

Links & Notes

- June 2019, LED Light Replacement Presentation at MML Conference
- April 2015, City Council Work Session Cover-sheet
- September 2016 City Council Work Session Cover-sheet
- City Council Resolution 2016-41
- Map of test fixture locations

- 3. Then click on the name of the project that interests you. In this example, a resident wanted more information about Streetlight Replacement Project.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley
Assistant: Sean Gossard
www.takomaparkmd.gov
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BUILDING COMMUNITY

NEW RENT STABILIZATION ALLOWANCE

Annual Rent Increase Set at 7.3%

Effective: July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

The City of Takoma Park law (*City Code Chapter 6.20 Rent Stabilization*) maintains the affordability of rental units by limiting the number and amount of rent increases charged for a specific rental unit. Generally, the rent may be increased only once in any given 12-month period.

Beginning July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, the Rent Stabilization Allowance is 7.3%. Landlords are required to comply with Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization law and cannot increase the rent on occupied units any higher than this allowance.

Multi-family rental units and rental condominium units are subject to Rent Stabilization. Rent increases are limited to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index published by the Department of Bureau of Labor Statistics for the period of March 2021 through March 2022.

Pursuant to the City Code, a two-month written notice must be provided to the tenant (s) before a landlord can legally increase the rent. (*City Code Chapter*

6.20.050(C) Notice of Annual Rent Increases).

Please note that the following units may be exempt from Rent Stabilization upon application to the City. The exemption is not automatic and must be approved by the City.

- Rental units leased to tenants under the Housing Choice Voucher Program;
- Any rental facility where the rents are regulated under contract by a governmental agency that controls the rent levels of not less than one-half of the rental units in the rental facility and restricts the occupancy of those rental units to low- and- moderate income tenants; and
- Newly constructed rental units for a period of five years after construction.

For more information about the requirements of the City's Rent Stabilization law, please contact Jean Kerr, housing specialist at 301-891-7216 or jeank@takomaparkmd.gov.

Neighborhood Noise

Spring is here and so are our yard care activities. Noise producing activities, such as mowing and leaf blowing, can disturb neighbors. Please keep in mind that no such noise producing activity should begin before 7 a.m. on weekdays or 9 a.m. on weekends. Also, please consider replacing your gasoline powered lawn care equipment with electric or battery powered; they produce far less noise and air pollution. Each of us can play a part in reducing noise levels and being a good neighbor:



1. Monitor the volume of televisions, radios, and other sound-producing equipment, especially during nighttime. Pay particular attention to bass controls.
2. Use manual tools, such as brooms and rakes, for cleaning porches, patios, and driveways. Reserve

- power tools like leaf blowers for large jobs that cannot be done manually.
3. Consider the impact of noise from power tools in your home, garage, or outdoors.
4. Check central and window air conditioning units periodically to ensure that they are operating as quietly as possible.
5. Do not let dogs bark constantly.

Online Consumer Resources

By Jill Raymond, Library Resources

Takoma Park Maryland Library patrons will want to be sure to check our online access to two revered sources of unbiased consumer product/services information: *Consumer Reports* and *Washington Consumer's Checkbook*. Both publications are now available to anyone with a TPML library card, from the comfort of their kitchen table/couch/wherever they access the internet at home.



For *Consumer Reports*, you go to the library main page, click Online, then the Magazines option. In the lower left portion of the screen is the title, *Consumer Reports*, with its own search box. Put in your subject—say, coffee makers—in the box and enter that. You will then get the screen that asks for your patron ID, and when you enter your library card barcode number, you will immediately get the page with your search results. These are sorted by relevance, but you have other sorting options, such as “most recent” which helps if you want the latest ratings. You'll have access to HTML Full-Text or PDF Full-Text. I prefer the PDF because it looks like the magazine page, and the ratings are clearer.



WASHINGTON CONSUMER CHECKBOOK
You will need to set up your private login info the first time you use it.

To access *Washington Consumer's Checkbook*, after clicking on Magazines, choose the button for Checkbook, and it will guide you to create an account, using your library card barcode number, and then you will get the main page, with “Hi Member” at the top. A search box appears in the top right corner. Let's say you search for roofers: You see that you get results, with three tabs across the top left, which appear after most searches. They are Service Categories, Articles, and Service Providers. Service Categories just tells you the main subject headings under which you can find related material. Articles are just that, and Service Providers offers a list with addresses and phone numbers of all providers in the DC region. If you want rankings and ratings, or to sort the list of providers in any number of ways, go first to Articles. Click on one of them, and you will see the option of Ratings above, in the upper right corner of the results. That tab is what you want. From there you can sort and limit by any number of filters and print a listing of what you want.



Race Tip: Make your race day a blast by bringing friends and family with you!

Register Now for the Virtual TKPK 5K Challenge

The Takoma Park Safe Routes to School Virtual 5K Challenge is happening from May 15–31! After 14 years, the TKPK5K has become a community tradition, where people of all ages, abilities, and running backgrounds are able to run or walk to support our five local area schools. Register today: <https://bit.ly/3tYxXVR>.

Early registrants will be entered into a raffle to win one of five \$25 local business

gift cards! We'll do a drawing at 12 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, April 13
- Wednesday, April 27
- Wednesday, May 4
- Wednesday, May 11
- Wednesday, May 25 (It's still not too late to register!)

The earlier you register, the more chances you have to win!

City Grant Supports Takoma ARTery

The City's Arts and Humanities Division has partnered with the Takoma ARTery to promote the work of local artists through a new online artist directory at takomaartery.com. The volunteer-led artist collective was organized during the COVID-19 pandemic to connect local artists and help them share their work with the public.

Artwork displays have filled storefront windows in downtown Takoma Park and at the Historic Takoma building at the Takoma Junction. The City's Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith also helped organize a previous grant to support the group's start-up costs and its first art fair last summer outside the Takoma Park Community Center.

Takoma ARTery artists have reported not only sales but also a broadened sense of connection and support from other art-



Takoma ARTery window display at the Historic Takoma building

ists and residents, according to ARTery co-founder Eleanor Landstreet. "The financial and staff support from the City have helped transform the ARTery from an innovative pandemic-related arts project into a vibrant artist community, which is boosting the creative economy and small businesses run by artists," Landstreet said.

The \$1,100 grant will help pay for the creation of the artist directory that will feature artwork images, artist bios, and contact information. Artists will pay an annual fee to support the ARTery's work and offset future expenses. Artists don't have to be Takoma Park residents to be included in the directory and can email takomaartery@gmail.com for more information.

