

# Takoma Park News



June 2023

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 62, No. 6 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

### Important Dates

**City offices and facilities closed**

**Memorial Day:** Monday, May 29

**Juneteenth:** Friday, June 16

**Fourth of July:** Tuesday, July 4

As is always the case, the Takoma Park Police Department is available for emergency services 24/7

**Trash/Recycling Collection**

Yard Waste collection canceled for June 16 and July 4

**City Resource Event with Councilmember Cara Honzak**

**Toatley-Fraser Park**

Saturday, June 3, from 2 - 8 p.m.

Rain date: Saturday, June 10

**Takoma Trukgarden**

Saturday, June 3, noon – 5 p.m.

Takoma Junction parking lot

**Family Outdoor Movie Night**

Saturday, June 3, movie starts at dusk

Ed Wilhelm Field, 2 Darwin Ave.

**Takoma Pride**

Sunday, June 11

**Independence Day Parade**

Tuesday, July 4, 10 a.m.

**takomaparkmd.gov**

Check our website frequently for updates.

## Takoma Park Celebrates Pride

By Sean Gossard

June is Pride month in Takoma Park, and Main Street Takoma will be holding festivities on Sunday, June 11, to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community.

The theme this year will be Protect Trans Rights in response to legislation in dozens of states, including Texas and Florida, banning trans care and attacking the trans community.

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a parade and street fair featuring face painting, chalk drawing, and a drag queen story time with Ms. Hazel.

The Kids' Pride Parade will start at the TPSS Co-op (201 Ethan Allen Avenue) at 10 a.m. and children are encouraged to join and share their messages of Pride.

Along with the parade, there will be several community group tables. Some of those include Rainbow Clubs of Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School, which connects the LGBTQ+ community and provides resources to teachers and families; Free State Justice, a legal services and advocacy non-profit for LGBTQ+ Marylanders; and Trans Fact Check with sex educator Kali Smith-Paterson. Busboys and Poets Books will also be there to share info on its new Queer



Photo: Sam Levy

Children are encouraged to make posters to show their support for the LGBTQ+ community.

Book Club and YA/Teen Book Club.

From 11 to 11:30 a.m., there will be a drag queen story time with Ms. Hazel, which is designed to inspire a love of reading, while teaching lessons of self-acceptance, diversity and respect.

There will be two poster-making ses-

sions prior to the event. Fullfillery is hosting Pride poster and crown making on Sunday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Fullfillery (7006 Carroll Ave., Suite 200). On Friday, June 11, The Loft Collective is hosting Pride poster making in its studio

PRIDE □ Page 11

## Takoma Park Artist Leaves a Legacy of Passionate Kindness

By Eric Bond

Years of training and athletic instinct come together in a microsecond as the striker accepts a pass from her teammate and spots an opening between defenders. The stadium reverberates with energy as she swings her leg with focused power under the ball to send it sailing out of the grasp of the keeper—into the net.

This decisive moment was captured graphically by Takoma Park illustrator Noah Macmillan, and it is being widely distributed on a self-adhesive pieces of paper, about an inch by an inch-and-a-half. You can get a copy of Noah's work by visiting the Takoma Park Post Office—where you can also pick up copies to share with your friends through letters and postcards. Noah's stamp commemorating the July 2023 Women's World Cup was released earlier this year.

This is Noah's final published piece. He passed away from colon cancer on July 31, 2022, at age 33. Shortly before he passed, Noah learned that his illustration had been chosen, but he was not allowed to share that information. On October 24, 2022, the U.S. Postal Service announced Noah's image would be the official Women's World Cup stamp.

"It's very heartening," says Lucinda Leach, Noah's mom, a retired art teacher. "We don't have him with us anymore, but



Photo courtesy the Leach-Macmillan family.

Noah grew up in Takoma Park with two passions: art and soccer.

we have his work, and his work is being distributed so widely. I think they said they're going to print 20 million copies of the stamps. So 20 million little reminders of Noah are flying around the country. It's really a wonderful thing."

"If there was one piece of art to be remembered by, this is kind of this perfect culmination of his interests," says Jeffrey Macmillan, Noah's dad, a professional

photographer, "because he was fiercely devoted to soccer and to art."

Noah's team was Arsenal.

As a professional illustrator, Noah's unique vision appears on murals and has been featured in publications such as Smithsonian magazine, the New York Times, Sports Illustrated, and Bloomberg Businessweek.

"I make pictures that tell stories with clear ideas, simple design, and obsessive attention to color," said Noah, as quoted on his memorial page at the Sam Fox School at Washington University in St. Louis, where he earned his undergraduate degree in communications design.

"After teaching 18 years, there are always a handful of students you will never forget. Noah MacMillan was one of those," says John Hendrix, professor and chair of the MFA program in Illustration and Visual Culture. "Noah had a rare and sophisticated visual language that cut across both design and images. I was in awe of his ability to draw, use color, and think graphically about edge and shape so seamlessly."

"He had it all inside when I met him. His voice simply had to find a home," says Hendrix.

"When he was a little boy, Noah had trouble writing," says Lucinda. "And his hand would kind of cramp up, and he'd be miserable. But then he would use that

MACMILLAN □ Page 12

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# On the DOCKET

## Official City Government Meetings

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and committee calendar update by email can sign up by sending a message to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto: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. There is no need to register to comment in person.

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday, May 31 – The City Council will NOT meet.
- Wednesday, June 7 – City Council Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, June 14 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, June 21 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, June 28 – The City Council will NOT meet.
- Wednesday, July 5 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.

### 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](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) for additional information or to apply.

### 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 [takomaparkmd.gov](http://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)

#### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 15, 7 p.m.  
(remote/virtual Meeting)

#### GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 13, 6:30 p.m.  
(remote/virtual Meeting)

#### NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

June 19, 7:30 p.m.  
(remote/virtual Meeting)

#### POLICE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE

Date and time TBA  
(remote/virtual Meeting)

#### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 15, 7 p.m.  
(remote/virtual Meeting)

#### SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Date and Time TBA  
(remote/virtual Meeting)

#### YOUTH COUNCIL

Thursday, June 1, 4 p.m. (Hybrid In-Person and remote/virtual Meeting)  
Thursday, June 15, 4 p.m. (hybrid in-person and 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](mailto:jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

## CouncilAction

Only negative votes, absences, and abstentions are noted here. All resolutions and ordinances are published after adoption.

### April 12, 2023

- **Resolution 2023-13** Adopting 2023-2024 City Council Priorities. The City Council priorities are published on the City website along with Resolution 2023-13.

### April 19, 2023

- **Ordinance 2023-5** Authorizing Purchase and Outfitting of Five Police Vehicles. The cost to purchase and equip the vehicles at a cost of \$336,109. (Councilmember Gibson voted against.)

### April 26, 2023

- **Resolution 2023-14** Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services for Mental Health Crisis Counselors. This is an ARPA-funded program. The ARPA spending plan includes \$600,000 to support a two-year pilot program for Montgomery County to hire, oversee, and support two mental health counselors stationed within the City of Takoma Park.

### Recruitment for City Boards and Committees: Consider Serving! Apply by June 10

The City Council welcomes residents with all different types of experience and knowledge and seeks diverse members to represent our community. Your experience living in Takoma Park and interacting with our community on a daily basis and/or working in your chosen profession can give you what you need to be a part of a board or committee. Applications are being accepted now to fill vacancies and terms ending on a number of boards and committees. Below you will find information on the role, responsibility, commitment, and compensation of a board, committee, and commission member.

**Covid-19 Vaccination Mandate.** Please note that there is a vaccination mandate for all City staff and volunteers. All committee meetings include a remote/virtual option. If you cannot comply with the vaccination requirement, you will still be able to participate, but only remotely.

**Role and Responsibility.** Members of City boards and committees are appointed by and report to the City Council

and focus on a particular priority area. These groups can

- leverage residents’ technical expertise and lived experiences to inform City policies and programs;
- establish good working relationships with other members;
- provide tangible recommendations or help fulfill City regulatory functions;
- ensure that the Council has regular and timely information to use when needed;
- create an opportunity to engage residents on issues that are important to them, as well as assist in community education and outreach; and
- pledge to uphold and comply with code of conduct so that the public can continue to have full confidence in the integrity of local government.

**Commitment.** You can expect to attend 1-2 meetings per month of around 1.5 to 2 hours. Meetings are held on weeknights at the Community Center (via Zoom). Regular attendance is essential to the effective operation of a board,

committee, and commission.

**Compensation.** Board, committee, and commission members will receive \$40 for each meeting attended. Youth member in school may receive Student Service Learning (SSL) hours instead of the stipend.

