

RFP Proposal Deadline

Friday, April 14, 11:59 p.m.
See Page 4 for details

April Bike Safety Roundtable

Thursday, April 20, 7:30 p.m. or
Friday, April 21, 12:30 p.m.
Virtual roundtable meeting
Register for one of the meetings by
visiting: bit.ly/TPBikeways

Minor Master Plan Meeting

Thursday, April 18, 6:30 p.m.
City Auditorium
Weigh in on the recommendations
and provide feedback

Takoma Park Arts
Poetry Reading

Thursday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue

Nationwide Prescription
Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Takoma Park Police Department,
7500 Maple Avenue
Collection boxes will be set up in
the first floor police lobby of the City
building. Prescription, over-the-counter
and pet medications will be accepted

Arbor Day

Saturday, April 22 10 a.m.
Circle Woods
Join us at Circle Woods for a
celebratory gathering and tree
walk. See Page 4 for details.

takomaparkmd.gov

Check our website
frequently for updates.

Investing in Our Community:
Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed
Budget Overview

By David Eubanks,
Acting Deputy City Manager

The Fiscal Year 2024 budget process will begin with a presentation of the Proposed Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Budget to City Council on Wednesday, April 12th. The first public hearing will be held on Wednesday, April 19th with the second public hearing on Monday, May 1st. You can also tune in to City Council work sessions to review the details of the budget on Monday, April 17th; Wednesday, April 19th; and Monday, April 24th. The City Council will hold two reconciliation meetings on April 26th and

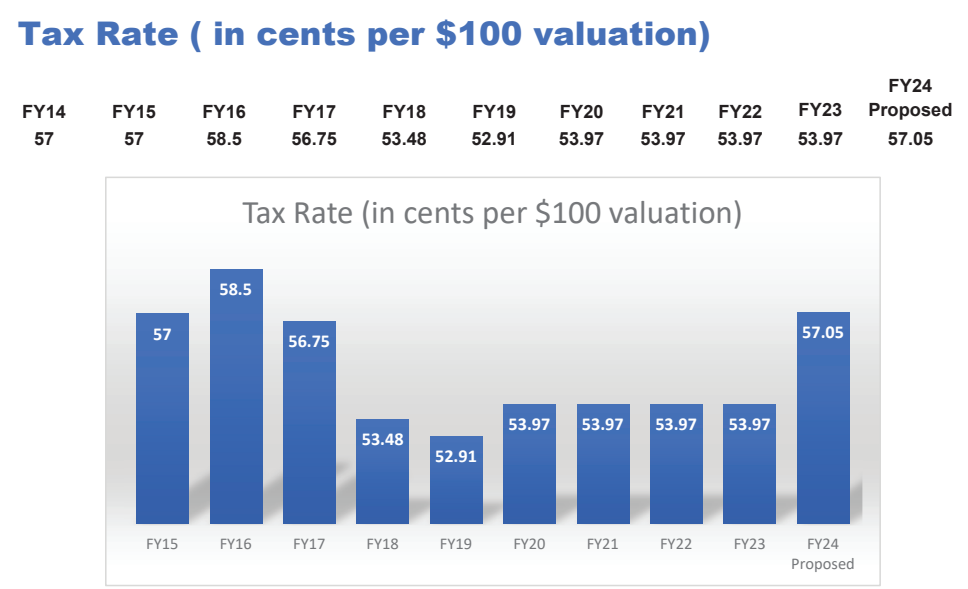
May 1st. Council-recommended changes will be incorporated, and the City Council will vote to adopt the final Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Fiscal Year 2024 tax rate during the May 10th and May 17th Council meetings.

Budget Context

The Proposed FY24 Budget is a maintenance of effort budget, purposed to stabilize City operations as we continue the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and look to improve the City's financial health.

BUDGET

Page 11



New ARPA Manager Takes Over Rescue Fund

By Sean Gossard

Takoma Park's new ARPA manager Andrew Bolduc is helping coordinate the distribution of the city's \$17.5 million dollars in rescue funds through various programs to support the local response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Some of the programs the city is implementing with the ARPA funds include scholarships for recreation programs, emergency rental assistance, the library expansion and the direct cash assistance program that provides \$1,000 in direct cash aid to Takoma Park residents who make less than \$50,000 a year.

The American Rescue Plan Act—or ARPA—was signed



Andrew Bolduc

into law on March 11, 2021, by President Joe Biden as a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill to speed up the country's recovery from the economic and health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Of that, \$65 billion was allocated for direct and flexible aid to

cities and towns across the nation, including the \$17.5 million in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) received by Takoma Park.

SLFRF are intended to respond to acute pandemic response needs, fill revenue shortfalls among local governments, support populations hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, and lay the groundwork for an equitable economic recovery, according to the city's website.

"In 2021, the senior leadership team and staff of the city—along with input from residents and the council—put together a list of potential projects that could be funded through the \$17.5 million in once-in-a-generation ARPA funding," Bolduc said. "The funds don't have a ton of

bumpers on what it can be used for. Senior leadership did a great job identifying needs during the COVID pandemic and filtered those ideas into a spending plan with around 20 different projects." This spending plan was adopted by City Council in March 2022.

Bolduc, a lifelong resident of Vermont, recently moved to the area with his wife, who's originally from Baltimore.

Bolduc went to school to be an environmental lawyer, but later moved into working for the local government in Vermont including the City of South Burlington, Vermont, as its city attorney and deputy city manager. During his time

RESCUE FUND

Page 11

On the DOCKET

Official City Government Meetings

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.
The public may comment at regular meetings of the City Council in person or via Zoom. To comment over Zoom, registration by 5 p.m. on the meeting date is required

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- **Wednesday, April 5**, the City Council will not meet.
- **Monday, April 10**, City Council Special Meeting, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
- **Wednesday, April 12**, City Council Closed Session, 6:30 p.m. vote in the Community Center Auditorium.
- **Wednesday, April 12**, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
- **Monday, April 17**, City Council Budget Work Session, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
- **Wednesday, April 19**, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
- **Monday, April 24**, City Council Budget Work Session, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
- **Wednesday, April 26**, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
- **Monday, May 1**, City Council Budget Work Session, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
- **Wednesday, May 3**, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
- **Wednesday, May 10**, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.

CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Check the calendar on the City website for the most up to date information, including links to access meetings and agendas. Visit www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on “Events and Meetings.” Most City boards and committees continue to meet on Zoom. Some are holding hybrid meetings (part in-person/part Zoom).

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, April 13, 7:30 p.m. (Hybrid In-Person and Remote/Virtual Meeting)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 20, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 18, 6:30 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Monday, April 17, 7:30 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

POLICE CHIEF’S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, April 17, 7:00 PM
(Hybrid Virtual and In-Person)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 20, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Monday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Thursday, April 13, 4 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

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.

Notice of Proposed Administrative Regulation to Provide Guidance for Compliance and Enforcement of Title 10 (Refuse) of the Takoma Park Code

An Administrative Regulation is being proposed to provide guidance for compliance and enforcement of Title 10 (Refuse) of the *Takoma Park Code* as authorized under *Takoma Park Code* Sections 10.04.030 and 10.08.050. The regulation addresses refuse and recycling requirements and mandatory notices, collection of single-family residential refuse and recyclables, City collection of refuse and recyclables from certain multifamily facilities and the fees associated with the collection, multifamily facilities with private collection, and business recycling.

Pursuant to the requirements of the “Administrative Regulations Ordinance” (Authority: Chapter 2.12 “Administrative Regulations,” of the *Takoma Park Code*), notice of the City’s intention to adopt an administrative regulation must be publicly noted, allowing residents the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The proposed regulation is available for review at www.takomaparkmd.gov. To obtain further information about the proposed regulation, contact Daryl Braithwaite, Director, Public Works Department, 301-891-7615 or DarylB@takomaparkmd.gov. Written comments on the proposed regulation may be emailed to Clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The deadline for receipt of public comments is Monday, May 1, 2023.

FY 2024 LIVING WAGE RATE ESTABLISHED

Every City contract for the provision of services awarded after a competitive bid or proposal process requires the contractor and any subcontractor to pay each employee assigned to perform services under the City contract a living wage. The current living wage rate is \$16.00 per hour. Effective July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, the Takoma Park living wage rate will be \$17.05 per hour. Certain contracts are exempted from this requirement. Additional information can be found at <https://takomaparkmd.gov/services/bids-contracts/>.