Experience Art and Poetry at the Takoma Park Community Center

The *Takoma Park Arts* cultural series features free events at the Takoma Park Community Center, including art exhibitions, poetry readings, film screenings, concerts, theater, and lectures. Please join us for these upcoming events at the Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue. You also can sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

Poetry From Behind Bars Poetry Reading

Thursday, May 12
7:30 p.m.

In "the land of the free," the United States has the highest incarceration rate in the world, but the people behind bars are more than just inmate numbers. In a unique poetry reading, Poet Ambassadors from the Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop will read poetry they wrote while incarcerated in the D.C. jail or federal prisons across the country. Their words reveal the human costs of

imprisonment and the power of poetry to provide a voice and offer healing.

The Poet Ambassadors also work with men who are still incarcerated on creative writing projects to offer a new way to engage with issues of youth violence and incarceration. When inmates are released, they receive re-entry help from Free Minds to support them and reduce recidivism. For more info about Free Minds, go to freemindsbookclub.org.

The Poetry of Migration Poetry Reading

Thursday, June 2
7:30 p.m.

Three local poets who emigrated to the United States will share their poetry and their experiences as strangers in a new land where they have felt the contrasting tug between the forces of assimilation and their own cultural heritage.

Indran Amirthanayagam will read his poems, which focus on the experiences,



Black Hand Side by Michael Hyman

dilemmas, and dreams of the migrant. He was born in Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and writes in English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole. He has published 20 poetry books and edits the *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*.

Luz Stella Mejia is a writer, editor, and marine biologist from Colombia, who has two published books of poetry. Sofia Estévez is a Dominican poet, Spanish teacher, translator, editor, and mother. She earned an MA in Foreign Languages at George Mason University.

Realm of the Real Art Exhibition

On view at the Takoma Park Community Center until July 15

The Realm of the Real exhibition showcases the figurative artwork of three local artists who explore different aspects and interpretations of the human form, ranging from graceful dancers to historical figures to more abstract representations. The artists include Sarah Louise Hyde, Michael Hyman, and Michael G. Stewart.

Hyde's paintings of dancers reveal swirling forms, elegant gestures, and the

unspoken rhythms of motion. She served on the faculty of the Corcoran School of Art and showed her work in the D.C. area before her death from brain cancer in 2007. Her husband Jack Kline has been sharing her work with a wider audience as "a visual remembrance and memorial to her energy, creativity, and enthusiasm," he said.

Hyman is a Black artist whose work encompasses painting, digital 3-D sculpture, video installation, and photography. "I'm most excited about creating pieces in the range of Negritude Art with linear narratives embedded in social and political abstractions," he said. "I hope to fascinate, educate, and enlighten the viewer with my work." Negritude began in the 1930s as a literary movement among French-speaking African and Caribbean writers who asserted the power of Black identity and a rejection of colonialism.

Stewart's career as an architectural and aerial photographer helped him translate his artistic vision into more personal mediums, such as drawing, etching, and linocuts. He worked for 20 years as a photographer for the National Endowment for the Arts.



Poet Ambassadors from the Free Minds Book Club

RECREATION

SPECIAL EVENTS

Family Outdoor Movie

Movie time starts at dusk on Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School). Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family! The movie will be a family friendly "G" or "PG" rated hit. The Recreation Department will provide one small bag of popcorn per person and water. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged.

Ed Wilhelm Field
All ages
Saturday, starting at dusk
June 4
Free

TOTS

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Piggy Bank Pioneers

The Piggy Bank Pioneers is a series of classes where students learn about money while singing songs, playing games, listening to stories, and watching cartoons. This class is engaging, interactive, informative, and most of all, fun. We learn about money and work on scavenger hunts to find different types of coins (penny, nickel, dime, and quarter). When we introduce the concept of saving, we sing songs, classify needs and wants as well as play our version of Simon Says. Also, if your child has a piggy bank or a container used to save their money, please have that accessible. The Piggy Bank Pioneers play games to help participants understand the importance of credit. Our friends Zoey and Zander will make several appearances in cartoon form reiterating concepts reviewed in class. The Piggy Bank Pioneers make learning a full-body experience to help children retain more information. Instructor: Tyronda Boone

Virtual
4-6 years
Saturday, 9-10 a.m.
Spring: May 7-June 11
Summer: July 9-August 13
Resident: \$30 / Non-resident: \$40

Get to know
this instructor
on page 7

YOUTH

DRAMA

Dungeons & Dragons

They creep through the twilight, quiet as shadows muttering a language long forgotten, a language only spoken by ghosts. Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role-playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group "survive." Instructor: Dave Burbank

Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Avenue
12-18 years
Fridays, 4-6 p.m.
May 20-June 10
Resident: \$55 / Non-resident: \$65

MARTIAL ARTS

Kung Fu for Kids

Bungo Fu is the Jamaican style of Kung Fu. Come learn meditation, self-defense, improved flexibility, and self-awareness. This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise, which could

EXTENDED CARE, School year 2022-2023 Registration is open!

The Recreation Department is pleased to again offer both before care and after care at both of our facilities. Morning and Afternoon Addition are held at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue and Before and After the Bell is held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue.

Our emphasis is on providing fun, leisure and recreation programs before and after the school day, while providing a safe environment for children grades K-5. Participants will engage in daily indoor/outdoor group activities and holiday based events. Children will have time for free play, homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or simply prepare for their upcoming day in before care. Each afternoon kids will receive a snack, have a time period to complete homework, and enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, plays, free play and more!

- Programs operate when MCPS schools are in session.
- **Before Care:** \$1,500 / Non-resident: \$1,800
Hours: 7-9 a.m.
- **After Care:** \$2,300 / Non-resident: \$2,800
Hours: 3:30-6:30 p.m.
- **Bundle Discount:** Resident: \$3,230 / Non-resident: \$3,910



Participants who register for both before care and after care at the same facility in one transaction will receive a discount.

- There is a 20% deposit due at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments beginning Oct 1st.

Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Before The Bell & After The Bell

Transportation will not be provided through TPRD. Please contact MCPS Transportation 301-840-8130 to change your bus route to (New Hampshire Towers) and we will meet them at the bus stop.

Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue

Morning Addition & Afternoon Addition

Staff will escort participants to Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School.

help the students defend themselves by strengthening hand and eye coordination as well as assisting them with the maintaining of balance. Students will gain physical fitness as well as mental and spiritual strength. There is a \$70 non-refundable uniform fee payable to the instructor. Instructor: Master Robert Thompson

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
4-17 years
Saturdays, 1:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.
Spring: Through June 4
Summer: July 9-August 27
Resident: \$155 / Non-resident: \$175

SPORTS



2022 Co-ed T-ball League

This co-ed league allows girls and boys to have fun while learning the fundamentals of baseball. Emphasis will be on fun, learning to hit, running bases, and catching. No experience is necessary, as all skill levels are welcome. Participants must bring their own

baseball glove. All teams will be formed by the Recreation Department. Games are played on Saturday mornings. Parents are encouraged to coach. No games fourth of July weekend.

Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Avenue
5-7 years
8 Week Season
Saturdays, June 4-July 30
9 a.m. games
Resident: \$70 / Non-resident: \$80

TEENS

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Esports Club

Take your gaming to the next level! In joining our Esports Club, students will have the opportunity to enhance gaming skills and learn all about the world of competitive gaming while having fun with their peers. Space is limited, so register today!

Takoma Park Community Center
Hydrangea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Wednesdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Through June 8
Free

girl scouts



Girl Scouts: Forensic Science Program

In partnership with Girl Scouts Nation's Capital, the Forensic Science program is centered around discovering and learning all about different careers you can have in STEM,

famous women in STEM, and the science behind the jobs. Girls will have the opportunity to discover all about forensic science, try their hands at the science, and escape the mission to become Girl Scout Special Agents! This activity is for people who identify as a girl.

Takoma Park Community Center
Hydrangea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-8
Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
April 26-May 17
Free

FITNESS

Girls Empowerment Yoga Class

This eight-week yoga led mentoring program aims to increase self-confidence, self-love, reduce stress from youth life, and develop concentration and mindfulness. All sessions will begin with a themed activity followed by a gentle flow to promote flexibility, strength, and balance. Come join other young ladies and discover the flow within you!

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
11-13 years
Wednesdays, 4:30-5:45 p.m.
April 20-June 8
Residents: \$15 / Non-residents: \$25

SPECIAL EVENT

Teen Night

Need something to do on a Friday evening? Well, you're in luck because we host Teen Night on the second Friday of each month. Teens in the community can come out to enjoy an evening of music, games, and more! Be sure to invite a friend because you are not going to want to miss this.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Grades 6-12
Friday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
May 13
Free

SPORTS

Y.E.S. Summer Basketball League



This program provides a positive venue for youth to express themselves through the game of basketball. Teams will be guaranteed six games, and the season will conclude with playoffs and a championship game. Each participant will receive a Y.E.S. League t-shirt. For more information, please email tpsports@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
5 Week Season
June 20-July 26
(No Games the week of July 4)
6-8 p.m.
Grades 5-8, Mondays
Grades 9-12, Tuesdays
Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45

RECREATION

RECREATION

■ From page 6

ADULT

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Writing Life Stories

Do you want to share important life experiences through your writing? Our stories are part of what makes us human. Whether you are a lifelong writer or a beginner, this class is for you. I will help you to jump-start your memories, organize your ideas and edit your work. We use the book *Writing the Memoir* by Judith Barrington. Bring a notebook to each class and be ready to have fun! Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt

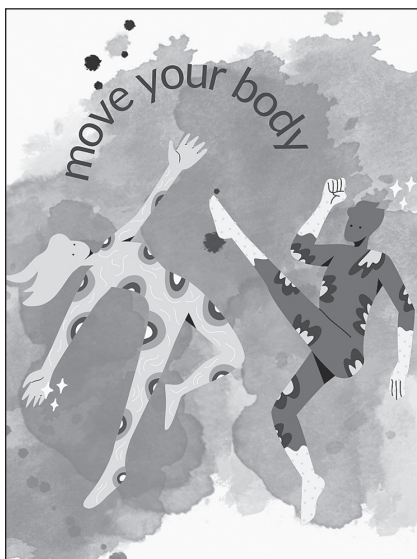


Virtual
18 & Up
Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
July 6-August 24
Resident: \$90 / Non-resident: \$100

FITNESS

Afrobeat/Afro-Ndombolo Dance Class

A contemporary Afro Dance company specializing in African dancing, Zuri Sana'a DanXercise's mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuri Sana'a DanXercise combines hip hop, salsa, dancehall, contemporary, and African dance moves within our choreography to create a memorable workout experience. Our



moves are feasible and suitable for all ages. Participants will be able to shred calories and learn fun choreography all in one class. Instructor: Khady N'Diaye

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
16 & Up
Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.
Spring: Through June 16
Summer: July 7-August 25
Resident: \$50 / Non-resident: \$60

Bootcamp

A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches, and weight training, this is a challenging workout within a quick hour.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 & Up
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30–7 p.m.
Through May 26
\$80

Iyengar Yoga for Beginners (Hybrid)

This class will introduce you to Yoga as taught by the Iyengar Method. This method opens the practice of yoga for everyone. The use of props and a step-by-step approach teaches alignment and brings strength and flexibility. The basic postures are introduced, and awareness is created in the whole body. As awareness of every part of the body is felt, energy is generated, and the breath is engaged. The aim is to bring into alignment the different parts of the body to associate the breath and mind and release tension and stress. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri



This class will be offered as a hybrid. You can attend the class in-person or via Zoom on the same day at the same time.

Takoma Park Community Center/Virtual
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Ave

16 & Up
Wednesdays 6–7:15 p.m.
Through June 15
Drop-In: \$15

Zumba

Zumba is a fitness program that combines Latin and international music with dance moves. Zumba routines incorporate interval training, alternating fast and slow rhythms to help improve cardiovascular fitness. No equipment needed for this class. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
16 & Up
Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
Spring: Through June 18
Summer: July 9-August 27
Resident: \$60 / Non-Resident: \$70
Drop-In: \$15

MARTIAL ARTS

Karate Self Defense

Are you looking for a new form of exercise? If so, try Karate Self Defense. Through the practice of karate, one can gain self-confidence, leadership experience, self-defense skills, focus, discipline, improved physical fitness and more. Instructor: Christian Brown

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Back Room

RECREATION □ Page 9



Instructor Spotlight: Tyronda Boone



The Recreation Department would like to highlight one of our amazing instructors, Tyronda Boone! Tyronda, lovingly known as “Ms. Ty,” is a financial literacy and money management instructor for our recreation programs. She is originally from Georgia and has a master's degree in education and finance. She has more than 20 years of teaching experience under her belt, making her abundantly qualified to lead our finance-centered programs. In Ms. Ty's free time, she enjoys traveling, reading, and learning more about history. She loves her community and has a goal to empower everyone with financial information that will uplift the next generation. Take a few moments to get to know Tyronda Boone.

Q: Where does your passion for financial planning and literacy come from?