**Accommodations.** Individuals with disabilities are welcome to apply. If you need an accommodation, please contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 or [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov).

#### City Boards and Committees

- Arts & Humanities Committee
- Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Grants Review Committee
- Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee
- Sustainable Maryland Committee (Green Team)
- Recreation and Community Engagement Committee
- Board of Elections
- Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA)
- Ethics Commission
- Tree Commission

For information and to apply: [https://bit.ly/tkpk\\_bcc2023](https://bit.ly/tkpk_bcc2023).

### Notice of Final Regulation - Administrative Regulation 2023-1 to Provide Guidance for Compliance and Enforcement of Title 10 (Refuse) of the Takoma Park Code

The April 2023 edition of the Takoma Park Newsletter included notice of the City’s intention to adopt an administrative regulation 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.

The notice was published in accordance with the requirements of the “Administrative Regulations Ordinance” (Authority: Chapter 2.12, Administrative Regulations, of the Takoma Park Code) to allow the public the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The proposed regulation was available for review on the City website. This notice is to inform the public that the final regulation will become effective on July 1, 2023.



# Building COMMUNITY

## Protect Tree City

By Marty Frye,  
Urban Forest Manager

Summer days are upon us —and all eyes are looking up to our majestic trees in full leaf. Canopy trees provide an amazing array of services to our community through cooling shade, stormwater interception, lower energy bills, and providing an enjoyable ecologically robust environment to live in. To get the most out of our urban forest, residents can take certain actions right where they live to maximize their trees' health. Read on to learn more.

### Tree Takoma: Plant Trees for Free

Tree planting is one of the most important actions you can take. To facilitate this, the City has embarked on the Tree Takoma program to provide free native canopy trees to private properties in the City. In addition, the program offers a free consultation with a Casey Trees urban forester to provide guidance on the best locations and species for the property. Replenishing canopy trees on our private properties is essential to maintaining the robust urban forest canopy that we cherish so much. See the City's Urban Forestry webpage to learn more and to sign up.

### Mulch Your Trees' Soil

Urban soils often are notably degraded compared to unimpacted forest soils. Even if you have a lush lawn, the soil a few inches below may be compacted and lacking in life. However, there is a simple action you can take to correct this. Apply and maintain a 3-inch layer of woodchips or shredded wood mulch to rebuild soil health, retain moisture, and feed the natural soil food web over time. The one thing to

remember is *please do not pile mulch against the trunk of the tree!* The mulch layer should be no more than three inches deep and should be kept six inches away from the tree's trunk. Pick up woodchips for free any time at the Public Works facility at 31 Oswego Ave.

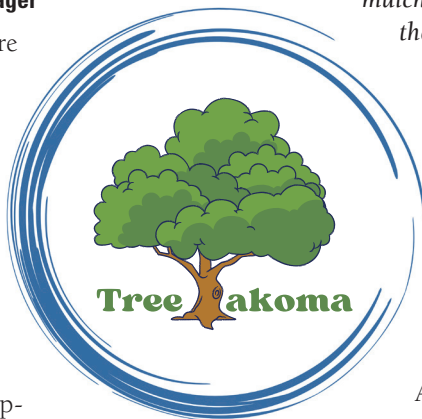
### Water Your Trees

Water is the most essential nutrient to life. New trees typically lose a portion of their roots when transplanted and require supplemental water to support their leaves and growth. Older trees benefit from supplemental water as well during particularly dry times. A newly planted 1.5-inch trunk diameter tree should receive 15 gallons of water per week for the first year or two. Established trees benefit from supplemental water as well. If it hasn't rained much for two weeks, consider using a soaker hose or sprinkler to saturate the soil out to the drip line of the tree.

### Vines

Aggressive vines pose particular risk to our trees. If vines are allowed to grow into the crown of a tree, they can smother its leaves and kill it. This eliminates the environmental services provided by that tree and creates a public safety hazard. And it takes many years to regrow a tree of the same stature. Luckily, it is very simple to save trees from these impacts. By severing the vines near the base of the tree, you can cause all of the vine growth up in the crown to die back, freeing the tree's leaves to photosynthesize and thrive. Check your trees every year and cut back vines before they become a problem.

Find more information on the Urban Forestry page on the City website.



## Rent Stabilization Allowance Annual Rent Increase Set at 3.7% Effective: July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024

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, 2023 (through June 30, 2024), the Rent Stabilization Allowance is 3.7%. Landlords are required to comply with Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization law and cannot increase the rent on occupied units any higher than this allowance.

Multi-family rental units and rental condominium units are subject to Rent Stabilization. Rent increases are limited to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index published by the Department of Bureau of Labor Statistics for the period of March 2022 through March 2023.

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.
- Newly constructed rental units for a period of five years after construction.

If you have any questions regarding your rent or need more information about the requirements of the City's Rent Stabilization law, please contact Jean Kerr, Housing Specialist at 301-891-7216, 240-672-1023, or [jeankk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:jeankk@takomaparkmd.gov).



## Editor's note

### English:

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

### French:

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

### Spanish:

Busque este ícono junto a los artículos del boletín que puede leer en línea en otros idiomas usando la función de traducción en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park. Después de hacer clic en el enlace del artículo, busque en la esquina superior derecha de la página web junto a la barra de navegación y seleccione el idioma que desee con el cuadro desplegable.

### Amharic:

ከታች ያለውን ደህን አዲስ ደረጃ ላይ የሚገኙትን አገልግሎቶች ከገንዘብ ሥልጣን ጋር በተያያዘ በድህረ ምረቃ ላይ በመጠቀም በታችኛው ክፍል ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የጋራ ጥያቄ ማቅረቢያ ጠቀስቶ ማሳሰብ ይቻላል። በዚህ ሂደት ውስጥ የሚገኘውን የጥያቄ ማረጋገጫ ሰነድ ማረጋገጥ ይቻላል።



## THIS YARD IS SAFE FOR KIDS, PETS & WILDLIFE

**LEARN MORE ABOUT ORGANIC LAWN CARE**

<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/neighborhood-services/safegrow>

## Get a Safe Grow Sign!

Is your lawn, apartment, or patio garden free of synthetic pesticides (including herbicides and fungicides) and safe for wildlife, pets, and people? If so, let us and your neighbors know! Free Safe Grow yard signs are available.

To get a sign, contact code enforcement at 301-891-7113, or email [Duaneb@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:Duaneb@takomaparkmd.gov).



# Takoma Park Hosts the City Nature Challenge

**By Anna Mische John**  
**Vegetation Maintenance Supervisor**

Have you heard of the City Nature Challenge? How about a *bioblitz*? The City Nature Challenge is a friendly competition form of a bioblitz—an opportunity to observe and document plants, insects, animals, and fungi on a particular site.

On April 29, the City hosted its first City Nature Challenge event. While the City is

new to hosting, some of our residents are veterans of the project and active in documenting living organisms through the *iNaturalist* website.

This event took place over one weekend, in 482 cities across 46 countries. Participation in the annual event has been steadily growing since 2018. The D.C. Metropolitan area ranked fifth worldwide for participants and ninth for the number of species logged.

For this event, we worked at Circle

Woods, the two-acre site located between Cockerille and Poplar Aves. and Spring and Circle Aves. The day started off wet, but by the time our birding group gathered, the rain had stopped and held off for the remainder of the event. Over three hours, nearly 200 individual species of birds, insects, and plants were documented at Circle Woods. Some of our noted observations included a horsehair worm (a parasite not often seen outside of its host) and a wood thrush (a

species of concern due to its population decline in recent decades). We also saw what turned out to be the most observed species globally: the mallard duck. A nesting pair has made Circle Woods their home.

The Circle Woods City Nature Challenge was a fun way to get out and explore our natural world and meet neighbors. We hope to continue to track biodiversity at the site over the coming years as the plant composition changes with ongoing restoration work.

## Erwin Mack: An Extraordinary “Takoman”

**By Fred Schultz**

I don’t actually remember when I first met Erwin Mack. Likely it was in his capacity as executive director of the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Development Authority (CDA), and I was a newly christened city council member.

In the intervening 15 years I came to know an extraordinary man.

I think his extraordinariness came from the combination of Erwin’s leadership in the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Potomac Conference and his thoroughly secular understanding of the world of small business and government bureaucracy.

Yet this barely explains the man. While passionately serious in his work, many will remember Erwin’s ready smile and gently teasing sense of humor, which helped disarm many, shall we say, who were good at saying no. This didn’t mean a “no” got converted to a “yes,” but it always opened doors and kept them open.