CouncilAction		
<p><i>Only negative votes, absences, and abstentions are noted here. All resolutions and ordinances are published after adoption.</i></p> <p>FEBRUARY 15, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ordinance 2023-1 Authorizing a Contract for Roof Replacement at the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center. The ordinance authorized execution of a contract with Len Home Design, Inc. for the removal and replacement of the roof at the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center at the cost of \$84,000.• Resolution 2023-2 Designating an Acting City Manager for the City of Takoma Park. The resolution directed Rosalind Grigsby and Gregory Clark, in their capacities as Acting Deputy City Managers, to assume the role of Acting City Manager until such a time as an Acting City Manager is appointed. <p>FEBRUARY 22, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ordinance 2023-2 Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Amendment to the Contract for Legal Services with Karpinski, Cornbrooks & Karp, P.A. Effective January	<p>1, 2023, the hourly partner rate was increased from \$175 per hour to \$200 per hour. The associate hourly rate was increased from \$150 to \$175. Effective July 1, 2023, the hourly partner rate will increase to \$225 per hour. The cap on travel time was increased from \$250 to \$400 for any individual meeting effective January 1, 2023. Effective July 1, 2023, the cap will increase to \$450 for an individual meeting. (Councilmember Small was absent for the vote.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resolution 2023-3 Providing for Appointment to the Arts and Humanities Committee. Rick Henry (Ward 3) was appointed to the Committee.• Resolution 2023-4 Providing for Appointment to the Board of Elections. Joseph Goldman (Ward 1) was appointed to the Board.• Resolution 2023-5 Providing for Appointment to the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Frank Disimino (Ward 4) was appointed to the Committee.• Resolution 2023-6 Providing for Appointment to the Ethics Commission. Mark Samburg (Ward 1) was appointed to the Commission.• Resolution 2023-7 Providing for Appointments to the Grants Review Committee. Louise Klees-Wallace	<p>(Ward 5) and Damaris Wanjiku (Ward 5) were appointed to the Committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resolution 2023-8 Providing for Appointments to the Sustainable Maryland Committee. Maggie Holland (Ward 3) and Melinda Ulloa (Ward 5) were appointed to the Committee. <p>MARCH 1, 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resolution 2023-9 Providing for Appointments to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA). Appointed were Samuel Bryson (Ward 3), Jeffrey Hopkins (Ward 3), and Faith Ogbonna (Ward 4).• Resolution 2023-10 Providing for Appointments to the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee. Adam Frank (Ward 2) and William Allen-DePraw (Ward 1) were appointed to the Committee.• Resolution 2023-11 Designating an Acting City Manager for the City of Takoma Park. By this resolution, the City Council appointed David Eubanks as the Acting City Manager.

Building COMMUNITY



Rolling Into Spring: April Bike Safety Roundtable

Join staff from the City Planning Division for a virtual bike safety roundtable event on April 20th or 21st. Share your thoughts on bike safety in the City, current bike projects, and opportunities to improve our bike networks.

When: Thursday, April 20 @ 7:30pm OR Friday, April 21 @ 12:30pm
What: Virtual roundtable meeting
Who: Anyone who is invested in making Takoma Park a better place to ride a bike.
Register for one of the meetings by visiting: bit.ly/TPBikeways

Code Enforcement in the Neighborhoods

By Rick Baravechia,
Code Enforcement Manager

A primer on how we keep Takoma Park safe and tidy

It's not uncommon to see Code Enforcement staff out and about in Takoma Park neighborhoods, on the lookout for overgrown weeds, derelict cars, peeling paint, and vegetation encroaching on sidewalks. It's also not unusual for neighbors to get upset about code violation notices – the process can be confusing and even alarming. Who wants notice of a violation? What will the punishment be?

City staff assures residents that the system is not about punishment at all – it's about keeping homes safe and in good repair. It's also meant to take care of the eyesore properties that threaten to pull down property values across the board.

How it works

The Property Maintenance Code applies to the exterior of all buildings and to vacant land, even sheds and carports. It establishes basic standards for repair only – it does not address aesthetic choices like paint color. You can paint with any color you like!

Among the most common violations: are grass over 12 inches high, an untagged vehicle, peeling paint, trash on the ground or left out on the curb, rotted wood, or broken fencing. If there is a code violation, residents get a Courtesy Notice hung on the door, with the violation(s) listed and a deadline of fifteen days for correcting it. The name of the inspector and the phone number is on the notice in case you have questions or need more time. Staff issues notice so that there will be a weekend available between the time the notice is posted and the deadline for correction.

If, during the follow-up inspection, the violation(s) noted on the Courtesy Notice are not corrected, a Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued. It comes by certified mail, involves no fines, and allows 20 days for

compliance.

What if a resident can't make the corrections? Staff urges residents to call to discuss the issue before the deadline for compliance. If there is more than one violation and one or more have been corrected, residents can request more time to take care of the rest. The decision to extend the deadline is made on a case-by-case basis.

Still no progress? The city issues a Uniform Civil Citation for each of the violations not abated and attaches fines to each. Residents have 25 days to correct the violation from the date it is issued and the option of requesting a trial. Even if you pay the fine, the case is brought to a hearing in District Court if the violation is not abated.

And, even if you've got a court date, you should continue to work on addressing the violation. Also, be sure to attend the hearing, as it is the District Court judge that makes the final decision on fines and abatement dates.

Courts typically issue an order requiring the owner to correct the violation, and the Judge may also assess a fine. Once the violations have been corrected, the case is closed and the owner is notified.

Throughout this process, the owner is encouraged to contact the inspector. The city's goal is to bring the property into compliance with the code, not to go to court.

Information about the Code Enforcement Division can be found online at <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/code-enforcement/>

Concerned about the condition of the property? Contact the Code Enforcement Manager at (301) 891-7113 or submit your concerns online at <https://takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tpkp/>

Code Enforcement staff are happy to meet with individual citizens or neighborhood groups to provide information about the code enforcement process and answer any questions. Please reach out to us at 301-891-7113 or send an email to DuaneB@takomaparkmd.gov.

From Visioning to Refining: Montgomery Planning to Release Minor Master Plan Draft

By Alex Freedman, City Planner

The Takoma Park Minor Master Plan team is presenting their Preliminary Recommendations to the Takoma Park City Council on April 10 and the Montgomery County Planning Board on April 20. These recommendations will incorporate the results of our community engagement efforts including the Visioning Workshop held last October.

You are invited to attend a community meeting on April 20 at 6:30 pm at the City Auditorium where you will have an

opportunity to weigh in on the recommendations and provide feedback. If you are unable to attend in person, you can also register to participate virtually. Visit the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment's webpage to learn more information about the plan.

Register for the meeting at <https://bit.ly/MinorMasterPlanMeeting>.

If you missed an earlier opportunity to speak with us or are unable to attend the community meeting, you can still reach out to us directly to share your thoughts at TakomaParkMMA@montgomeryplanning.org.

Harmful Chemicals are Not Necessary to Beautify Our Surroundings

By Rick Baravechia,
Code Enforcement
Manager

Sustainable lawn care practices and products can help residents maintain healthy lawns without using harmful chemicals; this is the reasoning behind creating the Safe Grow Act that the City enacted in 2014. This law was designed to protect ourselves and our environment from harmful pesticides. Of the 30 most commonly used lawn pesticides,

- 17 are possible or known carcinogens,
- 18 have the potential to disrupt the endocrine (hormonal) system,
- 19 are linked to reproductive effects and sexual dysfunction,
- 11 have been linked to congenital disabilities,
- 14 are neurotoxic,
- 24 can cause kidney or liver damage, and
- 25 are sensitizers or irritants.

In addition, children are susceptible to

SAFE GROW ZONE

No Lawn Pesticides.
It's The Law!



No Pesticidas en el Césped.
¡Es La Ley!

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/safegrow/>

pesticide exposure as they take in more pesticides relative to their body weight than adults and have developing organ systems that are more vulnerable and less able to detoxify toxic chemicals.

In 2019, Montgomery County enacted the Healthy Lawns Act, which mirrors our Safe Grow legislation, so that all Montgomery County residents can reduce their exposure to the unhealthy effects of harmful lawn care pesticides.

Organic lawn care isn't difficult; it can save time and money while protecting you, your family, your pets, and the environment. As we transition to Spring, you should remember to remove winter debris, test soils, dethatch if thatch is greater than 1/2," overseed thin areas and apply corn gluten to inhibit germinating weeds.

Also, consider aeration of your lawn and applying lime if needed for pH adjustment. For more information: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/code-enforcement/safe-grow/>



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 የሚገኝ መጽሔብ አርባ ሰዓት ውስጥ ኖቶው በኢንተርኔት ላይ በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታኩማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድርጅት ገጽ. ጠቀስኋለን በኋላ ለአራት አገልግሎት ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንግ ላይ ታኅሳስ ላይ የአሰራር አጠቃላይ ይመረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ጽንሰ-ሀሳብ ሲሆን.



Name Takoma Park's New EV Street Sweeper

Takoma Park is getting a brand new all-electric street sweeper and that means it's going to need a name. Takoma Park residents will have the chance to name the RAVO 5 iSeries sweeper and the winner will get to ride it during the name unveiling at the city's Fourth of July parade this summer.

