TAKOMAPARK

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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.biketoworkmetrodc.org

Ready Your Rides for Bike to School Day: Grab your helmets and join Planning 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/TkFkBikeMap.

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.

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 kids on the block. “We’ve been serving Takoma Park for a long, long time and are incredibly proud of being part of the 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
**Docket**

**City Council Meetings**

- **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, 8:45 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)
  - GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE
    - Tuesday, May 3, 8:30 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)

**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 a unique perspective to bring to our planning and decision-making processes. 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-committees.

- **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 and hears complaints on potential City ethics violations and advises on how the City ethics law applies to covered individuals.
- **Tree Commission**: Heals 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.
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.

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. “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 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.
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 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.

NEW RENT STABILIZATION ALLOWANCE
Annual Rent Increase Set at 7.3%
Effective: July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023

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.

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 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.
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/artists.

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 the world, but the people behind bars States has the highest incarceration rate.

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 artists 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 takomaarity@gmail.com for more information.

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, 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.

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

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 takomaarity.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.

Poetry From Behind Bars 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/artists.

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**physical and mental exercise, which could**

This ancient form of self-defense provides

improved flexibility, and self-awareness.

Fu. Come learn meditation, self-defense,

and Zander will make several appearances in

and the science

behind the jobs. Girls will have the opportunity
to cover all aspects of forensic science, try their
hands at the science, and escape the mission
to become a Girl Scout Special Agent! This
activity is for people who identify as a girl.

Takoma Park Community Center
Hydrangea Room
7500 Maple Avenue

Grades 4–6

Tuesdays, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

April 25–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 tsports@
takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Grades 5–12

June 20–July 26

Residents: $35 / Non-resident: $45

**Girls Scouts: Forensic Science Program**

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

Summer: Through June 16

Resident: $50 / Non-resident: $60

**ADULT**

**RECREATION**

**Move Your Body**

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: Teheen Chettiri

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

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

Sat., 10:15–11:15 a.m.

Spring: Through June 18

Summer: July 7–August 27

Resident: $50 / 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

**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 luxury 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 thrive.

Early exposure to any concept is vital, so teaching children about finances as early as possible is important. We do not want young people to learn about money as adults. Learning financial literacy as children can help them avoid many fiscal mistakes.

**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.
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 China, 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 (fortobe.org) has some great training opportunities through their site.

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 Buddhas 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!

Library hours are:
Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday-Sunday 12 – 8 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, 301-891-7229.

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/tplibraryevents.

We appreciate your time and insights! Should you have any questions or comments, please reach out to Veronica at veronica@takomaparkmd.gov.
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 family and their small Appalachian town.

In his Guardian review of the novel, science and environment editor Robin McKie wrote that “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 ftnlbookgroup@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 ftnlbookgroup@gmail.com.

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 veronicanc@takomaparkmd.gov for more details.

Listen to this!

By Anne LeVaque

*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

Book Review

Reseña: _Lupe Wong no baila_, por Donna Barba Higuera

By Verónica Rivera-Negrán, 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 agradó 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 13 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 fueron músicos. Fu Li implica arroz blanca 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 serví una cacharada de cada uno, para mantener las cosas equilibradas.”

En una entrevista publicada en el blog Cyntiasreview, 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 bailarlo 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 hijos, 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.

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
16 & 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
16 & Up
Monday, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
May 16
$5
Dealing with Travel and Fire Safety

By Claudine Schwebel, 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, masks 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/terminal 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 tepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126. Listen to Beatrice Prepared the message and briefly explain. Montgomery and Prince George’s counties also have language translation services. Check in advance to be sure the translation you need is available. Text 911 is also available in Spanish and for those with hearing impaired people. See www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html.

Report

A: The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of April 29, 2022, 23 Maryland fire deaths. The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of April 29, 2022, 23 Maryland fire deaths.

Safety message

If a fire occurs in your home, get out, stay out and call for help.
Takoma Thunderbolts set to kick off another season of high-energy competition

“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 may not be 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.

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

**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: Adrienne Buist

**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

**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 19

Free

**Recreation**

From page 9

*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 ballpark 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, with 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.

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-
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.

- 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.

- Human Resources Director to direct the City’s full cycle human resources functions including performance management, union negotiations, compliance, training, budgeting, and risk management.

- Payroll & Accounting Specialist to provide payroll and accounting support for assigned financial operations.

- 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.

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 tpkyardsales@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 tpkyardsales@gmail.com.

(Learn more about Takoma Porch at www.takomaporch.net)

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 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.

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

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(Learn more about Takoma Porch at www.takomaporch.net)

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 heating 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!