A case in point were various



Erwin Mack drives his beloved Model T in the 2019 Takoma Park Independence Day Parade. Photo by Eric Bond.

supplications Erwin and I made to State Highway Administration’s District 3 engineer to build sidewalks and improve traffic safety on Carroll Avenue in front of Takoma Academy in my ward. We got nowhere. Always gracious, these meetings gave new meaning to the word futility that, regrettably, has outlasted Erwin.

Because I represented the heavily commercialized Ward 6 and had a background in redevelopment, Erwin and I found ourselves working on numerous projects, most of which related to SDA church properties.

Erwin died April 13, 2023 at age 91, bringing an end to Sylvia’s and Erwin’s 69-year marriage.

His passing is a great loss to the greater Takoma Park community.

He was a Korean War veteran and he had many interests. Erwin was by any measure a high energy person to his last days, sure proof that the difference between “youth-ful” and being “old-ful” has little to do with a number.

To the rear of his Takoma Park home in the Kilmarock neighborhood just across the city line stands a two-story garage. The lower level houses his restoration workshop and his famous Model T Ford, one of the earliest production models, circa 1909. He and Sylvia transported it in a special carrier across the United States for Model T excursions. Takoma’s Independence Day parade invariably featured his antique, which I was lucky enough—and a wee bit scared—to ride in. Scared because making the steep grade up Grant Avenue to the parade’s assembly area felt like “The Little Engine That Could.” But Erwin knew how to coax it to the top.

Upstairs finds Erwin’s wood-working shop with sawdust ev-

erywhere and filled with planers, drill presses, power saws, chisels, and racks of hardwood varieties. He frequently gave pieces of his handywork as gifts to colleagues and friends.

From my secular observations, the SDA church firmly believes in service to the larger community, especially the needy, and counts on God’s grace in finding the right path.

Erwin balanced his faith work and civic work by gaining trust from seemingly everyone. In our private conversations I was often surprised by his candor and openness regarding the inner workings of the SDA’s institutional leadership and proclivities. Simply put, he was helpful in getting others to be helpful.

In 1987, Erwin, then owner of Denis Sleep Shop in the Takoma Langley Shopping Center, led the formation of the CDA in cooperation with the city of Takoma Park and Prince George’s County. A new Maryland law helped to in-

MACK □ Page 11

## Village People: Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Within the City of Takoma Park lives a Village that quietly builds community by neighborly help to residents who want to age in place. The Village of Takoma Park is a nonprofit that was established in 2014 as part of a nationwide movement of to support aging in place. The Village provides intergenerational support to adults 55+ or with disabilities who wish to live actively in our community. It stands out among the 74 villages in the Washington Metropolitan area for its low dues and the diversity of its membership. The Village maintains a website: [villageoftakomapark.com](http://villageoftakomapark.com).

**Services**

What services does the Village provide to members? Free transportation is the most heavily used service, with 4,700 rides given since 2015 for medical appointments, religious services, grocery shopping, and other vital trips. Volunteers also perform errands for Villagers, act as walking partners, provide small home repairs and tasks (anything from changing a hard-to-reach lightbulb to fixing a



leaky faucet) and assist with basic technology issues. All of these offer great opportunities for anyone looking for a flexible way to volunteer in the community. (For more on the rewards of volunteering as a driver, see the four-minute video at [youtu.be/9bEZ-RvFk7w](https://youtu.be/9bEZ-RvFk7w), and on the Village website).

**Programs and activities**

Monthly events (sometimes called *aging well* events) are offered either virtually or in person. Topics cover a wide range: avoiding scams, bringing clutter under control, making photo books, addressing hearing loss, getting proper nutrition, trav-

eling by armchair, and much more. Many of these topics are of general interest, not just aimed at seniors, and are free and open to all.

Prior to COVID-19, the Village arranged numerous in-person outings that offered both enrichment and socialization, and plans to resume these in coming months.

The Village hosts a walking group; a popular 12-week Stronger Memory program; an LG-BTQ+ Seniors Group, co-hosted with Silver Spring Village; and POSNA, a support group for parents of special needs adults. Volunteers are welcome to lead other interest groups.

### Sharing Information

The Village is dedicated to sharing information about services, resources, and events of interest to its members. Anyone can sign up to receive a quarterly newsletter via email (or snail mail, upon request) and occasional email news alerts. Click on *Add me to your mailing list* on the Village website, where you’ll also find a *Links and Resources* section, a calendar of Village events, and announcements.

**Membership**

The Village seeks to be intergenerational! While most *services* offered are limited to adults 55 and over or with disabilities who live in Takoma Park, the Village welcomes anyone age 18 and older to join, regardless of residency. Yearly dues are \$25, affordable regardless of income level.

**The Future**

The Village’s ability to accomplish its mission depends on a cadre of committed volunteers and the generosity of donors and grants, but its future is not guaranteed. Especially critical, along

with increased funding, is the need for community members to step into leadership roles on its board. Membership on the board requires a willingness to attend a monthly meeting (via Zoom), a belief in the mission of the Village, an interest in serving the community, and an ability to devote several hours a month to committee work. Current needs include someone to chair a membership committee and someone with grant-writing experience. Past board members have found this a rewarding way to serve the wider community, and have appreciated the chance to meet people from outside their usual circles.

**For more information about the Village or to get involved, visit [villageoftakomapark.com](http://villageoftakomapark.com), email [villageoftp@gmail.com](mailto:villageoftp@gmail.com), or call 301-646-2109.**

**All are invited to join the Village for a free social event on Saturday, June 24. See [villageoftakomapark.com](http://villageoftakomapark.com) or the back page of this newsletter for more details.**



# The ARTS

## New Murals Celebrate Hillwood Manor Community Garden

Mural panels depicting local volunteers working in the Hillwood Manor Community Garden will be featured at a party celebrating the garden's 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary on June 3.

Hillwood Manor neighborhood resident and artist Renee Lachman painted six murals featuring the volunteers and two welcome panels of vibrant flowers, including yellow ligularias with greetings written in 16 languages on the petals. The murals have been installed in the garden on a bridge spanning Sligo Creek at the New

Hampshire Avenue intersection and in an upper section of the garden nearby.

Lachman's work was funded by a public art grant from the City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Division. As the project grew, she was provided with space at the City's Public Works facility to work on her paintings.

"Many of the city employees in the public works yard would stop by to cheer me on or to ask questions and make observations," Lachman said. "After I returned to painting in my neighborhood, people re-

ally responded to the paintings and were excited to see themselves depicted in the murals. The camaraderie in the neighborhood flourished."

Lachman, who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in fine art, has taught art classes at local colleges and summer camps. She was commissioned by the City's Arts and Humanities Division to create her *Unsung Heroes* series of artwork celebrating dedicated city workers, including sanitation workers, crossing guards, and library staff. The series was featured in 2022 in an

exhibition at the Takoma Park Community Center. Go to [reneelachman.com](http://reneelachman.com) for more info about her work.

A Montgomery County Community Grant funded the purchase of some supplies for the mural project. Workers from the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission built frames and installed the panels on the Sligo Creek bridge.

The party is open to the public and will be held from 3:15–7 pm on June 3, with a rain date on June 4.



The mural panels depict local volunteers working in the Hillwood Manor Community Garden.



### Celebrating Sligo Creek Art Opening Reception

Thursday, June 15 at 7:30 pm  
Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Avenue

Sligo Creek is a lifeblood for wildlife, an important tributary in our watershed, and a source of creativity and inspiration for local artists.

Two photographers and a mixed-media artist will share their work depicting the creek and its environs in the *Celebrating Sligo Creek* exhibition at the Takoma Park Community Center, with a free opening reception on June 15. The featured artists include Julius Kassovic, Lynn Alleva Lilley, and Steven Robinson.



### Takoma Park Arts Poetry Reading

Thursday, June 1 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 enlightening poetry on various subjects. The featured poets include Claudia Gary, Brendan Kennedy, Neha Misra, and Pamela Murray Winters.

The *Takoma Park Arts* series includes free poetry readings, art exhibitions, film screenings, concerts, theater, and other performances at the Takoma Park Community Center. Please go to [takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts) for more info and to sign up for our e-newsletter.



## Takoma Park News

Send submissions to: Editor: Eric Bond • [editorbond@gmail.com](mailto:editorbond@gmail.com) | Assistant Editor: Sean Gossard • [TPNewsEditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:TPNewsEditor@takomaparkmd.gov)  
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[www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://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](http://takomaparkmd.gov).