The city operates the street sweeper from March through October, with the goal of sweeping each street at least twice a month. Switching from the diesel-powered sweeper that was purchased in 2010 to the all-electric version will reduce the use of fuel by around 700 gallons per year, or the equivalent greenhouse gas emissions by 3% (the City's fleet generates 210 metric tons of CO2 per year and the diesel sweeper generated about 6.7 metric tons of CO2).

The electricity that will be used to power the sweeper is from clean sources through a combination of onsite solar and the purchase of renewable energy credits. The sweeper also has a much quieter engine and will decrease noise generated by the street sweeping.

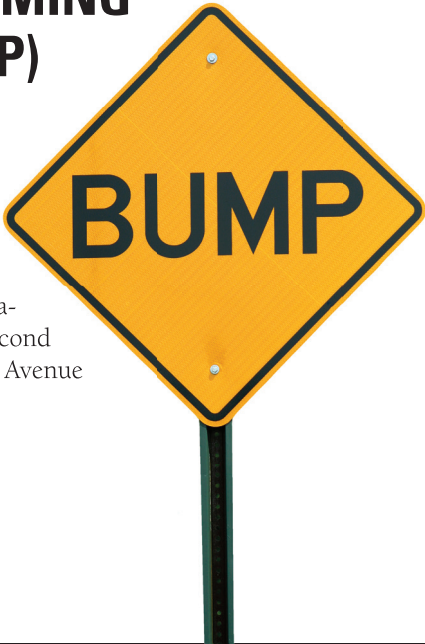
Street sweeping is a component of the city's stormwater management program and assists the city in meeting stormwater water quality goals. The city also uses the sweeper to clean up salt and sand used after snow and ice events to reduce the pollution to the area streams.

Keep an eye on the city's website for rules on submissions for the name of the city's new sweeper.



NOTICE OF COUNCIL ACTION TRAFFIC CALMING (SPEED HUMP) ON SECOND AVENUE

At the meeting on March 8, 2023, the City Council approved installation of a speed hump on Second Avenue between Cockerille Avenue and Allegheny Avenue.



David Eubanks Appointed Acting Deputy City Manager

A Statement from Mayor Searcy

The Takoma Park City Council is happy to announce that it has appointed David Eubanks as Acting Deputy City Manager, effective Monday, March 6, 2023.

Mr. Eubanks joined the City of Takoma Park in 2021 as the Deputy Director of Public Works and is currently the Director of Housing and Community Development (HCD). As HCD Director, Mr. Eubanks has been instrumental in advancing key City initiatives such as the library construction project. Prior to joining the City, Mr. Eubanks had over a decade of experience in housing and community development.

The Council looks forward to



David Eubanks

working with Mr. Eubanks in this new role. The Council would also like to thank Acting Deputy City Managers Rosalind Grigsby and

Gregory Clark for their service in the Deputy City Manager role. Both will be returning to their official positions, Rosalind Grigsby as Planning Manager and Gregory Clark as Director of the Recreation Department. The Council appreciates their support during this time of transition and looks forward to working with them in these roles.

Looking forward, the Council is working to identify an Interim City Manager to manage the City until a new permanent City Manager is selected. Additional details regarding the City Manager search are forthcoming. We appreciate your continued understanding as we move forward during this time of transition.

Arbor Day

By Marty Frye,
Urban Forest Manager

Arbor Day is a time to celebrate the immense and unique value that trees provide us. Imagine all the umbrellas you would need to provide the shade that our urban canopy trees do. Or, imagine all the extra storm drain capacity we would need to install if we didn't have the rainwater catching and absorbing capacity of our trees. Or, imagine how high our collective air conditioning bill would climb if we didn't have trees cooling the air and our homes. Trees truly are a wonderful and useful asset to our city, and beautiful too.

Arbor Day is also a time to recognize that a city can be a hard place for trees to live, and that they need our tender love and care! It is a time to redouble our commitment to providing our trees what they need to thrive in our urban environment. One of the most important acts you can take to support our urban forest is to plant a tree where there



Arbor Day

wasn't one. Residents and property owners across the City are planting trees this season in solidarity with this mission. For the trees you already have, remember that a broad area of woody or leafy mulched soil for the roots to grow in is ideal. And, don't forget to water your new trees. Typically, fifteen gallons once a week is sufficient for a new young tree, though watering twice a week can be a good idea during times of drought.

This year, Maryland Arbor Day is April 5th while nationally recognized Arbor Day is April 28th. Tree planting is best done earlier in the spring, but any time is a good time to celebrate trees! See the City's Urban Forestry page to learn more about tree care and City tree programs. <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/public-works/urban-forestry/>

Join us on Saturday, April 22nd at 10:00am at Circle Woods for a celebratory gathering and tree walk. The City's Urban Forest Manager Marty Frye will lead the session identifying some of our choice native trees and expounding upon their virtues. We will also have rain gauges and trunk guards for deer protection to give away; first come, first served! Please RSVP on Eventbrite so we can keep tabs on expected attendance: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/takoma-park-arbor-day-celebration-and-tree-walk-tickets-592522329237>

RFP - Contract for Services: Rental Licensing and Rent Reporting Software

The City of Takoma Park ("City") invites qualified firms ("Firms") to submit responses ("Proposals") to this Request for Proposals in order to develop two deliverables: 1) the implementation of a new software solution for the City's Licensing and Rent Reporting Programs, and 2) ongoing maintenance and support. The selected firm will work with City staff to implement the chosen software solution and address ongoing issues as the solution is used by the City to administer its rental licensing and rent reporting programs. Proposals are due no later than 11:59 pm on Friday, April 14, 2023.



The ARTS



New *Spring for Poetry* Posters Appearing Soon

Poetry is alive in the streets of Takoma Park and will be spreading across the city.

Takoma Park Poet Laureate Taylor Johnson is updating the *Spring for Poetry* project, which features colorful posters with poems by both famous and lesser-known poets. The wood-framed laminated posters are located at city parks, bus stops, schools, and along Carroll Avenue from downtown to the Takoma Junction.

The project was conceived in 2007 by former Takoma Park Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler and Ann Slayton with support from the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Students at Montgomery College School of Art and Design designed more than 200 posters.

Johnson is reviewing posters which haven't been displayed yet to replace existing posters. Local high school students also

will be designing new posters featuring local poets and younger voices.

"Updating this project is a communal way to invite the spirit of poetry into the Takoma Park community, and I'm excited about expanding it to new locations across the city," Johnson said.

You can learn more about the project and see some of the current posters at ftpml.org/activities/spring-for-poetry.

Johnson read some poems at a Black History Month event at Piney Branch Elementary School, and he serves as emcee at the *Takoma Park Arts* poetry readings.

"It's been a joy to host the poetry readings at the Community Center, and I've been so inspired by the poets in Takoma Park and the D.C. area who share their work," he said. "It's been a true pleasure to be introduced to new voices in poetry."

National Poetry Month in Takoma Park

April is National Poetry Month and city staff are working with Takoma Park Poet Laureate Taylor Johnson on some upcoming poetry projects and *Takoma Park Arts* poetry readings. For more info about National Poetry Month, go to poets.org/national-poetry-month.

The *Takoma Park Arts* event series is organized by the City's Arts and Humanities Division and features free poetry readings, art exhibitions, film screenings, concerts, theater, and dance performances at the Takoma Park Community Center. Please go to takomaparkmd.gov/arts for more info and to sign up for our e-newsletter.



Taylor Johnson

sounded through

By Taylor Johnson

from Forever in the glade and unendingly so the animal choir sings my grandfather to Forever.

Forever is the sound of a seed opening and so opens his body, my grandfather given back from

attenuated beingness, the gray of which slips off as a seed from my finger slips. Into belonging.

He was just turning a corner, just one foot following beside the other but a bit behind, as I would follow

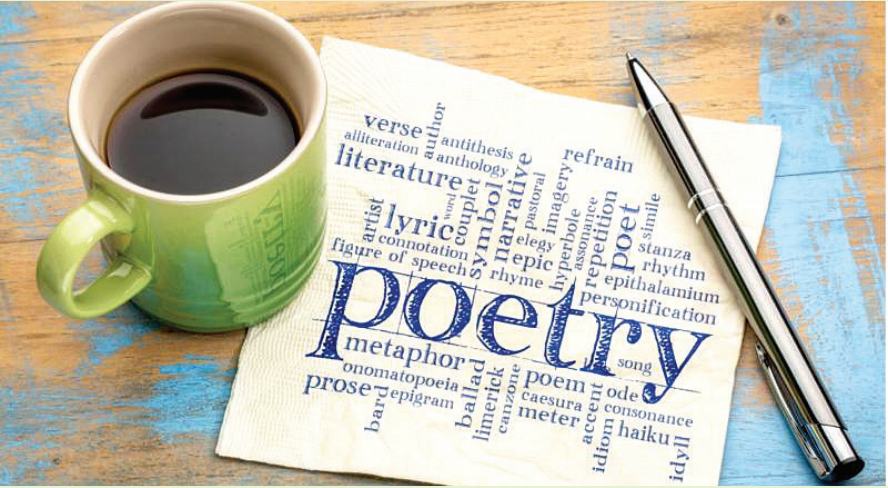
him a bit behind, one thumb in his hammer loop. Our boots ringed in dew.