A: My ancestors have been my inspiration. My parents inspired me to raise awareness about financial literacy. When I was growing up, my parents described difficult financial situations they faced in their lives due to their lack of wealth and educational opportunities. I remember my father describing how the system of tenant farming (sharecropping) was the cause for his family's poverty.

Additionally, he did not have the lux-



Tyronda Boone

ury of being left an inheritance by his parents upon their demise. Conversely, land was passed down to Boone's mother and siblings. These events and conversations motivated me to introduce the concept of building generational wealth to my daughter when she was four years old. I wanted her to be aware of how to use money to grow her wealth. From that desire to help my daughter, I reached out to the community and discovered more families eager to teach their children the same fiscal information. Zoey and Zander's Guide to Success was born.

Q: Why do you think it's important for young people to have an early understanding of how to manage their money?

A: Imagine if we did not call a person by one name until they were adults. There would be mass confusion. However, children know their names as infants. They recognize hearing their names. As they become older, they recognize their name in written form, and then they learn to write it themselves. Provided the opportunity, they typically thrived. Early exposure to any concept is vital, so teaching children about finances as early as possible is important. We do not want our young people to learn about money as adults. Learning financial literacy as children can help them avoid many fiscal mistakes.

Q: What do you hope participants will take away from your class?

A: I hope that families start talking about money. Families are a wealth of knowledge. When class is over, students ask parents if what they are purchasing is a need or a want, develop savings goals as a family, discuss ways to avoid student loans, and look for ways to use credit to build wealth. When my class is over, I hope students will look for ways to grow their wealth using the toolkit given to them in class.

Q: How do you know when you've had a successful class?

A: We have students who have en-

rolled in every class made available to them. When students tell me this class is great and parents tell me about how their spending habits have changed, I know class has been a success. Additionally, the engagement of the students lets me know they are actively learning. The challenge is to make virtual learning as fun as possible. After putting together lessons, students are typing questions in the chat and debating various fiscal schools of thought with one another. The banter that takes place in the class lets me know it was successful.

Q: What have you enjoyed the most about working with the young people of Takoma Park?

A: I love working with the students. The young people are eager to learn about how to make use of their money as adults. There are so many moments where I see their eyes light up after understanding a concept. Working with them has been a pleasure. They are committed to their future, and their enthusiasm regarding wealth gets me excited. An organization that places so much value on the financial literacy of a community is a wonderful place. I want to say thank you to Takoma Park for hosting me. You are helping me reach the masses, so many thanks to you.

LIBRARY



DIRECTOR'S COLUMN Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

By Jessica Jones

"Asian American and Pacific Islander" (AAPI) covers such an expanse of cultures and histories that a person could spend several lifetimes trying to see and appreciate everything. Where to start? We have lots of wonderful materials for all ages, from novels to cookbooks to microhistories to manga. Here are some of my favorites:

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee is an epic work of historical fiction that follows a Korean family from early 20th century North Korea to modern day Japan. It is beautiful and heartbreaking and one of my favorite books from the last few years.

Cook Real Hawaii by Sheldon Simeon is a fantastic cookbook that will make you want to go out and buy some musubi molds, if you don't have them already. In addition to delicious recipes, Simeon also tells the story of Hawai'i through the cultures that contribute to its cuisine.

Bee-bim bop! by Linda Sue Park is a picture book for children that shows a Korean American family preparing dinner together. It's fun and lighthearted.

Wild swans: three daughters of China, by Jung Chang is the story of three generations of women in 20th century Chi-

na, navigating a turbulent political climate while preserving familial relationships. It has become a classic in this area of history.

In addition to – or even part of – celebrating AAPI peoples today should include the greater obligation the rest of us have to advocate for their safety and respect when we see them experiencing harassment, and to shut down hate speech when we hear it. Since the beginning of the pandemic, hate crimes against Asian Americans have increased dramatically, rising more than 300 percent in 2021 alone.

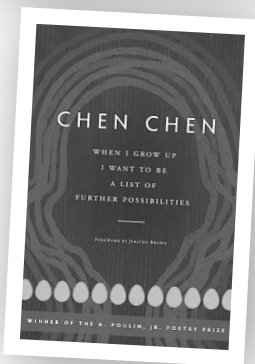
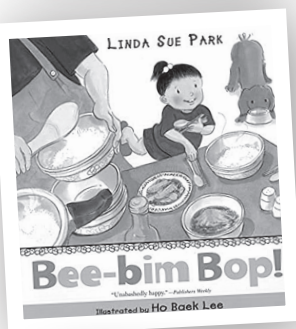
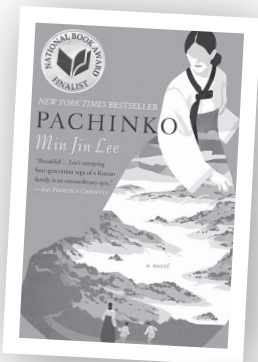
If you are interested in learning how to disrupt harassment, Right to Be (formerly Hollaback!) has some great training opportunities through their site righttobe.org.

Chinese-American poet Chen Chen, in his book *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities*, says:

Think of peace & how the Buddhists say it is found through silence.

Think of silence & how Audre Lorde says it will not protect you.

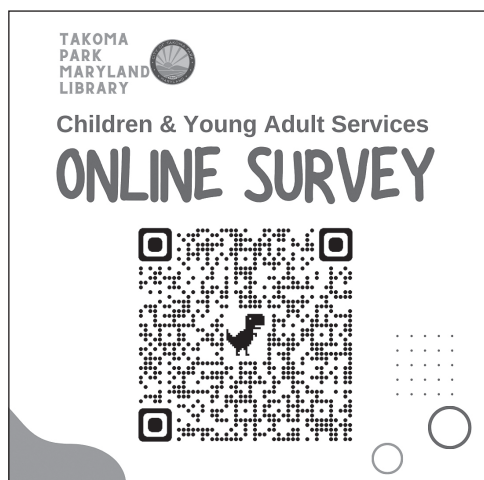
We hope you will visit the Library this month and discover new ways to appreciate AAPI heritage. Happy Reading!



Children and Young Adult Services Online Survey

Help shape the future of youth services at Takoma Park Maryland Library! Please take a few minutes to complete our online survey (<https://forms.gle/wteFJy-24wjEmhpoC9>).

We appreciate your time and insights! Should you have any questions or comments, please reach out to Verónica at veronican@takomaparkmd.gov.



Library hours are:
Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday-Sunday 12 – 6 p.m.

Computer Center hours are:
Monday-Thursday 12 – 8 p.m.
Friday-Sunday 12 – 6 p.m.