YOUTH

CAMP

Dance Camp

Children will learn basic dance skills, rhythm, musicality, and improvisation. Focusing on choreography, ballet, modern dance and hip-hop, dance camp gives youth the opportunity to enhance their talents with new skills and techniques. Instructors will focus on building self-esteem and personal creativity, which will help campers become more confident dancers. 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 Ave.  
Ages 6-12  
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

**Beforecare:** 7-9 a.m.  
**Aftercare:** 4-6 p.m.  
Resident: \$90  
Non-resident: \$110 per session

SPORTS

**Y.E.S. League 2023: Grades 5-8**

This program provides a positive venue for youth to express themselves through the game of basketball. Teams will be guaranteed five games and each participant will receive a Y.E.S. League T-shirt.

Location TBD  
Grades: 5-8  
Mondays, 6-9 p.m.  
June 26-August 7  
Resident: \$35  
Non-resident: \$45

TEENS

CAMPS

Just Teens Summer Camp

This July, join Takoma Park Recreation for Just Teens Camp where we enjoy four weeks of fun activities and new adventures. During our time, we will celebrate other cultures around the globe; deep dive under the sea; take a trip down memory lane, looking at eras from the past; and face our fears through fun challenges! Paperwork will need to be completed before the first day of camp. Bring a bag lunch, snack, and labeled water bottle. For more information on Just Teens Camp, please contact Haven Rhodd at HavenR@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Community Center (Teen Lounge)  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Grades 6-12  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
July 3-28 (no camp on July 4)  
Resident: \$150  
Non-Resident: \$170

STEM Forward! Summer Edition

Come out to our one-week STEM-themed camp where middle-school-aged youth will enjoy hands-on STEM activities and interactive scientific projects. Themes include structural engineering, light and

heat energy, and coding and robotics. Youth will need to bring a bagged lunch and water bottle, there are no heating capabilities on site. Paperwork is required prior to the first day of camp. Facilitated by Get Into STEM, Inc.

Takoma Park Community Center (Teen Lounge)  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Grades 6-8  
1-week session  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
June 26-30  
Resident: \$150  
Non-resident: \$170

SPECIAL EVENT

School's Out Cookout and Field Day

School's out! To celebrate, the teen program will be hosting a community field day full of friends, food, and fun at Ed Wilhelm Field. Kick back and listen to beats by a live DJ or participate in classic field day games like relay races and obstacle courses. Invite your friends and come out to have a good time celebrating the end of the school year. You made it—don't miss out on all the fun! Teens are encouraged to bring blankets or towels for sitting on the field. Additionally, there will be water games and activities, so please prepare accordingly.

Ed Wilhelm Field  
2 Darwin Ave.  
Grades 6-12  
Wednesday, June 14  
3:30-5:30 p.m.  
Free

SPECIAL EVENTS

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 for your choice on the City website ahead of the event!

Ed Wilhelm Field  
2 Darwin Ave.  
All ages  
Saturday, June 3  
Movie starts at dusk  
Free



SPORTS



**Y.E.S. League 2023: High School**

This program provides a positive venue for youth to express themselves through the game of basketball. Teams will be guaranteed five games and each participant will receive a Y.E.S. League T-shirt.

Location TBD  
Grades 9-12  
Wednesdays, 6-9 p.m.  
June 28-August 9  
Resident: \$35  
Non-resident: \$45

ADULTS

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Writing Life Stories

Do you want to share important life experiences through your writing and during class discussion? Our stories are part of what makes us human. Whether you are a lifelong writer or a beginner, this class is for you. This class will help you to jumpstart your memories, organize your ideas, and edit your work. Prepare to have fun! Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt

Virtual  
16 and up  
9-week session  
Wednesdays, 7-8:30 p.m.  
July 5-August 30  
Resident: \$95  
Non-resident: \$105



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 Ave.  
16 and up  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
June 6-June 29  
Resident: \$65  
Non-resident: \$75  
Drop-in: \$10

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: Dance Solutions.

Takoma Park Community Center (Dance Studio)  
7500 Maple Ave.  
16 and up  
Saturdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m.  
**Spring** through June 24  
**Summer** (9 Weeks): July 1-August 26  
Resident: \$100  
Non-resident: \$110  
Drop-in: \$10

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★**EXTENDED CARE**

★**Registration is open for School Year 2023-2024.**

★The Recreation Department is pleased to again offer both beforecare and aftercare at both of our facilities. *Morning Addition* and *Afternoon Addition* are held at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., and *Before the Bell* and *After the Bell* are held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave. **NOTE: Morning Addition is full; if you are interested in this option, add your child to the waiting list.**

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

★Programs operate when Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) is in session.

★**Beforecare**

★Resident: \$1,700

★Non-resident: \$2,000

★Hours: 7-9 a.m.

★**Aftercare**

★Resident: \$2,500

★Non-resident: \$3,000

★Hours: 3:30-6:30 p.m.

★**Bundle Discount**

★Participants who register for both beforecare and aftercare at the same facility in one transaction will receive a discount.

★Resident: \$3,570

★Non-resident: \$4,250

★**Payment Plan:** There is a 20% deposit due at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments from September to May.

★**Before the Bell & After the Bell**

★**Takoma Park Recreation Center**

★**7315 New Hampshire Ave.**

★Transportation will not be provided through the Takoma Park Recreation Department, 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.

★**Morning Addition & Afternoon Addition**

★**Takoma Park Community Center**

★**7500 Maple Ave.**

★Staff will escort participants to and from Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School. **NOTE: Morning Addition is full; if you are interested in this option, add your child to the waiting list.**

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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

# RECREATION

## RECREATION

■ From page 6

### Ker De Zuri DanXercise Class: Afro Beat

Zuris Sana’a DanXercise combines hip hop, salsa, dancehall, contemporary, and African dance moves within our choreography to create a memorable workout experience. Our moves are feasible and suitable for all ages. Participants will be able to shred calories and learn fun choreography all in one class. Instructor: Khady N’Diaye  
Takoma Park Community Center (Dance Studio)  
7500 Maple Ave.  
16 and up  
Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.  
**Spring** through June 22  
**Summer** (9 weeks): July 6-August 31  
Resident: \$60  
Non-resident: \$70  
Drop-in: \$10

## SPORTS



### 2023 Takoma Park Adult Summer Basketball League (team fee)

Join our adult basketball league this summer! Put together your winning team and go against other area teams in order to win the league championship. Teams will be provided uniforms.  
Takoma Park Middle School  
18 and up  
Wednesdays and/or Thursdays  
June 28-August 10, 6-8 p.m.  
Resident team fee: \$300  
Non-resident team fee: \$400

### 2023 Takoma Park Adult Summer Basketball League (free agent)

Join our Adult Basketball League this

summer. Individual participants will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if space becomes available on a team. If space becomes available on a team you will be responsible to pay your registration and any other associated fees to that team. Spaces not guaranteed.

## 55+ ACTIVITIES

### DANCE

#### Line Dance

Line dancing is great physical and mental exercise. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary. Register for one Line dance class only, not both. Choose the class that fits your schedule. Instructor: Barbara Brown.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
55 & up  
Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
July 11-August 15  
Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
July 12-August 16  
\$6

#### Zumba Gold

Active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that re-creates 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. Register for one in-person Zumba Gold class only. Choose the class that fits your schedule. Instructor: Yesika Flores.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
55 and up  
Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.  
July 12-August 16  
Fridays, 10-11 a.m.  
(Virtual or In-person options)  
July 14-August 18  
\$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 and up  
Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.  
July 11-August 15  
\$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 (Back Activity Room)  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
55 and up  
Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.  
July 13-August 17  
\$6

### Yoga for 55 plus

This yoga class is about the gentle flow of yoga poses modified to an individual's needs, depending on their balance level. Improve balance, flexibility, posture, and stamina and energize mind and spirit for better health and wellbeing. No experience needed. Students must bring their own yoga mats. Instructor: Sarita Lama.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)  
7500 Maple Ave.  
55 and up  
Tuesdays, noon-1 p.m.  
July 25-August 15  
\$6

### Yoga for Healthy Aging

This class helps build strength, endurance, flexibility, and range-of-motion; improves posture and balance; and aids in preventing/reversing bone loss related to osteoporosis. Students need to provide their own yoga sticky mat, a yoga belt (or equivalent, e.g., a necktie), a tennis ball, preferably a yoga block, and a blanket. Instructor: Carol Mermey.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Back Activity Room)  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
55 and up  
Fridays, 12-1 p.m.  
July 14-August 18  
\$6

## SPORTS

### Pickleball 55+ Summer Camp for Beginners

Do you feel left out of the fun and want to join your neighbors and friends on the pickleball courts? We are looking for beginners. If you never picked up a pickleball paddle and had no professional training ... no problem: this camp is for you. Learn the basics of the sport from a professional instructor and practice with other people who are new to this activity. You'll enjoy a week designed to expand your skills and knowledge while having fun. Put on your athletic shoes and join us. We provide the basic equipment. You'll also enjoy many creative and fun activities for the well-rounded summer camp experience. We think you'll like it!

