

Takoma Park News



Important Dates

Holiday Closings

City offices and facilities are closed on the following dates:

Independence Day: Tuesday, July 4

Labor Day: Monday, September 4

Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection is canceled on these dates.

National Night Out
Community policing event
Tuesday, August 1, 6 - 9 p.m.
Piney Branch Elementary School
7510 Maple Ave.

City Assistance Opportunity:
Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Program
The City will be hosting two webinars on the program on **July 24** and **August 9**, 1-3 p.m. You can register for the webinars at tinyurl.com/yb9x7jjc

Takoma Park Folk Festival
Sunday, September 10
Takoma Park Middle School and Lee Jordan Field



Look for this Icon throughout this issue
See page 3
Ver página 3

takomaparkmd.gov
Check our website frequently for updates.

City Council Approves 1.25 Cent Property Tax Increase

By Andrew Bolduc
Takoma Park ARPA Manager

Following two public hearings, three public work sessions, three reconciliation meetings, and two ordinance adoption meetings, the Takoma Park City Council has passed the city's annual budget for the 2024 fiscal year (FY24). The fiscal year begins July 1, 2023, and runs through June 30, 2024. As part of its budget approval, the Council also set the real property tax rate, personal property tax rate, and the railroad and public utilities assessments. The real property tax rate was set at \$0.5522 per \$100 of assessed value, a 2.3% or 1.25 cent increase from the FY23 tax rate of \$0.5397.


The personal property tax rate and railroad and public utilities assessments remained level at \$1.55 and \$1.57, respectively. The personal property tax rate is an additional assessment on the value of business-owned property, which generally includes furniture, fixtures, office and industrial equipment, machinery, and tools. The railroad and public utilities assessment includes all real and personal property, such as utility poles, towers, cables, and meters, owned by railroads and public utilities within the City.

The 2.3% real property tax rate increase will raise \$1,029,074 more than the prior fiscal year due in part to a 4.1% increase in the total assessed value of real property in Takoma Park as established by the Montgomery County Assessor's Office.

Preparation of the FY24 budget began in January, with the city's senior leadership team preparing and submitting department budgets to the city manager and finance teams. Over the subsequent months, the city manager and finance staff worked with the senior leadership team to further refine and narrow budget lines "to build a lean proposed budget that stabilized present service levels and begin to improve the City's long-term financial health," said Susan Cheung, Takoma Park finance director. This final proposed budget was then presented to the City Council on April 12.

Following multiple public hearings and work sessions, the council began its reconciliation process, during which it amends the proposed budget before final approval.

TAX ☐ Page 11



How Do City Council Priorities Affect You?

Takoma Park City Council Priorities are considered a tool to guide policy and budget decision making and outline strategies to work toward desired outcomes for a wide range of major projects, initiatives, and ongoing activities. Policies established by the City Council affects many aspects of civic life in Takoma Park, so developing and sharing priorities inform residents, businesses, and regional stakeholders on what the council considers important.

The priorities are not policy, but they serve as the framework to shape future policy. All are encouraged to engage with the City Council to help shape how the priorities are implemented. You can engage in the process by attending a City Council meeting; by contacting your City Council member; or by joining a board, commission or committee.

On April 12 2023, the council updated its priorities through 2024. Below, you can read the main priorities, but more information can be found on the city website (search for *Council Priorities*).

Takoma Park City Council Priorities

1. Advancing a Community of Belonging.

- Build on lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic to increase residents' and small businesses' resilience to the impact of emergency situations, so that they can recover and thrive in the future.
- Further the City's racial equity work.
- Identify and prioritize programming needs in the community and develop approaches to meet those needs, emphasizing youth, families, seniors, and residents who tend to face barriers to opportunities such as Black, Indigenous, and people of color, immigrants, those with unsustainable lower-paying jobs or incomes, and people with developmental or physical disabilities.
- Defend our status as a Sanctuary City and maintain our commitment to being a welcoming and inclusive community where all

PRIORITIES ☐ Page 11



Photo by Eric Bond

Celebrate Independence with a Takoma Park Fourth

The parade begins at 10 a.m. at Takoma Junction, at the intersection of Carroll and Ethan Allen Aves. It turns right off of Carroll Ave. onto Willow Ave. Then it turns left off of Willow Ave. onto Tulip Ave and right onto Maple Ave. The parade continues down Maple Ave. until it terminates at the intersection with Ritchie Ave. The theme this year is *Celebrating Democracy in Takoma Park*. Congressman Jamie Raskin, a Takoma Park resident, will be the grand marshal, (pictured here at the 2019 parade).