To protect our most vulnerable patrons and staff, the Library strongly encourages everyone to continue to wear a mask while in the library, even though masks are optional in City facilities now.

Books-to-Go is continuing, and the book return bin is always still open. Please note: If you are picking up a Books-to-Go order, please call the library's main number, 301-891-7259.

The Library continues to distribute COVID-19 rapid test kits and KN-95 masks. Ask at the front desk or in the Computer Center.

Regular Programs

We're continuing to offer many great library programs – weekly and monthly – via Zoom and in person. To participate on Zoom, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on "Join a Meeting" and put in the Meeting ID (and Meeting password, if any) listed with each program. Registration isn't required for these programs, but if you are registered, we will send reminders as well as notices of any changes or cancellations. To register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms. Please refresh your browser first to ensure you get the most updated information. Also, please make sure you register for the "Zoom" version of these programs. To keep up with all our programs, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

CALENDAR

Neighborhood Circle Time is moving outdoors! Beginning in May, every Wednesday at 10:30 am, join Ms. Kati and Ms. Verónica on the library lawn. Bring a chair or blanket to sit on. In case of inclement weather, we will be on Zoom.

Canta Juego: Spanish Circle time every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom! Join the fun at our weekly Zoom Spanish Circle Time, led by Señora Geiza. In this 30-minute program, kids and adults can sing songs and do rhymes and movement

exercises in Spanish. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us> Click on "Join a Meeting." Then put in this Meeting ID: 959-5178-5847 and Meeting Password: 793725. Sponsored by Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

New Day: Scribbler's Cabal will be on Thursdays starting this Spring! Your favorite Sketch Club now meets weekly on Thursdays from 4–5:30 p.m. Join the program via Zoom or in-person at the Children's Room.

Comics Jam: The next Comics Jam will be Wednesday, May 11 from 4–5:30 p.m. Join in-person in the Children's Room or online on Zoom.

EVENTS

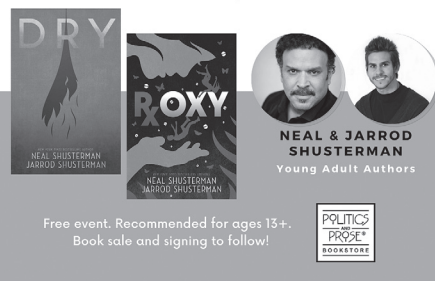
Book Sale! The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) is having their semi-annual book sale on the library lawn on May 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. You will find loads of children's books, popular fiction, YA books, general interest non-fiction like cookbooks and gardening books, and much more! FTPML supports library programs like Canta Juego - Spanish Circle Time, Summer- and WinterQuest, author appearances, and special purchases. We could not do what we do without the Friends!



TAKOMA
PARK
MARYLAND
LIBRARY

Meet the Authors!

Thursday, May 12 | 4:00 PM
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium



for Young Adults and a Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Readers. The discussion will be followed by a book sale and signing. Thanks to Politics & Prose for partnering with us! Recommended for ages 13 and up.

Meet the Authors! On Thursday, May 12 at 4 p.m. in the Community Center auditorium, meet Neal and Jarrod Shusterman, the father and son team, who authored the YA novels, *Dry* and *Roxy*. *Roxy* is the tale of two "gods" - Roxy (Oxycontin) and Addy (Adderall), who make a cruel wager. *Dry* is a story of survival in a devastating drought. Neal Shusterman is also the author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Arc of the Scythe* series and *Unwind*, which was an American Library Association (ALA) Best Book



Friends of the Takoma Park Library Book Club News

By Tim Rahn

Flight Behavior, a novel by Barbara Kingsolver, will be discussed by the Friends Book Group on Thursday, May 19 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center.

Kingsolver's 2012 novel about the effect of climate change in a rural Tennessee community is the second of a series of Cli-Fi books the group is reading this year. Cli-Fi, or Climate Fiction, has been defined as "fiction... that features a changed or changing climate." Like Sci-Fi, Cli-Fi explores realistic scenarios taken from contemporary sources and may make use of fantasy or the supernatural. Each Cli-Fi discussion includes a poem about nature or how human activity irrevocably affects the environment. *Flight Behavior* is paired with "The Darkling Thrush" by Thomas Hardy.

In *Flight Behavior*, the accidental discovery of a new winter home for the Monarch Butterfly alarms investigating scientists by indicating how much climate change impacts the existing model of Monarch migration. Kingsolver weaves this story with the impact the discovery has on Dellarobia Turnbow and her fam-

ily and their small Appalachian town.

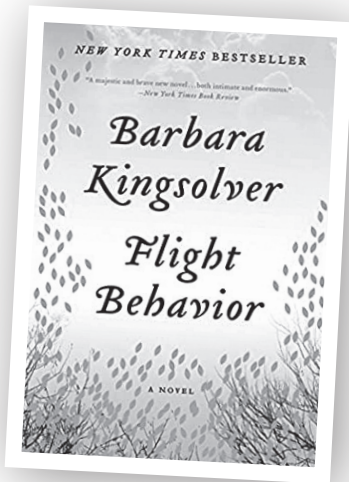
In his *Guardian* review of the novel, science and environment editor Robin

McVie wrote it, "is an impressive work. It is complex, elliptical, and well-observed. Dellarobia and her kin come over as solid but believable individuals, outlined with respect and balance."

Kingsolver has won numerous honors and awards as well as being shortlisted for several literary prizes. She is perhaps best known for her novel, *The Poisonwood Bible*. In 2000, Kingsolver established the Bellwether Prize

for Socially Engaged Fiction, which is now administered by PEN America. If you are interested in joining the discussion and you do not receive Friends Book Group announcements, write to ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com for details on joining.

Copies of *Flight Behavior* can be borrowed from the library. It is available as an e-book on both Hoopla and Freading, and as an audio book on Hoopla and on CD in the library. "The Darkling Thrush" is available online at www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44325/the-darkling-thrush, or you may request a copy from ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com.



Book Review

Reseña: *Lupe Wong no baila*, por Donna Barba Higuera

By Verónica Rivera-Negrón, Children and Youth Services Manager

Lupe Wong no baila, escrito por Donna Barba Higuera, cuenta la historia de una jugadora de pelota que quiere llegar a ser la primera mujer lanzadora en las Grandes Ligas. Este semestre, Lupe solo tiene que sacar todas A para llegar a conocer a su lanzador favorito, Fu Li Hernández, un mexi-chino como ella. Pero una sorpresa en la clase de educación física pone en juego su meta: tiene que aprender a bailar country. A Lupe le parece muy injusto que la obliguen a bailar y, aún peor, que no pueda escoger a su pareja, así que se dedica a la causa de eliminar el baile de country del currículo escolar.