Register online or in person. Limited space so register early. Registered campers will receive the 2023 "Pickleball Camp for Beginners" brochure with the detailed activity itinerary. For more information contact Paula Lisowski at 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium and Activity Rooms)  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
55 & up  
Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
August 21-August 25  
Residents: \$95  
Non-residents: \$105



## Grab a Paddle and Try Pickleball, the Fastest Growing Sport!

During the pandemic, many Americans were seeking ways to stay healthy and active near their homes. Pickleball was an obvious choice since it is easy to set up due to the smaller court size, and the game can be played in a variety of venues indoors and out. Even before the pandemic, pickleball popularity was on the rise with the number of participants doubling in the last five years.

Why is pickleball becoming so popular? There are many health benefits of playing pickleball such as improving hand-eye coordination, agility, and muscle strength. According to a 2018 Western State Colorado University study, regular pickleball participation offers substantial improvement in cardiorespiratory and cholesterol levels as well as cognitive performance. Most of all, pickleball is fun and easier on the body, especially hips and knees, perfect for active older adults, with less complicated rules than tennis and other racquet sports. If you are looking for something fun and active, join other pickleball players and get in on this popular sport.

Don't know how to play? That's an easy fix. If you're at least age 55 and ready to learn quickly with a professional instructor, then check out the 55+ Pickleball Summer Camp for beginners, coming August 21-25 at



Some of the Pickleball crew at the Recreation Center.

the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave. It will be a fun one-week intensive instructional camp that will get you ready to play with others in a short time. You'll also enjoy many creative and fun

activities for a well-rounded summer camp experience. We think you'll like it!

If you already enjoy playing on a regular basis with other pickleball enthusiasts, you can find many opportunities to play in Recreation Centers and outdoor courts in surrounding counties.

In Takoma Park, try drop-in pickleball at the Recreation Center, Thursdays, 12-2 p.m. for Adults age 55 up—through June and will pick back up in the fall. Also check out Pickleball Club, which meets on Monday evenings, ages 18 and up—all skill levels are welcome. Both options are free with Recreation Center memberships. For these and other class descriptions, dates, times and costs, visit the Takoma Park Recreation website: [takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation](http://takomaparkmd.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 lower 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.

We hope to see you out on the pickleball court soon!





# LIBRARY



## Library and Computer Center hours

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

**Holiday closings:** The Library and Computer Center will be closed on **June 18 and 19** in observance of the Juneteenth holiday. The Library and Computer Center will also be closed on **July 4** for Independence Day.

**Our address** is 7505 New Hampshire Ave. 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](mailto: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 beginning June 11 at noon. Email Anne LeVeque at [annel@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:annel@takomaparkmd.gov) to register or go to our Events page and register on Engaged Patrons. The Library will hold MOOC sessions on Sundays at noon.

## Regular Programs

**SummerQuest begins** June 12! Get ready for the latest adventure—**SummerQuest 2023: The World Tree**. A mountainous and ancient tree has somehow grown up and around your entire home. Do you climb to see what awaits you in the branches above the clouds? Do you explore the darkness of the tangled roots? Join us on the quest to read all summer long! Come into the Library to choose your characters and get your game board.

**Neighborhood Circle Time**—Join Ms. Kati and/or Ms. Verónica every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. 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. **Jumpstart With the Arts** is returning to Circle Time on the first Tuesday of each month—the next time they will be with us is June 6. If your child

has a birthday coming up, please email Ms. Kati at [kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov) with the age and day, and we will celebrate!

**Canta Juego: Spanish Circle time every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom!** Join the fun at our weekly Zoom Spanish Circle Time, led by Señora Geiza. In this 30-minute program, kids and adults can sing songs and do rhymes and movement exercises in Spanish. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us/>. Click on "Join a Meeting." Then put in this Meeting ID: 959-5178-5847 and Meeting Password: 793725. Sponsored by Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

**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, 4-6 p.m.

**Lego Club**—Come in and play with Legos! Sunday, June 4, 1-3 p.m.

**Kids' Art**—Make a craft with us on Sunday, June 11, 1-3 p.m.

**Yard Dramas** returns to the Crossroads Farmers Market for the 2023 summer season. This is an interactive outdoor storytelling and community building program. Wednesdays at 11 a.m., in person at the Crossroads Farmers Market.

**SKETCH CLUB**—Join Dave on Thursdays at 4:00 PM for Sketch Club, now **in-person only** at 7505 New Hampshire Ave. 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.

**NEW! All-ages Sketch Club at Night**—Mondays starting June 26, 5:30-7:30 p.m. The popular weekly sketch club makes time in the evening to allow grown folk with busy schedules to join us—to hang out and draw together. Artists, doodlers, scribblers of all (or no) skill level are invited to gather to sketch and hang out in an open drawing session led by in-house artist Dave Burbank. Occasional prompts and suggestions may occur, but this is mostly an excuse for all to sit in a common space and draw together. If you feel like sharing what you're working on—excellent. If not, that is excellent as well. Paper and some materials provided, but feel free to bring your own. Drop in, drop out, come early, come late, all welcome. Begins Monday, June 26 and runs through Monday, August 28.

**Library @ Crossroads** Catch us the third Wednesday of June, July, and August for pop-up Library activities! In-Person at the Crossroads Farmers Market. June 21, July 19, August 16.

## Listen to this!

By Anne LeVeque

*Making Gay History* with Eric Marcus. For Pride Month, listen to Eric Marcus's podcast where he pulls out his interview cassettes from years past and frames them with historical context. Full disclosure: Eric is an old college friend of mine. These oral histories are amazingly filled of some of the most influential names in LGBTQ+ history in the United States. From Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera of Stonewall fame to Urvashi Vaid, Quenton Crisp, Bayard Rustin, and many more. It's extraordinary to hear the voices of people you've only read about. Some of the older material is from interviews by Studs Terkel, or other reporters. Eric is an excellent interviewer, and has written numerous books on LGBTQ+ history. This is an important archive of primary source material in LGBTQ+ history. Found wherever you get your podcasts.

PODCAST



REVIEW



Takoma Park  
Maryland  
Library

## EL CUENTO:

### Lotería y cuentos en español

Cada dos sábados | 2:00 PM

(comenzando el 29 de abril)

7505 New Hampshire Ave Suite 205



## The Friends Book Group Selects a Gritty Western

The Friends Book Group July selection is *True Grit* by Charles Portis. A bestseller when it was first published, *True Grit* is the only Western that Portis wrote. In the novel, narrator Mattie Ross tells how she recruits the one-eyed Rooster Cogburn, one of the most memorable characters in American literature, and a Texas Ranger named LeBoeuf to track down her father's killer. More than a revenge story, *True Grit* is a survival story about three misfits on the American frontier in the 1870s. Twice transferred

to the screen with success, *True Grit* has left an indelible mark on our culture. Our July discussion will give us an opportunity to explore how that happened. Copies will be available at the library, and are also available as an ebook and audiobook on Hoopla (Library and Computer Center staff can help you sign up for Hoopla if you don't already have an account).

The book discussion will take place on Thursday, July 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library (7505 New Hampshire Ave.).

**JUMPstart with the Arts.**  
**World Around Music!**  
FOR PRESCHOOLERS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS!

**Munit Mesfin (Ms. Moon)**  
MAY 2

**Eric Maring**  
JUNE 6

**Audrey Engdahl**  
JULY 11

**Smita Khatri**  
AUGUST 1

**Presented by**  
CARPE DIEM ARTS!

**In Partnership With**  
Takoma Park  
Maryland  
Library

**FIRST TUESDAYS - 10:30 - 11:15AM (Except for July 11)**  
**Location: Indoors at 7505 New Hampshire Ave, Takoma Park, MD**  
**Info at: [www.CarpeDiamArts.org](http://www.CarpeDiamArts.org)**

**Can't wait to see you at Neighborhood Circle Time!**

**FREE!**

Page 8 □ Takoma Park News

June 2023



# Día: un festejo de la niñez, las familias y la magia de la lectura

por Verónica Rivera-Negrón

El sábado, 29 de abril, celebramos en la biblioteca el Día de los niños / Día de los libros, una iniciativa de la Asociación de Bibliotecas de Estados Unidos, y que se conoce comúnmente como Día.