I danced in his shadow and fit my antlers on his head. Our language was twin green and nothing. He sang it from his elk body when he died.

Celebrating National Poetry Month Poetry Reading

Thursday, April 20 at 7:30 pm
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue

Please join us for our next *Takoma Park Arts* poetry reading where four local poets will share their diverse range of work on various subjects. The featured poets include David Dayton, Amy Eisner, E. Laura Golberg, and Bonnie Naradzay.



Takoma Park News

Send submissions to: Acting Editor: Sean Gossard • TPNewsEditor@takomaparkmd.gov
Questions: Donna Wright Communications Manager
donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov
www.takomaparkmd.gov

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov.

TOTS

DANCE

Combo Tot Dance
Fun and energizing class for your little ones. This is the introductory foundational class consisting of rhythmic movements, into basic tumbling and various styles of dance. Jam packed with games and toys your little ones won't even realize they are learning to dance. Instructor: Dance Solutions
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
3-5 years
Sundays, 12:15-1 p.m.
April 2-May 21
Resident: \$125 / Non-resident: \$145

SPORTS

Tot Sports
Children are introduced to the fundamentals of sports such as soccer and basketball. The goal of this program is to provide the opportunity for each child to develop motor skills and nurture their growth socially and emotionally through teamwork and good sportsmanship. Instructor: Recreation Staff
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
3-5 years
6 Week Session
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
April 15-May 20
Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70

YOUTH

CAMPS

Dance Camp
Children will learn basic dance skills, rhythm, musicality and improvisation. Focusing on Choreography, Ballet, Modern Dance and Hip-Hop, geared to allow youth the opportunity to enhance talents with skills and techniques taught during the session. Instructors will focus on building self-esteem and personal creativity; which will allow them to gain confidence in the craft of dance. In addition to dance, campers will have an opportunity to participate in team building, games, arts and crafts and outdoor activities. At the end of each session, campers will be given the opportunity to highlight and showcase what they have learned with a performance. Instructor: Charonne Butler
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
6-12 years
2 Week Sessions
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Session 1: July 17-July 28
Session 2: July 31-August 11
Resident: \$295 / Non-resident: \$325
Before Care: 7-9 a.m.
After Care: 4-6 p.m.
Resident: \$90 / Non-resident: \$110 per session

On Stage Camp: Spotlight - Annie
In On Stage: Spotlight, everyone is a star! This year, we will be tackling material from the Broadway hit - Annie! Camp is designed to allow students the opportunity to dive into performance and design/construction aspects of theatre by working on an abridged production. We'll start each day with physical, vocal, imagination & focus building warm-ups. On Stage: Spotlight Camp will end with a showcase performance on July 14! Please note, the emphasis is on process, not product, though we haven't disappointed audiences yet! \$40 materials fee to the instructor helps to cover set materials, props, craft supplies, costume supplies, music purchase, cds, lyrics & script. Students will be able to keep some of their costume pieces and set/prop work.
Before & after care is not offered for this program. Instructor: Gretchen Weigel
Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Avenue
8-12 years

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
July 3-July 14
(No Camp July 4)
Resident: \$645 / Non-resident: \$675

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Tutoring
Looking for some extra academic support? Tutoring for grades K-12 is available at both the Community Center (7500 Maple Ave) and Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave). Tutors are able to help with a variety of subjects, including English, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Choose the day and location that is most convenient for you.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4-5 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Mondays & Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m.
Free

SPORTS

Golf
This course is designed for the novice golfer. This class will focus on the fundamentals of the sport including the equipment, some rules, etiquette and the history of the sport. Instructor: Fred Harllee
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Outdoor Classroom
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
6 & up
5 Week Session
Saturdays, 11-11:45 a.m.
April 15-May 20
Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70
T-Ball League
This league allows kids to have fun while

learning the basic 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. Volunteer coaches are needed, email: TPsports@takomaparkmd.gov
Belle Ziegler Field
7350 Takoma Avenue
5-8 years
Saturdays, 9-10:30 a.m.
June 3-July 22
Resident: \$70 / Non-resident: \$80

TEENS

ART

Drawing & Watercolor
Have fun learning to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, self-portrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Beginning students are welcome. The skills focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School. Materials fee of \$20.00 paid directly to the instructor must be made on the first day of class. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
11-15 years
May-June
Choose: Tues or Thurs
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Resident: \$180 / Non-resident: \$200
Materials Fee: \$20

CAMP

Visual Arts Camp
Campers have fun and express themselves with color, shape and design. They sharpen their drawing skills, explore new media, and exercise their imagination with these inspiring art projects. Each week a different theme/ focus. **Before & after care is not offered for this program.** Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
11-14 years
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
July 10-July 14: Still Life & Interiors
Resident: \$295 / Non-resident: \$325

FITNESS

Teen Fitness
No matter your fitness level, this class is designed to work with you. Join us for a high energy workout. Your trainer will assist you in meeting your fitness goals. Bring a water bottle, towel, yoga mat and a positive attitude. Instructor: Greg Harris
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
11-17 years
6 Week Session
Wednesdays, 5-6 p.m.
April 12-May 17
Resident: \$30 / Non-resident: \$40

ADULT

ART

Drawing
The practice of drawing can be both relaxing and enriching. Participants in this class will draw with black and white and color media, such as charcoal, oil and chalk, pastels, pen and ink and colored pencils. Students will be supported by weekly lessons with demos involving proportion and perspective, on-going feedback and critique. Creative cropping, expressive mark making, exploration into limited value or color key and other techniques will be discussed. Personal creativity will be encouraged. Come join the fun and camaraderie of drawing together and develop a practice that will enhance your life. Beginning to advanced students are welcome. Paper and drawing materials will be available for the \$20 materials fee due on the first day of class. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
18 & up
Thursdays, 6:30-9 p.m.
May 4-June 8
Resident: \$230 / Non-resident: \$260
Materials Fee: \$20

Spring into Art

Have fun and paint on paper, canvas and tiles-even your Iphone. You can try out the computer program Photoshop elements too. Look at flowers, photos, shells and other nature oriented material. In a supportive atmosphere share your appreciation of nature and get ready for spring to blossom. Most materials will be provided. Instructor: Alice Sims
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Art Studio
16 & up
Saturdays, 10-11 a.m.
April 14-May 6
Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$80

EXTENDED CARE

School year 2023-2024

Registration opens at noon online & in person: 4/12 for those with a current Scholarship 4/19 for City Residents
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 are 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, free play and more!
Programs operate when MCPS is in session
Before Care: \$1,700 / Non-resident: \$2,000
Hours: 7-9 a.m.
After Care: \$2,500 / Non-resident: \$3,000
Hours: 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Bundle Discount: Resident: \$3,570 / Non-resident: \$4,250
Participants who register for both before care and after care at the same facility in one transaction will receive a discount.
Payment Plan: There is a 20% deposit due at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments beginning Sept-May.



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 at 301-840-8130 to change your bus route to Hampshire Towers and we will wait with them at the bus stop.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Morning Addition & Afternoon Addition

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

For a full list of our classes and to register visit:
bit.ly/TPRDActiveNet (case sensitive).

RECREATION

RECREATION

■ From page 6

FITNESS

Boot Camp

A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 & up
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
April 11-May 25
Resident: \$105 / Non-resident: \$125

SPORTS

Pickleball Open Play

Join the Takoma Park Pickleball Club! Grab a friend or make a new one on the court. The club will meet weekly at the Takoma Park Recreation Center for pick up games of Pickleball. All skill levels are welcome.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
18 & up
6 Week Session
Mondays, 6:45-8:45 p.m.
April 17-May 22
Free with a General Recreation Center Membership

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual Egg Hunt

Get your baskets ready and join the Takoma Park Recreation Department for an “egg” citing time! There are 4 age categories: 2 & under, 3-4 years old, 5-6 years old, and 7-8 years old. Games will begin at 10 a.m. and the hunt will begin at 11 a.m. SHARP, don’t miss out! Check our website for more details leaving up to the event: takomaparkmd.gov/recreation
Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Avenue
2-8 years
Saturday, April 8
Starting at 10 a.m.
Free

Family Outdoor Movie Night

Our outdoor movie will begin 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 Recreation Department will provide one small bag of popcorn per person and water. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged. The movie will be a family friendly hit, vote on the City website ahead of the event!
Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Avenue
All ages
Saturday, June 3
Movie starts at dusk
Free