El personaje de Lupe agrada desde la primera página. Es fuerte, divertida y no le tiene miedo a nada. Si bien es gracioso, el libro también explora temas serios como bullying, dolor, micro-agresiones, identidad y cultura. Todo esto según la perspectiva de una adolescente que se está descubriendo a sí misma y cómo encaja en el mundo.

Si bien la herencia asiática ha influido mucho a las culturas latinoamericanas, tanto en sus países de origen como en los Estados Unidos, muy pocos libros de ficción para jóvenes abordan el tema. Lupe Wong, siendo una mexi-china o china-mex, representa con humor la complejidad y belleza de la multiculturalidad.

Esta multiculturalidad se presenta,

por ejemplo, en el Capítulo 15 a través de una cena familiar con los abuelos Wong, de herencia china, y la abuela Salgado, de herencia mexicana. Lupe

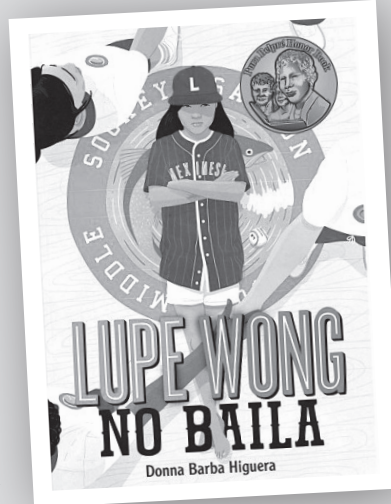
comenta: "Todos mis abuelos juntos implica arroz blanco al vapor en la arrocera para la abuela y Pa Wong, y otra olla en la estufa con cebolla, ajo, jitomate y consomé de pollo para Paolo y Bela. Yo me serviré una cucharada de cada uno, para mantener las cosas equilibradas".

En una entrevista publicada

en el blog *Cynsations*, Donna Barba Higuera cuenta que la idea del libro surgió cuando su hija menor se quejó de que tenía que bailar country en la escuela. Entre risas, la mayor le indicó que tenía que bailar con quien fuera que la invitara, le guste o no. La autora escribió el primer capítulo del libro justo después de esa interacción.

La autora comenta en el mismo blog que no era su intención escribir un personaje "diverso", pero reconoce que los autores, a veces inconscientemente, incorporan un poco de sí mismos en su escritura. Ciertamente, sus experiencias como blanca-mexicana y las de sus hijas, que además son chinas, han influido al personaje de Lupe.

Si bien hay chistes que no funcionaron en español, la traductora, Libia Brenda, logró conservar el espíritu del libro. Por sus personajes y por sus temas, *Lupe Wong no baila* merece ser leído tanto en inglés como en español.



Student Book Reviews Program Pausing this Summer (Seeking Teen Feedback!)

The last day for students to submit book reviews to earn SSL hours will be Tuesday, May 31, 2022. This summer, the Children & Young Adult Services Team will revamp teen programming for the upcoming school year.

Teens interested in providing feedback in this process (in exchange for SSL hours!) can contact Verónica at veronican@takomaparkmd.gov for more details.



Listen to this!

By Anne LeVeque

*While Kati Nolfi is taking a break from podcast reviewing, I decided to share one of my favorites.

The Unbelievable Truth with David Mitchell

This podcast is a radio show from the BBC. It's a fun and fast-paced quiz show in which celebrity guests



(Well, they're celebrities in the UK) read a series of falsehoods on a topic but slip in a few true statements. It's up to the other celebrity panelists to buzz in when they hear a true statement and earn points. If you enjoy British television quiz shows like *QI*, you will love

The Unbelievable Truth. Found wherever you get your podcasts.

RECREATION

■ From page 7

7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 & Up
Mondays & Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
Ongoing
Free with Recreation Membership

55+

DROP-IN

Bingo (Indoor/Outdoor)

Come try your luck and win a prize! This is drop-in, no registration required. If the weather is nice, we'll have bingo outdoors, if not, we'll have bingo indoors. Host: Paula Lisowski

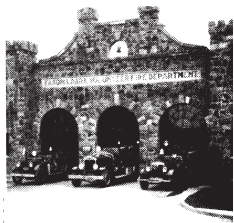
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Senior Room
55 & Up
Tuesdays, 12–2 p.m.
May 24, June 28
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Boost Your Resilience Now

Join Cynthia M. Luna, national board certified, health and wellness coach, for a timely workshop that provides participants with practical strategies to feel more resilient in their daily lives. Identify ways to leverage personal and environmental factors to boost resilience and develop a personal plan of action to help overcome challenges. Instructor: Cynthia M. Luna

Takoma Park Community Center
Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
55 & Up
Monday, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
May 16
\$5



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of April 29, 2022, 23

people have died in fires compared to 26 in 2021.

Have working smoke alarms on all levels of your home, also in each bedroom. And check them monthly.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of April 29, 2022, 0 children have died in hot vehicles across the country. Check the back seat, everyone goes with you and lock your vehicle.

Safety message

If a fire occurs in your home, get out, stay out and call for help.

Dealing with Travel and Fire Safety

By Claudine Schweber, Emergency Preparedness Committee



Are you ready for fun and challenges? In the last few weeks, there's been a lot of interest in finally, traveling as well as concerns about the fires in our area and how we should prepare.

Travel

• **Face Coverings:** After more than two years of COVID-19, masking and vaccination requirements seem to be changing for travelers. In the U.S., the mask mandate for air travel was expired April 18; some international airlines continue to require face coverings. In addition, the mandate continues for wearing face coverings in public transportation and airports, bus/ferry terminals, subways, and train areas with a few exceptions, such as when eating or talking with hearing impaired people. See www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html.

• **Emergency Contact (EC):** Identify a person who will be your emergency contact, make sure the person agrees, and tell others about the EC. Post EC information in your cell phone (person's name and phone number). Carry a paper copy also; make sure the EC has a list of your meds. This will enable the paramedics to continue care, follow medical protocol, and especially avoid medication complications. Give your EC the pharmacy and doctor(s) numbers/email and tell the EC where to find the medications in your home, if needed. Hospital personnel can contact the EC if you cannot speak for yourself.

• **Medication Safety:** 1) Keep a list of all medications and give a copy to your EC; 2) Tell the EC where you store medications; and 3) Dispose of unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications. Note: Takoma Park has an easy solution for safe medication disposal. The Takoma Park Police Department has a Med-Return mailbox (green) open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week located in the lower level of the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave). This box is safe and secure.