The evening festivities begin at 6 p.m. on Maple Ave. between Philadelphia and Ritchie Aves., with entertainment by the Takoma Park Community Band, the JoGo Project (gogo music), and Yellow Dubmarine (take a guess)—along with food trucks and a beer and wine garden. Raffle prizes will be drawn throughout the evening. There will be no Takoma Park fireworks display. For more information, visit takomapark4th.org.

On the DOCKET

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly City Council agenda and committee calendar update by e-mail can sign up by sending a message to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The public may comment at regular meetings of the City Council in person or via Zoom. To comment over Zoom, register by 5 p.m. on the meeting date. There is no need to register to comment in person.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday, July 5 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, July 12 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, July 19 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, July 26 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, August 2 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium

The City Council is scheduled to be on recess from Thursday, August 3 until Wednesday, September 6.

CouncilAction

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

May 17, 2023

- **Ordinance 2023-6: Adopting Fiscal Year 2024 Tax Rates.** Effective July 1, 2023, the real property tax rate will be \$0.5522 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The personal property tax rate will be \$1.55 per \$100 of assessed valuation. The railroad and public utilities tax rate will be \$1.57 per \$100 of assessed valuation.
- **Ordinance 2023-7:** Adopting the FY 2024 Stormwater Management Budget. All properties are billed using the same fee structure. The stormwater fee has a base rate of \$25 per 500 square feet of impervious surface.
- **Ordinance 2023-8: Adopting the FY 2024 Budget.**
- **Ordinance 2023-9: Authorizing the City Manager to Execute a Contract to Complete Final Design and Engineering Services for the Maple Avenue Connectivity Project.** The project is funded by \$304,000 from the Maryland Department of Transportation Kim Lamphier Bikeways Program and \$76,000 of City matching funds.
- **Ordinance 2023-10: Authorizing Award of Community Quality of Life Grants as recommended by the Grants Review Committee.** Grants were awarded as follows:
 - **Per Scholas, Inc.** - \$9,000 for information technology (IT) job training
 - **CREATE Arts Center** - \$6,000 for the smARTkids Afterschool Art Education program
 - **Montgomery Community Media** - \$9,000 for the Youth Media Academy
 - **Community Bridges, Inc.** - \$9,000 for the Community Bridges Girls program
 - **Enterprise Community Development** - \$9,000 for

afterschool arts enrichment, academic support, and services

- **Upwardly Global** - \$9,000 for building a vibrant Takoma Park through immigrant workforce inclusion
- **Dance Exchange** - \$9,000 for the FY24 Dance On cohort
- **So What Else, Inc.** - \$9,000
- **Action Youth Media** - \$8,200 for Takoma Park in (Moving) Pictures: Tell Your Story
- **Takoma Park Mobilization** - \$8,200 for the Takoma Park Elementary School Food Forest
- **Carpe Diem Arts** - \$8,200 for Ukes on the Move
- **Ethiopian Community Center, Inc.** - \$8,200
- **Docs in Progress** - \$8,200 for Village Reels.

May 24, 2023

- **Resolution 2023-15: Establishing Policy Objectives Associated with the FY 2024 Budget.** The police objectives include a Council review of the City vehicle replacement policy; Council consideration of the feasibility of potential additional revenue sources; and formation of a Council subcommittee to review the budget preparation process, budget timetable, and consideration of expanded fiscal and programmatic data collection and analysis to support the Council’s budget deliberations.