A pesar del clima lluvioso ese fin de semana, tuvimos un día divertido y enriquecedor lleno de música, pintura, burbujas, cuentos y aprendizaje multilingüe.

Contamos con dos espectáculos musicales. Munit & Z Lovebugs, una banda familiar, que nos recordó la importancia del amor propio y la belleza de saludar en muchos idiomas. Mientras que Amor y Luz nos pusieron a bailar y cantar en inglés y español.

El mismo sábado, estrenamos la primera sesión de El Cuento, nuestro nuevo programa en español. Los facilitadores voluntarios, Ada y Joey, leyeron Te haré tu propio librero, escrito por Jean Ciborowski Fahey, ilustrado por Simone Shin. Después, jugamos dos rondas de Lotería: una basada en el cuento y otra de la forma tradicional. ¡La pasamos muy bien y además tuvimos premios! Este programa continuará llevándose a cabo cada dos sábados a las 2 p.m. en la biblioteca, así que no duden en venir, queremos llevarles a bucear en el mar las letras y los libros.

Culminamos este movido día con el lanzamiento de Yard Dramas, un programa de teatro y cuentos al aire libre que se estará presentando en el Crossroads Farmers Market cada miércoles a las 11:00 AM. Durante esta

primera sesión, los participantes tuvieron la oportunidad de poner en práctica sus herramientas teatrales—el cuerpo, la voz y la imaginación—y desarrollar personajes.

Entre un programa y otro, los asistentes de Día recibieron más información sobre la biblioteca, así como de nuestras organizaciones aliadas. Agradecemos a Carpe Diem Arts, Crossroads Food Network, Departamento de Recreación y TELAS Colectivo Teatral por habernos acompañado.

La cereza del pastel del evento fue la presencia de Flecha Azul, una rana nativa del Amazonas, que vino a sensibilizar a los participantes sobre la importancia de conservar el bosque. La rana fue iniciativa de TELAS, quienes además hicieron un mural de manitas verdes junto con los participantes como evidencia visual de su compromiso para proteger y vivir en armonía con la naturaleza.

Agradecemos a los voluntarios que nos ayudaron a garantizar el éxito de nuestro evento sabatino. Contamos con la participación de voluntarios de Blair High School, Montgomery College y otros miembros de la comunidad. Un agradecimiento especial a Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library por proveer los fondos para este evento.

En resumen, Día fue una celebración de la niñez, las familias, los libros y nuestras comunidades diversas. ¡Gracias a todos los que participaron, esperamos verlos nuevamente!

**TELL STORIES THIS SUMMER AT THE MARKET!**

**YARD DRAMAS**

**READ ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE.**

**CROSSROADS FARMERS MARKET**  
Anne St. @ University Blvd E, Takoma Park  
May-September | Wednesdays  
11AM-12PM

Supported in part by the  
**MSAC**

## Director's column

# Right in the Feels: Fiction and Empathy

by Jessica Jones

Something really interesting happens when we read fiction. Our brains take the words and turn them into imagery, characters, and feelings for which we suspend disbelief to appreciate. Even though fictional stories aren't literally true, they give us a lot of intangible things, like entertainment, stress reduction, and empathy.

I don't think that anyone who reads fiction would be surprised to learn that doing so encourages empathy, but science actually backs us up on this point. There has been a lot of research on this topic in the last decade especially, and it has been interesting to watch coverage evolve as the conversation continues. This is a very abbreviated summary of the conversation that, I think, is useful from an information literacy perspective.

For more about information literacy, check out the January and February 2022 issues of the City's newsletter! In the meantime, a quick version:

Information literacy is a skill that is developed and utilized to evaluate the reliability of information. It involves using critical thinking to consider the **context** of information to make judgments about where and how that information may be applied. The ability to discern reliable information from "fake news," and the veritable avalanche of uninformed and under-informed opinions we encounter, is crucial to safely navigating our world.

How do empathy and fiction fit into this definition? I believe they live in the "context" component.

Research shows a general consensus that there is a correlation between consumption of fiction and empathetic traits. John Best cites this consensus and notes in his 2020 *North American Journal of Psychology* article "Reading Literary Fiction: More Empathy, but at What Possible Cost?" that, "readers of fiction outperform nonreaders of fiction on empathy tasks." This happens because when we read fiction, we, "use imagination and other cognitive processes to visualize and simulate social processes



occurring among the fictional characters," i.e., we take in the words and translate it through our lived experiences and observations into a mental picture with which we interact.

To my mind, validation and empathy are two sides of the same coin with fiction. When we see ourselves, it can be validating. When we see others in fiction — other cultures, ethnicities, religions, politics, disabilities, sexual orientations, genders, socioeconomic classes — in this setting where we are already mentally world-building and imagining, we can expand our worldview, and we can empathize.

Granted, we bring our own biases wherever we go, and fiction is no exception. People can reach vastly different conclusions with the same text. I'm pretty sure that's a big component of literary criticism as a field. But fiction can be a tool to get us outside of ourselves, if we're willing to go there. And, therein lies both the opportunity and the potential hazard.

In her 2009 TEDtalk, Chimamanda Adichie warns of the dangers of a single story, or expecting one narrative to speak for entire demographics. As wonderful as their stories may be, we can't count on Adichie to speak for all women, Black people, or Africans; Isaac Bashevis Singer for all men, Jews, or immigrants; or, Joshua Whitehead for all two spirit peoples or Pequois Nation members, much less all Indigenous peoples.

Fiction can be a tool to help us understand, but there is no single fictional title that is expansive enough to overcome every reader's biases. To further illustrate, in Ann Jurecic's 2011 article "Empathy and the Crit-

ic," she states that, "one may read a novel that portrays the trauma caused by systematic urban violence in an American city and imagine that one understands the experience, but such identification can prevent one from recognizing one's own complicity with the social and political structures that engender this violence."

In other words, reading fiction will never be a substitute for understanding ourselves and the systems in which we operate.

The other unintended consequence of empathizing with fiction is that an author who understands how to elicit empathy from readers can also use it to advance their own agendas. They may not even identify their fiction as fiction. We see this happening everyday on social media, for example. How many of us know someone who was pulled into the toxic climate of disinformation that Facebook seems unable to correct? "Fake news" is just "News" when it's taken at face value.

This article began as a piece about why reading fiction is good for us as a society, and I still believe that, overall, it is good for us. That said, I think it's also important to interrogate why someone may want to elicit emotions from us as a sound information literacy practice.

Maybe we can file this under the "Nothing Is Ever Simple" heading, but I don't think that's necessarily a bad thing. I believe we need to leave room for things to be complicated, because how will we ever begin to understand the people who think differently than we do, if we can't put ourselves in their shoes? How can we imagine a better world for everyone without the understanding that our current systems affect everyone differently?

For recommendations on your next fiction read, please visit or contact the Library, and we will be happy to help you find something.

The works consulted for this article are available to any interested parties; please email [library@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:library@takomaparkmd.gov) for a bibliography and source attachments.

## Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library News

### Book Sale Success!

The semi-annual book sale took place on Saturday, May 13 at the Library's temporary location. It was a resounding success, raising \$1,800.

Friends have funded programs

such as our Día de los Niños and Día de los Libros events, our annual Solstice Celebration, the Summer and Winter Quest reading programs, Canta Juego/Spanish Circle Time, Little Free Libraries, and much more. Additionally, this year they have agreed to fund

library card fees for those outside of Montgomery County, since we are just yards away from the Prince George's County line.

The Friends are such an incredibly supportive group: join today!



# At Your SERVICE



## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department  
[www.tpvfd.org](http://www.tpvfd.org)

### Safety Minute: Fireworks

Every year, thousands of people are treated for injuries in hospital emergency departments due to the mishandling of live, misfired, and waste consumer fireworks. In addition, fires resulting from fireworks cause millions of dollars in direct property damage. (U.S. Fire Administration)

In Takoma Park and the rest of Montgomery County, ALL fireworks are illegal to possess or discharge, including gold label sparklers. The exceptions are authorized public displays conducted by a licensed pyrotechnic professional with a permit. Additionally, snap-and-pop noise makers, snakes, and party poppers are exceptions to this law. Penalties for violations of the law include a fine up to \$1,000 and/or six months in jail.

### Member Spotlight; EMS Lt. Jorge Alfaro

- TPVFD member since 1983 and member of the TPVFD board of directors.
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) lieutenant.
- Born in Peru, Jorge was a firefighter in that nation until 1983 when he came to the United States.
- Every year, Jorge is Santa's Special Helper, riding on the fire engine throughout Takoma Park.
- Jorge is married to Elizabeth a former police officer in Peru.