Fitness Expo

Come join us for an exciting day that will include demonstrations from our fitness programs as well as presentations from our local community health and wellness organizations. The expo will kick off at 10 a.m. For additional information or if you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or Vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
All ages
Saturday, April 1
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Free

55 +

ART



Art and Crafts

These classes cover a variety of quick art and craft projects. Have fun and learn a new skill such as decorating vases, painting ceramic tiles, creating table decorations and holiday projects. Enjoy the supportive and relaxed atmosphere. Instructor: Alice Sims
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Lilac Room
55 & up
Mondays, 10-11 a.m.
April 10 & May 8
\$6



DROP-IN

Bingo

Come try your luck and win a prize! This is drop-in. Host: Paula Lisowski
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Lilac Room
55 & up
Tuesdays, 12-2 p.m.
Spring: April 25, May 23, June 27
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

These workshops are being offered virtually, participants will need to register per session, and will receive a link to join class online.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS



Aging with Confidence: Using Your Strengths to Make Every Moment Count

Are you interested in exploring ways in which a positive mindset can help you unleash different possibilities for your life? Join us as we explore ways to improve personal efficacy and satisfaction by completing an activity to help you identify your top five character strengths. Learn to use these strengths to age with confidence. Presenter: Cynthia Luna, Certified Health and Wellness Coach.
Virtual
55 & up
Monday, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
April 17
\$6

Why So Serious? The Value of Humor and Play for Overall Well-being

Did you know that laughter and play have physical benefits such as improving heart health, lowering blood pressure, boosting pain tolerance, boosting immunity and improving sleep. Laughter and play also have psychological benefits including reducing stress, boosting memory and improving social relationships. Participants will engage in



Let's Move to the Beat!

ATTENTION adults 55 & over, are you looking for something a little more active? Have you checked out Rhythmic Drumming, a wonderful cardio class for strengthening arms and legs while keeping a rhythmic beat? Come join this class beginning Tuesday, April 11th, 1:15 p.m. at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue. We think you'll like it! Cheerfully taught by Talia Hamiel, a Dance Solutions instructor, this class is the fun workout you'll look forward to each week. Dance Solutions



Cutlines



is a company owned and operated by Nysia Wilhite, a former professional dancer turned teacher and entrepreneur. Dance Solutions is operating in over 30 locations across the state of Maryland and surrounding states with the goal of providing fitness and dance opportunities for all ages. Look for more Recreation Department classes in partnership with Dance Solutions. For this and other class descriptions, dates, times and cost for any of these and other activities, go to the Takoma Park Recreation website: takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation

gov/government/recreation

To register for classes, click on ActiveNet. Don't forget about our Scholarship program providing City Residents who qualify an opportunity to apply for a lesser fee than the published amounts. For more information and to apply click on "Recreation Scholarships".

As always, you are welcome to contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290 for information.





LIBRARY



Library and Computer Center hours are:

Monday-Thursday 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Friday-Sunday 12 – 6 p.m.

Our new address is 7505 New Hampshire Avenue. There is plenty of parking as well as public transportation.

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.

Internet Hotspots to borrow! The Library has acquired a supply of Verizon JetPacks for patrons to borrow. The hotspots will permit up to 10 devices to connect to the internet. These items will be available only to adult patrons and require a signed user agreement.

Books-to-Go is continuing, and **Books-to-You** (delivery for Takoma Park residents only) is starting back up. Email librarytakomapark@gmail.com to order. Please note: if you are picking up a Books-to-Go order, please call the library's main number, 301-891-7259.

Return of the MOOC! What's a MOOC? It's a Massive Open Online Course, a continuing education and enrichment program for adults, and we haven't had one since 2018. This summer we're going to start them up again, and we want YOUR ideas for topics. Email Anne LeVeque at annel@takomaparkmd.gov with your favorite topic. The Library will hold MOOC sessions on Sundays at noon beginning in June.

Regular Programs

Neighborhood Circle Time Join Ms. Kati and/or Ms. Verónica every Tuesday at 10:30 am for Circle Time indoors in our new temporary library. We sing songs, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, and do many dancing and movement exercises. We read a book in the middle of the program. If your child has a birthday coming up, please email Ms. Kati at kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov with the age and day, and we will celebrate!

Canta Juego: Spanish Circle time every Thursday at 10:30 am 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.

Tableros: Board Games / Juegos de mesa Several board games for all ages will be available for play at the Library. Play your favorite games and discover new

ones! In person, at our interim location, Wednesdays from 4 to 6pm.

Lego Club - Come in and play with Legos! Sunday, April 2nd from 1 to 3pm.

SKETCH CLUB Join Dave on Thursdays at 4:00 PM for Sketch Club, either in-person at 7505 New Hampshire Ave. or online on Zoom. A mostly unstructured, self-guided 'class'. Kids who like to draw can hang out and work on whatever they feel like drawing. In person at the new Takoma Park Maryland Library location, and on Zoom, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7349136285>

Looking Ahead -

Yard Dramas will return to the Crossroads Farmers Market this 2023 summer season. This is an interactive outdoor storytelling and community building program. Wednesdays at 11:00 AM, beginning May 3rd, in-person at the Crossroads Farmers Market.

Library @ Crossroads Catch us the third Wednesday of June, July, and August for pop-up Library activities! In-Person at the Crossroads Farmers Market!

Events

Free Yoga class for kids - Elisa Ferrante, a bilingual, certified yoga instructor pursuing certification for Kids Yoga is offering free yoga classes in the library for kids 8 - 12. Sunday April 9th, 23rd, and May 7th. This will replace the April 23rd Family Yoga Storytime.

Meet the Author: Dennis Desmond, local author, will be presenting his new book *Eddie & the Vegetarian Vampire*, on Saturday, April 1st, at 2:00 PM. In-Person at the Library's Temporary Location at 7505 New Hampshire Avenue.

Favorite Poem Night returns! April 25th at 7:30 pm in the Library. See the article in this issue for details.

Día de los niños / Día de los libros Join Takoma Park Maryland Library for its second *Día* celebration. There will be stories, music, and other surprises! Saturday, April 29, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. In-Person, outdoors at Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave) Rain Plan: Indoors at the Library's Temporary Location.

Preserve your family's heritage Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:30pm

To commemorate the American Library Association's National Preservation Week this year, the Library is partnering with Historic Takoma, Inc. for a program on what you can do to preserve your family's history. Please join us to learn about how to evaluate, handle, and store your family's record of memory. This event will be held at the Historic Takoma, Inc. building at 7328 Carroll Avenue.

Listen to this!

Podcast review, by Julia Bates

Just in time for spring planting! *GardenDC* from *Washington Gardener Magazine* is targeted specifically to mid-Atlantic audiences, which is nice since we have some particularly peculiar growing conditions. A wide range of topics is covered, of interest to both somebody new to gardening as well as old hands who are interested in expanding knowledge. The spotlight on local gardening, events, and resources is fabulous, and the fact that they have experts from places like the National Arboretum as well as local folks doing individualized gardening and planter businesses shows a pretty wide range of guests. While I tend to be very oriented toward native-only gardening, I think they do bring a good balance between people who might gravitate towards the more familiar non-native ornamentals, as well as promoting native species, both ornamental and edible.

Found wherever you get your podcasts and on the *Washington Gardener* website, <https://washingtongardener.blogspot.com/>.

(note: Julia Bates, born and raised in Takoma Park, is a local gardening enthusiast and destroyer of invasive plants)



The letters are from the original sign dated 1955. If you know where the L is, please bring it back!

What the L?

by Anne LeVeque, Library

Sometime between the afternoon of Thursday, March 9th and the morning of Friday, March 10th, all 'L' broke loose at the -ibrary. The old building at 101 Philadelphia Avenue is being prepped for demolition in anticipation of the construction of a beautiful, spacious new library. The side facing Philadelphia Avenue still had the word 'LIBRARY' in large letters on the side of the building, and when one library staff member (yours truly, if you must know) walked her dog past the building on Thursday, she noticed that the 'L' was loose. That very day, she discussed the removal of all the letters with other library staff members, and it was decided that the letters should be taken down and saved. After all, the sign was original to the 1955 building! Not even 24 hours later, on her morning dog walk, that same staffer

saw that the 'L' had been completely removed. She looked up and down, in the trash bins and recycle bins, in the bushes and shrubbery, all to no avail.

The word has been put out, to City staff, on social media, on neighborhood lists, imploring anyone with information to please return the 'L'. At press time, there is still no sign of it. Some community members have conjectured that perhaps Apple is responsible, wanting to rebrand the library as the iBrary. Others have suggested that it went to Chicago, still others that it's a tenuous reference to Christmas - No 'L' - get it? One suspicion is that someone with a name beginning with 'L' has absconded with it to decorate their room. Larry? Laura? Lucy? Leo?

We just want the 'L' back. Please, if you know where it is, bring it back - no penalties, no overdue fines, no questions asked.