Fire Safety

Q: The recent news about fires at Montgomery Village and earlier at Flower Branch apartments—both in the last four months—reminded me of danger. I am worried about being properly prepared. I wish someone could go through my apartment and check it out. I heard that it's possible to have a home safety check. Is that true?

A: Yes! The Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service will do a home safety check!

Register at montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-info/firesafety.html. Moreover, you will learn what type of alarm you need and benefit from new alarms with 10-year batteries: sealed in the unit that will last for the life of the alarm, the batteries don't need to be changed. In addition, if someone in the house or apartment is deaf or hard of hearing, there are special alarms. Note: Much of this information is also available in Spanish.

Finally, it is now possible to text 911 for help, if voice calls are not possible due to disability, medical emergency, or unsafe situation. To do so, enter 911 in the "to" section of the text message and briefly explain. Montgomery and Prince Georges counties also have language translation services. Check in advance to be sure the translation you need is available. Text 911 is also available in Virginia and Washington, DC.

Given these realities, are you ready...to be prepared, to adapt, to be resilient? Go for it! Contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126. Listen to Bea(trice) Prepared the first Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. on WOWD/Talk of Takoma. Email questions to talk@takoma.com.



COVID-19 Testing EXTENDED

✓ Walk-ins are welcome

✓ No appointment needed

What You Need To Know

- ✓ Our clinics provide nasal swab tests. You take the sample yourself. The tests are PCR tests. Results are **ready in 1-2 days**.
- ✓ We do not require a government ID or a doctor's order.
- ✓ **Testing is free.** If you have insurance, we will ask for the information, but there are **no co-pays or deductibles**.
- ✓ We test people of all ages. If you bring young children, **we may ask you to help** them get tested.

Testing will be held on:

Wednesdays

May 4, 11, 18, and 25

From 9 am - 6 pm

Location:

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Montgomery County website:
<https://bit.ly/3fXHF46>

takomaparkmd.gov



Editor's note

English:

Look for this icon next to newsletter articles that you can read online in other languages using the translation feature on the City of Takoma Park's website. After clicking on the link for the article, look in the upper right hand corner of the web page next to the navigation bar, and select the language you want using the drop-down box.

French:

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que

vous pouvez lire en ligne dans d'autres langues à l'aide de la fonction de traduction disponible sur le site Web de la ville de Takoma Park. Après avoir cliqué sur le lien de l'article, regardez dans le coin supérieur droit de la page Web à côté de la barre de navigation, puis sélectionnez la langue souhaitée à l'aide du menu déroulant.

Spanish:

Busque este ícono junto a los artículos del boletín que puede leer en línea en otros idiomas usando

la función de traducción en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park. Después de hacer clic en el enlace del artículo, busque en la esquina superior derecha de la página web junto a la barra de navegación y seleccione el idioma que desee con el cuadro desplegable.

Amharic:

ከታች ያለውን ደህን አዲስ ደረጃ ላይ መጽሐፍት አርባ ሰዓት ለሰዓት በኢንተርኔት ላይ በመጠቀም ማንበብ ይቻላል። ከታች ያለውን ደህን አዲስ ደረጃ ላይ መጽሐፍት አርባ ሰዓት ለሰዓት በኢንተርኔት ላይ በመጠቀም ማንበብ ይቻላል። ከታች ያለውን ደህን አዲስ ደረጃ ላይ መጽሐፍት አርባ ሰዓት ለሰዓት በኢንተርኔት ላይ በመጠቀም ማንበብ ይቻላል።

Takoma Thunderbolts Baseball Home Opener June 8

By Kevin Adler

It's almost baseball season in Takoma Park: Thunderbolts baseball season. In early June, the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Thunderbolts return to Blair High School's ballfield for another season of high-quality, high-energy competition against some of the best collegiate players in the Mid-Atlantic.

The Thunderbolts also run five weeks of baseball summer camp, beginning on June 21. The instruction is aimed at kids 7-14, who have some prior baseball experience, and each day includes scrimmages as well as work on specific baseball skills. Go to the T-Bolts website, www.tbolts.org, for information and application forms or call 301-983-1358.

Founded in 2000, the Thunderbolts play a busy summer schedule around the D.C. metro area, while using Blair as the team's home field. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$2 for children.

"It's family baseball at its best," said Dick O'Connor, team founder. "You're up close, you hear the crack of the bat."

Weekday games are at 7 p.m. (weekends earlier), and the home opener is on June 8.

In the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League, hitters use wooden bats. For many batters, it's their first experience against quality competition without an aluminum or composite graphite bat. According to O'Connor, the hitters relish testing what they can do with equipment used at the professional and major league level. "Every one of these guys is playing to be seen by pro scouts," said O'Connor, who noted that dozens of players from the league have signed pro contracts. Some have reached the majors.

Brock Hunter, a former collegiate pitcher and current coach for Koa Sports, is return-



Takoma Thunderbolts set to kick off another season of high-energy competition

ing as manager, and he's excited about this year's team. "We've been set defensively for a bit. We've just waiting for two or three pitchers to lock in their spots," Hunter told the Thunderbolts Baseball Today podcast recently.

While each player is working on his own development, the team is intent on winning, too. "Baseball is a gentleman's sport, but it's also fierce. Winning the right way is being respectful to your opponent, but also having a lot of fire in what you do," Hunter said.

The games will be exciting, as Hunter likes speedy players, which helps on defense and for manufacturing runs because home runs are rare with wooden bats. "We like to steal bases," Hunter said.

"More and more, we are recruiting guys who can position the ball and move it around the infield and outfield," O'Connor added. "It's an exciting form of risk-reward baseball that people may not see a lot in the majors these days, where it's all about power."

For families with children, the activity between innings is a big draw as well. The Thunderbolts have a variety of contests, such as running around the bases, popping water balloons, and trivia. Local businesses donate prizes for raffle. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.tbolts.org or at the gate. The website also has bios of each player and links to podcasts, interviews, and live play-by-play of each game.

Thunderbolts 2022 Season Home Schedule for June

Home games are at Montgomery Blair Baseball Stadium located at 51 East University Boulevard, Silver Spring, Maryland in the Four Corners Area

Admission Prices: Adults - \$6.00; Children under 18 - \$2.00

Youth baseball and softball players in uniform and children under the age of 5 get in FREE.