### Why did you want to join TPVFD?

"I like to help the community. I never desired to be a career firefighter, I just wanted to volunteer to serve the community. I came from a family of firefighters in Peru. My two sons are firefighters now. One works with Montgomery County Fire and Rescue (MCFR) the other is a volunteer at TPVFD. My brother and nephew were also MCFR career firefighters."

## Prepare for a Safe and Scam-free Summer

By Claudine Schweber, Chair, Takoma Park  
Emergency Preparedness Committee

As COVID-19 dangers recede, are you thinking about summer vacation opportunities? Plan **now** for the getaway. This includes being prepared to fend off unwanted guests, such as burglars, and online scammers—whether you travel across the globe or indulge in a staycation.

### Checklist Before Travel

- Identify an emergency contact person who agrees to be the communications link for you. Give your travel details to the contact person so that you can be reached in case of emergency.
- Contact the Takoma Park Police Department so they can do vacant house checks while you are out of town.
- Prepare your home to have an ongoing lived-in look, such as setting light timers for different times, in several rooms—visible from the street.
- Ask someone to pick up your mail and newspapers or stop delivery of these items (avoid having packages delivered).
- Make a list of important names and numbers (such as doctors and home pharmacies) to share with medical, police, trauma, or rescue units in your new location.
- Pack extra medications and any special items in case you are stuck in a vacation area. Bring copies of your prescriptions.
- Make a list of any allergies in case you need emergency care.
- Check if your medical insurance will be accepted in your new location; develop a plan if not.

### Spot the Scammers

Scams can occur over the telephone, through the mail, over the internet, and even in person.

### Ignore bogus deliveries

One recent scam trend involves communications about a so-called package. Do not give personal information in response to messages about a delivery.

- **Be wary of unsolicited communications.** Your mail carrier and package-delivery services will never contact you via text message or phone call. If a package cannot be delivered for any reason, they will usually leave you a note on the door.
- **Be wary of "professional" emails sent from unsecure addresses.** Any online communications from the USPS or a mail delivery agency will be sent via their own secure domain. Always be suspicious of emails sent from unsecure



addresses.

- **Track all incoming packages.** After placing an order for an item, record the tracking number for the package so you can easily verify its whereabouts. This way, you can quickly confirm the authenticity of any suspicious texts, emails or phone calls about your package.
- **Never share personal information with an unverified contact.** Be super-wary when asked to share sensitive information via text, or when online or on a phone call. If you suspect fraud, end the conversation immediately and do not engage further.
- **Never click on links in unsolicited text messages or emails.** Links can download malware onto your computer or device. Don't click links from people you don't know or from companies you have not asked to contact you. Be wary of official-looking email; popular brands can easily be spoofed.

### I.D. the caller

Also be on the alert for phone call scams: You may get a call and are asked "Can you hear me?" If you answer yes, recording begins which may enable the scammer to access financial and other information. Be wary of calls from persons whose name you do not recognize.

### Don't play with cards

Another common scam involves a *spoofed* friend or loved one asking for a gift card. I almost fell for this scam two years ago. A *friend* sent me an email asking for help in getting a birthday gift card for his niece, saying he was out of town. I didn't do it! Whew! It turns out someone had gotten into my friend's email.

For more about scams, watch a recent session on scams hosted by the Village of Takoma Park, featuring David Elswick, an investigator with the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection: <https://vimeo.com/822098952>.

### Send Me Your Questions for Bea Prepared!

If you have a question about emergency preparedness, send a message to [tpepc@takomapark-md.gov](mailto:tpepc@takomapark-md.gov) or call 301-891-7126. Your question may be answered on WOWD-LP Takoma Park, 94.3 on the Talk of Takoma program. The show runs every Sunday, 1-3 p.m. I am a featured guest on the first Sunday of each month with answers from my friend Bea Prepared.



## 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](http://takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports). Questions? Email [sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov).



# Takoma Park Police Updates

## Takoma Park Police Once Again Partner with 7-Eleven for Operation Chill

School will be out for the summer and kids in Takoma Park may actually look forward to their next encounter with the *heat* this summer thanks to 7-Eleven's popular Operation Chill program that rewards positive behavior with a very cool treat.

Through Operation Chill, Takoma Park Police patrol officers can *ticket* youngsters caught in the act of doing good with Slurpee beverage coupons. Appropriate 'offenses' might include helping another person, deterring crime, practicing safety (wearing a helmet during bike riding), participating in a positive activity in the community, or just for having a pleasant conversation with an officer. Each coupon can be redeemed for a small Slurpee drink at participating 7-Eleven stores. The coupons are great for officers who are on patrol in the community. It's an icebreaker, a way to encourage dialogue in a non-threatening, non-law enforcement situation.

Since its inception in 1995, Operation Chill has grown to include several hundred law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada each year, and more than 12 million coupons have been distributed to officers on the beat in cities and towns where 7-Eleven does business.

Operation Chill was developed by 7-Eleven, Inc. to positively reward and encourage good behavior by kids during the hot summer months, when communities may experience increases in loi-

tering, shoplifting, and graffiti—and to support law enforcement agencies' community relations projects.

So be on your best behavior this summer. Our officers will be patrolling parks, community events, and other areas around the City, looking to hand out these free treats!

## National Night Out: August 1

National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 1, 6-9 p.m. at Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Ave.

This is an annual event hosted by the police department to bring the community together to increase awareness in safety and crime prevention; to support local businesses, groups, and organizations; and to strengthen relationships among the community members and with the local police department.

Police vehicles will be on display along with Maryland National Capital Park Police horses and McGruff the Crime Dog. Activities include child i.d. kits and fingerprinting, music and dancing, a dunk



tank, basketball, face painting, a moon bounce, games, prizes, giveaways, food, ice cream, and more.

## Caring About Residents Everyday (CARE)



### CARE

**Caring About Residents Everyday**

**A program directed at our residents who live alone with special needs, or just need to be checked on each day.**

**CARE is another way we can give back to the community and take care of those in need.**

*To learn more about the program, or to register, visit [www.takomaparkmd.gov/police](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/police) under Services & Programs*



Please check on your neighbors to help them prepare for possible power outages during the summer months. CARE is a program directed at our residents who live alone with special needs, or just need to be checked on each day. Find more information about how to sign up for this program on the City website under Police Department Services and Programs.

## June Is Pride Month

We are celebrating Pride Month alongside our LGBTQ+ residents and fellow Takoma Park Police Department members. Diversity is one of the greatest strengths of this City. This month, and every month, we continue to reinforce our commitment to equality. Happy Pride Month 2023!

## MACK

■ From page 4

stigate it. Originally structured to encompass the Prince George's side of the Crossroads intersection, political skullduggery (according to Erwin) sank Prince George's participation. Thus, the CDA ended up serving only the Takoma Park side.

For 25 years until 2012, Erwin single-handedly (with the guidance of its board) made it his day job, looking after the needs of more than 100 small businesses and property owners in the Crossroads. The CDA's legality has always depended on the City Council's periodic reauthorization.

But this did not deter Erwin Mack from crossing swords (which I witnessed) with the city manager or the State Highway Administration in solving problems. A highly visible legacy today is the wrought iron fences in the medians of University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue. The fences were not installed for aesthetics sake, but to reduce the alarming deaths of jaywalkers, which was achieved.


Erwin and I together also slogged through his thankless

assignment (by the Potomac Conference) to take charge of the John Nevins Andrews school closure, find a buyer for the site, and merge the students into what would become the Takoma Academy Preparatory School.

In 2020, Mayor Kate Stewart issued a Mayoral Proclamation honoring Erwin Mack for his decades of service to the city and declaring Erwin and Sylvia honorary citizens of Takoma Park.

Erwin Mack was perhaps many things to different people. To me he was trustworthy friend I could count on, full of good ideas and good humor. Always willing to sit down and talk at the IHOP. Always happy to make new acquaintances. Driven by a deep commitment to his faith, he was always a gentleman who never used a curse word and rarely any kind of pejoratives. That he is gone is hard to accept.

■ *Fred Schultz is a former Ward 6 Councilmember. He continues to provide insight on Takoma Park matters from his blog: [fredschultzblog.net](http://fredschultzblog.net).*



**Declare Independence!**  
Participate in the Takoma Park 2023 Independence Day Parade, Tuesday, July 4, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
This year's theme is "Celebrating Democracy in Takoma Park. Congressman Jamie Raskin will lead the parade as Grand Marshal. Visit [TakomaPark4th.org](http://TakomaPark4th.org) to learn more or sign up to join the parade.