Director’s Column

Poetry

by Jessica Jones

April is National Poetry Month, and I love working in a public library that has such a robust poetry collection. Poetry is embedded in our library’s history, and I am so excited that we are hosting Favorite Poem Night again at the Library during National Poetry Month this year.

I hope you will consider joining us for the event on April 25th at 7pm. We will be holding it at our interim location at 7505 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 205, in the former Salvation Army store. We’ll have lots of space to spread out and enjoy an evening of verse.

While we would love for you to read one of your favorite poems – and traditionally, we read published poems that are not our own work – you are also more than welcome to join us if you just want to listen. It’s okay if you’re shy, or if you’re just getting into poetry and don’t have a favorite poem yet. Discovering new poets is one of the best parts of the event!

Poetry is in the 800s in our nonfiction sections – more specifically around 811. Come browse and look for your new favorite poem. I am still narrowing mine down, but here are a few of my go-to poets that we have at the Library. They are in three categories not founded on literary scholarship – this is just how my brain groups them.

Younger contemporary poets: Poetry is not a dying art! Actually, I think that social media has made poetry even more accessible for new audiences. Sites like Instagram and Twitter are perfect platforms for short-form content, and you can find some of these poets sharing snippets from their work online.

Yesika Salgado is a Los Angeles-based Salvadoran poet; she writes a lot about intimate relationships, both of the romantic and platonic varieties. She also often uses Spanish words and phrases in her poetry. We have all three of her books: *Corazón*, *Tesoro*, and *Hermosa*. Camonghne Felix’s book *Build Yourself a Boat* is absolutely beautiful and was a finalist for the National Book Award for Poetry in 2019. Chen Chen’s *When I Grow Up I Want to Be a List of Further Possibilities* feels almost conversational in tone, and Chen Chen’s experiences navigating immigration, family, and coming out are presented with humor and gravitas in turn.

If you are a younger reader, or if you have one at home, Jacqueline Woodson and Kwame Alexander have both written award-winning titles for elementary and middle grades in verse. *The Crossover* is currently my favorite Alexander book (but I’m also a biased basketball fan), and Woodson’s *Brown Girl Dreaming* won the National Book Award and is a Newbery Honor book.

Classic-classics: Time jump! If you are a fan of the classic-classics, so am I, and we have a wonderful selection of poets and



poetry who wrote before the Beat Generation shook everything up in a big way.

We have several volumes of Alfred, Lord Tennyson’s poetry, and few poets conjure visual imagery the way Tennyson could ... except maybe Robert Browning, whose famous poem “Porphyria’s Lover” still gives me the creeps in the best way.

Men do not have a total monopoly on poetry in classic eras. Alfonsina Storni is represented in our Spanish language collection; she wrote in Argentina in the early 20th century and took on some very progressive themes, including feminism and gender discrimination.

And since we’ve talked about Robert Browning, we should also acknowledge the work of Elizabeth Barrett, who would become his wife. If you have ever used the phrase, “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways,” thank Elizabeth Barrett for writing it. She even influenced the likes of Edgar Allan Poe and Emily Dickinson, both of whose personal archives include correspondence with Barrett. Poe’s *The Raven and Other Poems* was dedicated to her. Speaking of Emily Dickinson, we have many of her volumes as well.

Modern classics: Between the youngest generation of poets and the poetry ancestors are the modern classics. Many of these poets are still with us, while others have shuffled off this mortal coil, but all of them have a significant place in poetry’s illustrious history.

Joy Harjo of the Muscogee Nation was America’s first Poet Laureate of Indigenous heritage, and she continues writing today. (Fun fact: her daughter, Rainy Ortiz, makes beautiful beadwork, and I will be wearing some of it at Favorite Poem Night! So much talent in that family.) Maya Angelou’s poetry is as well known as her novels, and we have her complete collected poems available for checkout. You may have seen excerpts from “And Still I Rise” on everything from documentaries to protest signs.

Younger audiences have loved Shel Silverstein’s poetry for decades, and we still have plenty of it on our shelves if you want to rediscover it with the younger readers in your life. *Where the Sidewalk Ends* has held up well.

We have so many poets represented in our collection that I can’t cover here, but I invite you to explore the 800s and discover them yourself. And, hopefully, you’ll find something to read for Favorite Poem Night on April 25th.

¡Juguemos con un poema inspirado en la naturaleza!

por Verónica Rivera-Negrón

Abril es el Mes de la Poesía y de la Tierra, así como el de la Semana Nacional de las Bibliotecas. Para celebrarlo, te propongo completar las siguientes actividades inspiradas en el poema “Oruga” de Laura Escudero Tobler.

Este y otros poemas de la autora están disponibles en el libro **Ema y el silencio**. El poemario ganó el Premio Hispanoamericano de

Poesía para Niños 2015, otorgado por la Fundación para las Letras Mexicanas, y está ilustrado por Roger Ycaza. El libro tiene muchas imágenes poéticas y visuales sobre la naturaleza, por lo que te invito a descubrirlo este mes de abril.

Cuéntame qué te pareció esta columna interactiva y, por favor, trae tu dibujo a la biblioteca para exhibir tu creación. ¡Felices lecturas poéticas!

a) Completa el poema usando el banco de palabras.

Una oruga hace
con hojas
cosas.
Por ejemplo, _____.

Mastica con _____
pliegue, doblés, mordisco
y agujero.

Origami de oruga:
_____.

Banco de palabras: esmero | hermosura | mariposas

b) Dibuja la imagen que te inspira el poema.



Favorite Poem Night Returns

by Jill Raymond

April is National Poetry Month and Favorite Poem Night is back! Hold Tuesday, April 25th for another celebration of this grand tradition begun several decades ago.

Bring a favorite poem, new or old. Not one of your own, but a published poem that has inspired you at some point in your life, and read it to the rest of us, or just come to enjoy the company of poetry aficionados. Takoma Park’s new Poet Laureate **Taylor Johnson** will join us and share a bit of his own work.

We will hold Favorite Poem Night in the Library’s spacious temporary digs at 7505 New

Hampshire Avenue. There is plenty of parking. The program will begin at 7:30, and we ask people to voluntarily wear a mask so that the most vulnerable members of our community will feel comfortable participating. If you plan to read a poem, please email Jill Raymond at jillr@takomaparkmd.gov no later than 4/21 with your name and phone number, and the name of the poem and poet you wish to read. Your name and the name of the poem and its poet will go on a printed program.

Come out and hear your friends and neighbors read their favorite poems!

At Your SERVICE



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

Free Car Seat Inspection (Online and In-person)

Montgomery County Residents Only-Appointments Required

The goal is to ensure children are properly secured in car seats and seat belts while traveling. Motor vehicle crashes are the leading killer of children under 15.

Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department - 7201 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912

- Thursday evenings from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm (*Appointment Required*)

Please call 240-777-2223 if you have questions regarding child passenger safety, need to make an appointment by phone, or have other general questions.

Email: fire.carseatsafetyprogram@montgomerycountymd.gov

Website: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-info/tips/parents/carseats.html>

Free Babysitters Class

The five-week class is designed for those interested in learning more about babysitting. Topics covered include: CPR, Fire Safety, First Aid, infant/child care and personal safety. A certificate will be issued upon completion of all five classes and exam. All classes will be held at the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department.

Mondays: April 17th; April 24th; May 1st; May 8th and May 15th from 7pm – 9pm.

Registration is available through the Takoma Park Recreation Department.

Safety Minute – Kitchen & Electrical

In the Kitchen

Cooking is the number one cause of home fires. Take these steps today to prevent a cooking fire in your home:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.
- Keep things that can burn away from your cooking area.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so they won't get bumped.

Electrical Sense

Follow these safety tips to prevent an electrical fire:

- Plug only one heat-producing appliance into the electrical outlet. Never use an extension cord. Examples of heat-producing appliances are: microwave, coffee maker, and portable heater.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only. If you have an electrical cord that is frayed or broken, don't use it.

—U.S. Fire Administration

Prescription: Medical Care Preparedness (MCP)

By Claudine Schweber, Chair,
Emergency Preparedness Committee, Takoma Park

April 22 is the annual Drug Take Back Day intended to “encourage the public to remove unneeded medications from their homes as a measure of preventing medication misuse...”. Takoma Park offers an easy opportunity for medication disposal: *Med-Return Drug Take Back box* (green) in Takoma Park police dept (lower level of Takoma Park community center; 7500 Maple Ave); open 24 hours, 7 days a week. Just drop the meds inside. Safe and secure.

Note: cannot leave loose pills, inhalers, aerosol cans, needle/sharps, ointment or lotion or thermometers.

Drug Take Back Day: Saturday, 22 April, 10 am-2pm—area will be staffed to answer questions.