Mon. - Sat. games start at 7 p.m.; Sunday games start at 6 p.m. Schedule subject to change. Check website, www.tbolts.org, for updates.

| DAY | DATE | OPPONENT |
|-----------|---------|---------------------|
| Wednesday | June 8 | Gaithersburg Giants |
| Friday | June 10 | Metro SOCO Braves |
| Sunday | June 12 | Olney Cropdusters |
| Wednesday | June 15 | Bethesda Big Train |
| Saturday | June 25 | Gaithersburg Giants |
| Sunday | June 26 | Metro SOCO Braves |
| Tuesday | June 28 | Bethesda Big Train |
| Thursday | June 30 | Alexandria Aces |

RECREATION

■ From page 9



DANCE

Zumba Gold

Register to attend class virtually or in person. Choose the option that is best for you. Registration is required, select one option. Active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity. The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Instructor: Yesika Flores

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Room (in-person) or Zoom (virtual)
55 & Up
Fridays, 10-11 a.m.
Spring: Through June 17
Summer: July 1-August 19
\$5



FITNESS

Enhance Your Fitness

A great total body workout using low-impact aerobics movement and gentle resistance training, this class focuses on increasing strength, balance, and flexibility through stretching, breathing, core training and proper posture alignment using standing and seated exercises including warm-up and cool down routines. Instructor: Adriene Buist

Virtual
55 & Up
Tuesdays, 8:45-9:45 a.m.
Spring: through June 21
Summer: July 5-August 23
\$5



SPORTS

Basketball Outdoor Open Play

Join others to practice and play basketball outside on the outside basketball court. Drop-in. No registration is required.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Outdoor Basketball Court
55 & Up
Thursdays, 12-2 p.m.
Spring through June 9
Free



Maryland Homeowner Assistance Fund

Get Help Now!

- To connect to Housing Counseling & Legal Services call 1-877-462-7555
- View participating Housing Counseling & Legal Services, visit: <https://bit.ly/33Y6N85>
- Need help applying or using the portal? Call 1-833-676-0119
Mon - Fri from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.
and Sat 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



takomaparkmd.gov

CITY CAREERS

The City of Takoma Park recruiting includes all career staff, part time or temporary staff, interns, and more. The list of open positions changes frequently, so please check takomaparkmd.gov/careers regularly for up-to-date information. The most recent available positions are:

- **Director of Housing and Community Development (HCD)** to advance the mission and strategic vision of the department including revitalizing residential neighborhoods and commercial areas, supporting local businesses, encouraging private and public investment in the City, ensuring quality housing for all, and building the capacity of neighborhood and tenant associations and local nonprofit organizations to support community development initiatives.
- **Human Resources Director** to direct the City's full cycle human resources functions including performance management, union negotiations, compliance, training, budgeting, and risk management.
- **Manager, Housing Division**, to implement the City's Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan and oversee the division's rental housing licensing program, mediation of landlord tenant disputes, tenant association assistance, enforcement of local rent stabilization laws, implementation of affordable housing programming, and contracts for services benefiting the community's low- and moderate-income residents.



- **Records Specialist** to provide records management and office support to the City Clerk's Office. This is a part-time, 30-hour per week position.
- **Payroll & Accounting Specialist** to provide payroll and accounting support for assigned financial operations.

Applications, and details about these and other open positions can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/careers.

The City of Takoma Park is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. We strive to be a diverse workforce that is representative of the residents we serve and the area in which we live. We are dedicated to creating an inclusive environment where employees of diverse backgrounds can thrive and make a positive impact in the services we provide.

TKPK5K Is Back!

Register now to run the Takoma Park Virtual 5K! This year, you can run your own route individually or with family and friends. Run between May 15 and May 31 to take part in this community tradition that will help fund walking and running programs at our five local schools. To register, donate, or become a sponsor, visit <https://bit.ly/3tYxXVR>.



COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Takoma Park Yard Sales

Saturday & Sunday, May 14–15

Various locations around Takoma Park

After a pandemic hiatus, Takoma Park's community-wide yard sales are back! How it works: You choose the day and time of your yard sale, and we'll help get the word out. It's free to participate and you do what you want with the proceeds. As a bonus, the Takoma Porch free neighborhood music event will be on May 14, 2–6 p.m., so there will be even more reasons to walk around our community and meet neighbors. To participate, send an email with the following information to tkpkyardsales@gmail.com by Monday, May 9: date(s) and times, rain date (optional), address, forms of payment accepted (e.g., cash only, Venmo, credit card, etc.), and short description of items for sale (e.g., antiques, toddler-preschool boys clothing, CDs, non-fiction books, etc.). It's free to participate - the more, the merrier! For more information, contact tkpkyardsales@gmail.com. *(Learn more about Takoma Porch at www.takomaporch.net.)*

volunteers will be available to answer questions about the collections and Historic Takoma. Reading Room hours will be 1 – 4 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month. historictakoma.org

Docs In Progress

Doc In Progress is offering programs ranging from beginner filmmaking and storytelling workshops to workshops for emerging filmmakers looking to polish their skills in camerawork, editing, and more. For more information, visit www.docsinprogress.org/filmmakers.

UPCOMING

8th Annual Adult Play Day

Saturday, June 11, 6–9 p.m.
7301 Maple Avenue

Let's Play America presents outdoor games and live music from GrooveQuest. See old friends and meet new ones. Suggested donation: \$20; for more information, visit www.letsplayamerica.org.

Takoma Langley Crossroads Summer Mercado

Saturday, June 25, 1–6 p.m.
Anne Street (between University Blvd. and Hammond Ave.)

Summer Mercado is an international celebration of food, crafts, and culture. Listen to live music on the festival mainstage while enjoying a variety of food and crafts from local businesses and vendors. Silver Branch Brewery will be pouring the craft brews. Don't miss this special day in Maryland's International Corridor.

ONGOING

Historic Takoma Reading Room

Sundays (first and third)

7328 Carroll Avenue

Visitors will have access to reference books on Takoma and Maryland history, the collection of Takoma Voices and City newsletters, historical journals, and more. Historic Takoma is also hosting the Maryland Reference Collection of the Takoma Park Maryland Library during the library's renovation. Historic Takoma

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENT

A Spring Fling: An Intergenerational Gathering

Saturday, May 14, 2 – 5 p.m.

VFW Post 350, 6420 Orchard Ave.

All are welcome to join the Village of Takoma Park in shaking off the COVID Blues at a gathering to bring in the spring. There will be activities and games, food provided, soft drinks and alcoholic beverages available for purchase at VFW Post 350, music, and raffles. RSVP at villageoftp@gmail.com. Free raffle ticket with each confirmed RSVP.

Masks optional; full vaccination requested.



Crossing Guard Appreciation Day on Wednesday, June 8!

In the beating sun and the pouring rain, our all-star team of crossing guards work hard to keep our students and families safe during the school year. Help us celebrate them on Wednesday, June 8. More information to come!