## PRIDE

■ From page 1

at 7007 Carroll Ave. (2nd floor) from 5 to 7 p.m. Supplies for both events are free.

In addition to the parade, Queering Zone will be holding art and musical events featuring local, national, and international queer artists and allies around the city all month. Artists for these events include Marcus Webb, a composer, soundscape designer and multi-instrumentalist; Kerri Sheehan, a multimedia storyteller; and K Craig, an artist working primarily within the field of experimental film and animation. For more, visit [rhizomede.org](http://rhizomede.org).

Pride month began in 1970, one

year after the Stonewall Riots—a series of gay liberation protests—in New York City. On June 28, 1969, patrons at Stonewall Inn, an LGBT bar, fought back against police raids that were common against the community in those years. The clash sparked national activism for the LGBT community and helped bring visibility to LGBTQ equality struggles.

Today, there are marches and events all over the U.S., including the annual Capital Pride Parade in D.C. on Saturday, June 10, from 3 to 7:30 p.m. There is also the Capital Pride Festival on Sunday, June 11, from noon to 10 p.m. that will be featuring exhibitors, live music and plenty of dancing.

For more, visit [mainstreetautakoma.org/featured-events/takoma-pride](http://mainstreetautakoma.org/featured-events/takoma-pride).



The Takoma Pride festival will feature a drag queen story time with Ms. Hazel.

Photo: Sam Levy



# 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](http://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. [docsinprogress.org/filmmakers](http://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 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](http://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 [ilyaimy.com/robsopenmics](http://ilyaimy.com/robsopenmics).

## Takoma Jazz

Saturdays, 7 – 10 p.m.  
Takoma Station Tavern, 6914 4th St. NW  
Washington, D.C.

Weekly jazz at Takoma Station Tavern hosted by Jazz Kitchen Productions. For the schedule, check the website: [jkproductions.org](http://jkproductions.org).

## Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.,  
through Nov. 22, 2023  
Anne St. at University Blvd. East

Crossroads Farmers Market offers the season's freshest fruits and vegetables, as well as free-range eggs, honey, locally roasted coffee, healthy snacks, and fresh-cut flowers, all from no more than 50 miles away. The market is cultivating a more inclusive local food system in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. All federal nutrition benefits (SNAP, WIC, Senior/WIC FMNP) are accepted and matched dollar for dollar with Crossroads' Fresh Checks — this season, up to \$50 each week.

## Takoma Trukgarten

Saturday, June 3, Noon – 5 p.m.  
Takoma Junction Parking Lot,  
201 Ethan Allen Ave.

This one-day beer festival features local breweries pouring craft beers and cider. Plus local food and music. Tasting packages with commemorative glasses available. Non-drinkers and under 21 enter free. Music by Takoma Radio.

## Queering Sound

Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Takoma Park Gazebo  
7035 Carroll Ave.

QUEERING SOUND is an annual festival for LGBTQIA+ artisans and allies. In its 23rd year, the event features local, national, and international artists at venues in the DMV and online with musical performances, visual art exhibits, performance art, video and spoken word.

## Old Town Spring Brass

Sunday, June 4, Noon – 1:30 p.m.  
Takoma Park Gazebo, 7035 Carroll Ave.

A brass and reed ensemble featuring young musicians from House of Musical Traditions and Lowell School playing favorite classics and modern tunes outdoors. Directed by local music instructor, Brian Weber.

## Takoma Pride

Sunday, June 11, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Main Street Takoma is celebrating the city's LGBTQ+ community during Takoma Pride Day. A Kids' Pride Parade will start at the TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave. at 10 a.m. (line up at 9:45 a.m.). All welcome to join and share messages of Pride! The parade will end at Laurel Ave. Drag Queen Storytime with Ms. Hazel is free and designed to inspire a love of reading, while teaching lessons of self-acceptance, diversity and respect. For children of all ages. Visitors are also welcome to share messages of Pride on Laurel Ave. where

there will be chalk available in the closed street. Takoma Park's rainbow crosswalks have been updated to celebrate diversity and acceptance every day.

## Takoma Park 2023 Independence Day Parade

Tuesday, July 4, 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
Begins at Carroll & Ethan Allen Aves.

Come out for this 4th of July for Takoma Park's Independence Day Parade. The parade begins at 10 a.m. and lasts about 1.5 hours. This year's theme is Celebrating Democracy in Takoma Park, and leading the parade will be our Grand Marshal, Congressman Jamie Raskin. Parade begins at Carroll and Ethan Allen Aves., travels south on Carroll Ave., turns right on Maple Ave., and continues to Ritchie Ave. Visit [TakomaPark4th.org](http://TakomaPark4th.org) to learn more or sign up to parade.

## 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. More information on People's Book and the Republic of Readers program can be found at [peoplesbooktakoma.com](http://peoplesbooktakoma.com) and on Instagram @PeoplesBookTakoma.

## MACMILLAN

■ From page 1

same hand to draw, and he would sit for hours and draw. He drew incredibly intricate scenes of battles and soccer games and other things. We just pretty much always knew that drawing was going to be a big part of his life."

Like most kids growing up in Takoma Park, Noah started kicking the ball early through Takoma Soccer. He kept playing during his years at the Edmund Burke School and at Washington University in St. Louis.

Then at age 23, just as he was jumping into his illustration career, Noah was diagnosed with colon cancer. After a long year of treatment, he was given a clean bill of health.

"He ran a marathon to celebrate," says Jeffrey. "He had seven years cancer-free. He felt great, got engaged. And then, bang, back again."

"It's not expected at that age," says Jeffrey, "so it's often overlooked.

While living in St. Louis, Noah met his fiancée, Hitomi Inoue, also a Washington U. grad, whom Jeffrey calls Noah's third passion (along with soccer and art). Hitomi recalls how excited Noah was to be asked to illustrate a stamp in the summer of 2020, even as he faced a relapse of colon cancer.

"He was in the middle of his first year of grad school, getting his MFA [masters of Fine Arts] at the School of Visual Arts in New York, and COVID happened," says Hitomi. "[We] decided to go up to Vermont. We're up there thinking we're going to be there for three weeks. But then we ended up being there basically for a year.

"So Noah gets rediagnosed with cancer in June [2020]. It's this crazy time where he had just restarted chemo. We



Illustrator Noah Macmillan's stamp design was chosen by the U.S. Postal Service as the official image of the FIFA Women's World Cup, which begins on July 20. Image courtesy USPS.

were living at the lake. It's beautiful, but we're also very isolated from everything," Hitomi continues. "And he gets an email from this art director who works on a lot of the stamps.

"Noah was like, *yeah, I'm gonna design a stamp*. And I was like, *what?*" Hitomi laughs, "*Like a postal service stamp?* He was like, *yeah, it's real*."

So it's a very dynamic and powerful stamp," says Hitomi. It reflects Noah's years of experience capturing movement and emotion with clean efficiency.

"He has a history of having done a lot of soccer art," says Jeffrey, "which is how he probably popped onto the radar of the art director. Many of his first jobs were working for soccer publications in the U.S. and in Europe—and he was just devout follower of soccer."

Noah's family and friends remember him as an extraordinary individual.

"Noah was a gentle soul," says Lucinda. "He has two younger brothers who are twins [Seth and Julian]. He was just always sweet to them from the time they were born. Most kids, I think, would've resented having these other two babies come into their lives and turn everything upside down. But he just was always a really good big brother.

"And, you know, it's a hard loss for them as well," she adds.

"One of his best friends said that whatever you say about Noah sounds fake because it sounds too good to be true," says Hitomi. "He was just very kind, like deeply kind and not superficially kind. He wasn't really all about bullshit. He wasn't going to be nice [just] to be nice, but because he was kind. He loved talking to younger artists and people who had just started freelancing to help them figure out how to set up an office, how to get new clients. How to do taxes."

With Noah's combination of training and talent—and kindness—in mind, the Macmillan family has established the Noah Philip MacMillan Portfolio Plus Scholarship at Washington University in St. Louis. This summer program provides intensive art classes to rising high school seniors to help them build their portfolios.

"It's a really great program and hopefully we can fund more kids to go there and really build their confidence in artmaking and learn from the Wash U. professors, who are wonderful," says Jeffrey.

*Find out more about the Noah Philip MacMillan Portfolio Plus Scholarship at [tinyurl.com/bddyrzf8](http://tinyurl.com/bddyrzf8). Proceeds from the sale of Noah's prints will help fund the scholarship. You can find Noah's work at [society6.com](http://society6.com) (search for Noah Macmillan).*