This is also a reminder to check your Medical Care Preparedness (MCP). What would you do if there was an accident, weather situation, fire and you needed medical care? Are you ready and able to contact a medical professional, get access to your medications, deal with hospital care? Do you have an emergency contact? Here's a prescription for medical care preparedness (MCP) at home or away.

MCP prescription-- you need:

- **Emergency Contact (EC)** - a person who will be a special connection between you and the medical/other helpers. Post this EC information in your cell phone / landline, including name and email. Give the EC person the pharmacy and doctors numbers/email and tell EC where to find the medications in your home.
 - This information should enable paramedics to continue care, follow appropriate protocols, and avoid medical complications. Note: that HIPPA* forbids giving specific information about your condition to the EC person without your permission, although hospital personnel can contact the EC.
 - Tell others about the EC. Have one contact in your area and one outside of your area, in case of weather/ contact problems.
- **Insurance information:** provide insurance information to your EC (+others?); include the name, phone, email for primary doctor. For out of area activities, find out in advance what your insurance covers. NOTE: emergency personnel will take you to the nearest facility, not your preferred one.
- **Medication list:** 1) Make a list, put in an accessible place and share list with EC. Away from home for a while? Talk with your doctor if need an extra supply or get a 2nd prescription for critical meds. Keep the extra prescription at home until needed. ++ Make sure all your medications are current (or can be refilled). 2) tell EC where you store medications; 3) dispose of unused or expired prescription meds and over-the counter meds ASAP!!



*** Takoma Park offers an easy opportunity for medication disposal: *Med-Return Drug Take-Back box*. (see first paragraph above)

- **Persons with special needs:** Share all the above information with your Emergency Contact. Add: information about any ongoing services such as home health care, regular trips to a provider/doctor. Traveling? Identify services in that area. Electric powered Medical equipment –develop a back-up plan if power goes out and take extra batteries for hearing aids.

- If you have a community disability, make sure your EC and others know how to communicate with you including the use of assistive devices and practice, practice. Emergency and need to contact 911? Text 911 is now available. <https://odhh.maryland.gov/text911/>

- **File of Life**, for everyone: this form enables you to fill out info about your medical conditions, allergies, medications, emergency contacts, health insurance information, your decision re ' resuscitation' and advance directive. Once you've marked the info save it in a visible spot for helpers, family, others to read to properly help in case of emergency. Scroll down the page to download and print the File of Life and instructions for saving and posting: <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-info/tips/seniors/fileoflife.html>

Here's a chart to help you keep track.

Prescription items	Filled/ complete	Need to do-- deadline
Emergency contact—with details		
Insurance details		
Medication list + location in home; doctor		
Special needs : names, details, needs		
File of life:		

Are your prescriptions filled? Are you prepared? Or else, as Yogi Berra warned us

“You've got to be very careful if you don't know where you are going, because you might not get there.”

Contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126. Listen to Bea(trice) Prepared the first Sunday of each month at 1 pm on WOWD/ Talk of Takoma. Email questions to talk@takoma.com

- **HIPPA=** Health Insurance and Portability Act of 1966. Set of rules for doctors, medical providers re documentation, handling and privacy of medical process and records.

Passport Services

Passport Services are available by appointment only Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by calling 301-891-7100. Passport service hours are subject to change without notice. Whenever possible, office closures will be announced on Facebook, Twitter, and the City's website. Please note the following:

- The City of Takoma Park does not process the DS-82 Renewal Application, which is a mail-in only Application.
- All forms must be written clearly with no mark outs, scratch outs, etc.
- Do not sign your forms before you meet with the Passport Agent.
- The City of Takoma Park has no control over passport processing times.

For additional information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports.

Questions? Email sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov.



BUDGET
From page 1

The total expenditure for all City funds is \$44.63 million. The General Fund, which represents 72 percent of City spending in FY24 and supports the majority of the City's operating expenses, is proposed at \$32.17 million, a reduction from the FY23 expense of \$34.10 million. The reduction is in part due to the proposed redistribution of \$1.1 million of General Fund expenses to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund. The City received a total of \$17.5 million in ARPA dollars since 2021 and has dedicated such funding to programs that include the provision of direct cash payments of \$1,000 to City residents with incomes under \$50,000, grant dollars to affordable multifamily dwellings for building electrification and life safety upgrades, small business recovery, and premium pay to essential employees to name a few.

General Fund revenues are projected at \$29.33 million. The deficit of \$2.8 million is appropriately funded by dedicated reserves, including \$1 million from bond reserves for the Library and Community Center Redevelopment Project, \$1.6 million from the Equipment Replacement Reserve and \$166,000 in other reserves.

The City's major capital improvement projects include the continuation of the Library and Community Center Redevelopment Project, as well as the renovation of the Community Center's Atrium. The Atrium Renovation Project will allow for the expansion of office space to accommodate the City's Mental Health Crisis Counselors Program which is expected to begin at the end of FY23. The two-year pilot program will employ two mental health counselors on a full-time basis to respond to calls

involving residents in crisis and suffering mental health issues. The goal of the pilot program is to address mental health and related needs in the community and to move toward a non-policing approach to mental health crisis intervention. The City will also be looking to advance the New Hampshire Ave Recreation Center Redevelopment, following the release of a Request for Proposals in January 2023.

A total of \$800,000 will be added to the total reserve balance. This includes a \$200,000 reimbursement from the state to the City's Housing Reserve Fund, a \$50,000 contribution to the Emergency Reserve and \$550,000 to the Equipment Replacement Reserve.

The Proposed FY24 Budget also begins to address the City's fiscal health challenges. Revenues are not keeping pace with the operating cost necessary to meet the City's policy goals and community needs while adequately funding reserves. The City's reserves are necessary to fund long term and high value purchases needed to sustain City operations, maintain City facilities, and ensure resiliency when faced with crisis. Since 2019, City taxes have held constant at .5397 while the costs of goods and services have increased. For the majority of these years, the City has needed to reduce its reserve fund to balance the budget without adequate replacement or compensate by initiating hiring freezes, redistributing General Fund expenses to other funds, and delaying projects. The short-term strategy assisted residents during the height of the pandemic; however, it is not practical in the long term. The FY24 budget introduces a property tax increase of three cents to begin addressing the City's fiscal health and improve the City's capacity to implement high quality City services.

The City of Takoma Park is an exciting organization offering a variety of career opportunities.



Your CAREER is here!

Great benefits
Competitive wages

TakomaParkMD.gov/Careers

RESCUE FUND
From page 1

there, he helped the city coordinate the spending of \$5.6 million in ARPA funding.

“South Burlington is similar in size to Takoma Park, but here we got more than three times the amount of ARPA funds,” he said.

Takoma Park has six main focuses for its ARPA funds: Affordable Housing, Small Business Recovery, Social Services Partnerships, Family Resiliency Programs, Com-

munity Anchors and City Operations

“Council allocated \$300,000 in ARPA funds for recreation program scholarships and it’s been very successful so far,” said Bolduc. One of the most unique and ambitious programs is the direct cash assistance program. About 1,300 residents have received assistance since the program opened last October. “Our goal was 2,100 and people are still trickling in.”

The city is planning several more in-person outreach events to help get residents apply for the direct cash assistance program.

Another one of the programs is a library lending that is offering hotspots and laptops to residents. The city purchased 30 Chrome Book laptops and 30 portable Hotspots with ARPA dollars to provide for commuting needs to residents who need access beyond library hours. The city is also working to subsidize the cost of internet service for low-income residents.

While the city continues to spend the ARPA, there are a few deadlines for when the money must be earmarked and eventually spent.

“There are two spending deadlines,”

Bolduc said. “Everything needs to be earmarked by the end of 2024 and everything must be spent by the end of 2026. There will be an upcoming conversation with council that’s contingency based. What should we do with any surplus funds? Should we reallocate it to programs that are successful like the rec scholarship program. If they don’t get spent the funds go back to the state.”

For more on how the city is spending ARPA funding, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/american-rescue-plan-act-arpa.

RECREATION
From page 7

light-hearted exploration of the many benefits associated with humor and play to improve overall well-being. Presenter: Cynthia Luna, Certified Health and Wellness Coach

Virtual

55 & up

Monday, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

May 1

\$6

MULTIMEDIA EDUCATION
VIRTUAL WORKSHOPS

Podcasting

Learn a step-by-step guide to producing a podcast. Learn to brainstorm ideas, script, produce, and distribute a podcast. Instructor: Isaac Asare

Virtual

55 & up

Tuesday, 4-5:30 p.m.

April 18

\$6



Digital Savvy

This workshop will cover social media etiquette, avoiding internet scams and protecting personal information online. Instructor: Isaac Asare.

Virtual

55 & up

Tuesday, 4-5:30 p.m.

May 2

\$6

Smartphone Photos/Videos

Improve your photo and video skills using your smartphone. Learn how to properly frame and capture photos and videos using your camera. Instructor: Isaac Asare

Virtual

55 & up

Tuesday, 4-5:30 p.m.

May 16

\$6

FITNESS

Enhance Your Fitness

A great total body workout using low-impact aerobic 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, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

April 4-June 13

\$6

Qigong

Qigong is meditation via movement, standing and/or seated, that can benefit participants by lowering stress and anxiety, increasing focus and improving balance and flexibility. It combines breathing, gentle movement and meditation to improve good mental, physical and spiritual health. Instructor: Anne Harrison

Takoma Park Recreation Center

7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Back Activity Room

55 & up

Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.

April 13-June 15

\$6

Rhythmic Drumming

Cardio Fitness Drumming lets the rhythmic beat move you through tapping and drumstick clapping while standing, and/or sitting to exercise your mind and body. No drumming experience required. Instructor: Dance Solutions

Takoma Park Recreation Center

7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Back Activity Room

55 & up

Tuesdays, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

April 11-June 13

(No Class 5/16)

\$6

SPORTS

Pickleball Open Play

Join other new players for pickleball practice and play in the Gymnasium. This activity is geared toward beginners.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Gymnasium

55 & up

Thursdays, 12-2 p.m.

Spring Only: April 13-June 15

Free with membership

Community ACTIVITIES

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Every Sunday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
6931 Laurel Ave.

Come out every Sunday behind the shops on Laurel Ave. for a mix of 25 vendors with seasonal produce, pasture raised meat and eggs, artisan cheese, grains, bread, baked goods, and more. Find breakfast and lunch at the market including empanadas, egg sandwiches, burgers, pastries and more.

Historic Takoma Reading Room

Sundays (first and third)
7328 Carroll Ave.

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. 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.

Takoma Foundation

The Takoma Foundation's newest initiative is called Community Dollars. The Foundation is partnering with a group of young people who live in those wards and who are coming up with project ideas and budgets. It is an intensive process that requires them to work with adult mentors and develop projects that meet needs and priorities. For more, visit takomafoundation.org/stories/about-community-dollars.html.

Takoma Spark Open Mic

Tuesdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m.
School of Musical Traditions
(7112 Willow Ave)

Hosted by Rob Hinkal of ilyAIMY and sponsored by Institute of Musical Traditions.

Signup starts at 6 p.m. Performance slots are two songs or 10 minutes. All musical genres, poetry & all abilities/ages welcome. No amps or drum kits. The evening is also live-streamed on the Rob's Open Mics Facebook and YouTube channels. No refreshments on site, but you are welcome to bring in your own food and non-alcoholic beverages (please support our local restaurants!). For updates, follow Rob's Open Mics on Facebook, or visit www.ilyaimy.com/robsopenmics.

Takoma Jazz

Saturdays, 7 – 10 p.m.
Takoma Station Tavern, 6914 4th St NW
Weekly jazz at Takoma Station Tavern hosted by Jazz Kitchen Productions. For the schedule, check the website: <https://www.jkproductions.org>.

TPMS Earth Day and Craft Fair

Saturday, April 22, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School. 7611 Piney Branch Road

Get ready for one of the best fundraiser and community events of the year supporting TPMS students and teachers. The PTSA will be hosting a big community flea market and crafts fair. Sell your stuff, sell your crafts or find a treasure.

Takoma Foundation's Spring Grant Cycle

Deadline: Friday, April 28, 5 p.m.
The Takoma Foundation raises funds that we then award locally as grants to organizations that empower individuals, break down barriers, build connections between people and expand community capacity. For the spring grant cycle, we will be offering two types of grants: Community grants are designed to support a small nonprofit organization's overarching mission (small generally refers to nonprofit organizations with annual budgets of less than \$150,000). Grants are not restricted to specific projects or programs. They can be used to support utility bills, fundraising, board and leadership development, salaries, meeting expenses, materials, or a specific project—the discretion is left to the grantee. These grants are currently capped at \$5,000. Solidarity grants are designed to demonstrate support and commitment to

the larger nonprofit organizations doing work that aligns with Takoma Foundation's mission in greater Takoma (large generally refers to nonprofit organizations with annual budgets of more than \$150,000). These grants can be used to support the overarching mission. Grants are not restricted to specific projects or programs. These grants are currently capped at \$1,000. Please view the grant guidelines at takomafoundation.org/grants/guidelines and use this link to apply: takomafoundation.org/grants-app. If you have questions, please contact Gary Cardillo at Sgcardillo@gmail.com or 301-204-7147 before you submit your grant application. We encourage you to consult with Gary as early as possible. Applications must be submitted through the following link by 5 p.m., April 28: takomafoundation.org/grants-app. We request that information provided in the Proposal section be as brief and to the point as possible (adhering to the suggested content length shown for each field) and that attachments are kept to a minimum. You will receive an e-mail confirming receipt of your application. We anticipate awarding the grants by the end of May. For any other questions, please contact Pamela Fields, pfields@takomafoundation.org.

FRW Annual Two-Mile Fun Walk

Saturday, April 29, 9 – 11 a.m.
Frank R. Williams Activity Center at Calvin Coolidge High School 6315 5th St., NW

Frank Rudolph Williams was a native Washingtonian, devoted teacher, coach, husband, father and avid sports fan. He instilled in his students the importance of education, hard work, leadership and community service. Throughout his childhood, these ideals were fostered by his parents and teachers in the District of Columbia public schools. They would become the focus of his work with young people and lead him to a life dedicated to serving others. The mission of the Frank R. Williams Scholarship Fund is to provide financial support to Calvin Coolidge Senior High School senior students who are seeking higher education. Successful awardees exhibit strong leadership qualities and a commitment to education and community service. In order to continue these efforts and keep alive Williams' legacy, we host the annual Two-Mile Fun Walk and other

fundraising events. The Annual Two-Mile Fun Walk will return to in-person and take place on Saturday, April 29, 2023. On-site registration begins at 8 a.m. and the walk begins at 9 a.m. To learn more about the Fund visit us at www.frwfund.com.

Takoma Foundation Beerfest

Saturday, May 6, 3 – 7 p.m.
VFW POST 350 "Hells Bottom" 6420 Orchard Ave.

Takoma Park's Favorite Night Out is back at a new outdoor* location—the Takoma VFW! Enjoy a beer and a brat (or two) in the company of your friends and neighbors and discover what frothy libations our participating local vendors have to offer. And, we've got live music too! Support local grantmaking by attending this fun Spring event. Get regular tickets at \$45 per person when ordered in advance or \$60 per person on site the day of the event. Special "Designated Driver" tickets will also be available at \$25 each (includes food and non-alcoholic beverages).

People's Book Opening in Takoma Park

7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

People's Book, a general-purpose bookstore, is opening in the heart of Takoma Park in early summer 2023 at 7014-A Westmoreland Ave. The store will have a diverse selection of over 10,000 books, with a special focus on children's literature, local interests, new releases and independent magazines. The inventory will also include book-themed gifts. Locally roasted drip coffee, kombucha, and other beverages and treats will be available. People's Book plans to host children's storytime, book readings, and other book-related events. The store is also located across the street from Takoma Urban Park. Interested readers are encouraged to sign up now for the Republic of Readers program, which provides discounts and perks based on membership level, and is free to join at the basic level. More information on People's Book and the Republic of Readers program can be found at www.peoplesbooktakoma.com, and on Instagram @PeoplesBookTakoma.

Takoma Park Police Updates

Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day on April 22

The Takoma Park Police Department will be participating in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This campaign gives the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially

dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your prescriptions to the Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912. Collection boxes will be set up in the first floor police lobby of the City building. Prescription, over-the-counter and pet medications will be accepted. In addition, vape pens and other e-cigarette devices are now accepted only after the batteries are removed from such devices.

Two Vacancies on the Police Employees' Retirement Plan Committee (Police Pension Board)

The Takoma Park Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee has two openings for Takoma Park residents. The Committee consists of seven members: City Manager; Finance Director; Police Chief; Representative of UFCW Local 400; Representative of Police Supervisory Employees; and, two Takoma Park residents. Committee members have fiduciary responsibility for the pension plan.

The Committee meets two to four times per year, during business hours, to review plan investments, meet with the plan actuary to receive the annual actuarial valuation, and review recommended amendments to the plan. Other duties of the Board are described in Chapter 4.24 of the Takoma Park Code. Contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 or Clerk@takomaparkmd.gov for additional information or to apply.

Takoma Park Police Department's CY2022 Annual Report

The Takoma Park Police Department's CY2022 Annual Report has been posted to the City website and can be accessed by clicking on the following link: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/crime-statistics/>

Weekly Crime reports

These weekly reports will not replace the department's regular reporting of incidents but are intended to provide an overview of police department activities. It is the department's mission to continue being transparent in our reporting of police-related incidents.

Weekly Crime Reports: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/crime-statistics/weekly-crime-reports/>

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal

Visit www.dea.gov or call 800-882-9539 for a collection site near you.

Sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