June 7, 2023

- **Resolution 2023-16: Recommending Support of the Planning Board Designation of the Pubic Hearing Draft of the Minor Master Plan Amendment.** The designation of the draft as the “Public Hearing Draft” allows for the public comment period to begin and for the public hearing scheduled for September 14, 2023.

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 and click on *Events and Meetings*. Most City boards and committees continue to meet virtually (on Zoom). Some are holding hybrid meetings (both in person and on Zoom). In-person meetings are held at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave.

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 11, 6:30 p.m. (on Zoom)

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Date and time to be announced

POLICE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 29, 9:30 a.m. (Hydrangea Room)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Date and time to be announced

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Date and time to be announced

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 the City Clerk at clerk@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

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: the city manager; the finance director; the police chief; a representative of UFCW Local 400; a 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 City Clerk Jessie Carpenter at 301-891-7267 or clerk@takomaparkmd.gov for additional information or to apply.

Notice of Proposed Amendment to Administrative Regulation – Outdoor Cafe Permit Regulation

Administrative Regulation 2018-1 - Outdoor Cafe Permit Regulation, regulates the establishment and permitting of outdoor cafes operating within the public right-of-way as authorized in *Takoma Park Code Section 8.16.090*. The regulation has been in effect since 2018. An amendment to the regulation is being proposed to increase the permit and lease fees, enable annual fee updates by publication of fees on July 1 of each year, and remove the requirement for a “processing fee.”

Pursuant to the requirements of the “Administrative Regulations Ordinance” (Authority: Chapter 2.12 “Administrative Regulations,” of the Takoma Park Code), notice of the City’s intention to adopt, amend, or repeal an administrative regulation must be publicly noted, allowing residents the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The proposed amended regulation is available for review at takomaparkmd.gov. To obtain further information about the proposed regulation, contact Ira Kowler, acting director, Housing and Community Development Department, 301-891-7230 or IraK@takomaparkmd.gov. Written comments on the proposed regulation may be emailed to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The deadline for receipt of public comments is Friday, July 21, 2023.

Building COMMUNITY



Photo by Donna Wright

Maple Avenue features the highest density of multi-family housing in Takoma Park. The Maple Avenue Connectivity Project will examine how to prioritize pedestrians and bicyclists on this vital avenue.

A New Start for Bike and Pedestrian Connections on Maple Avenue

Maple Ave., from the D.C. border to Sligo Creek Parkway, is one of the most important City-owned roadways in Takoma Park. It contains the densest multi-family housing in the City, including dedicated low-income and senior living options. It is home to an elementary school, a daycare center, a church, a community center, a public library, and a police station. It supports three RideOn bus lines, two Capital Bikeshare stations, and a direct connection to the Sligo Creek Trail.

This roadway also sees high use by people walking, biking, taking transit, and driving who regularly say they feel unsafe, particularly on bike and foot, including the many students accessing public schools.

In May, Planning Division staff joined consultants from the planning and engineering firm RK&K to kick off the Maple Avenue Connectivity Project. This project, formerly known as the Maple Avenue Complete Street Project, reimagines Maple Ave. as a road that prioritizes pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users to provide safer, more convenient, and more comfortable travel.

In 2021, the City had received preliminary designs for the corridor. The new project will review, revise, and expand on the existing designs; will add a feasibility study for better compliance with the American Disability Act regulations in regard to pedestrians and bikes crossing over Sligo Creek; and will more comprehensively engage with the community. The two-year grant will generate construction-ready designs and a feasibility report for the crossing over Sligo Creek. The design project expects to finish in January 2025.

The 2019 Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan identified Maple Ave. as a corridor in need of improved bike infrastructure. This analysis provided the foundation for a technical assistance grant awarded by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government to generate preliminary designs, which excluded the Sligo Creek Bridge.

To learn more about the Maple Avenue Connectivity Project and stay up to date on opportunities to get involved with the design process, visit the Maple Avenue Connectivity Project page on the city website.

Student Consultants Complete Capital Bikeshare Study

The Capital Bikeshare system extends across Maryland, D.C., and Virginia with hundreds of stations and thousands of conventional and e-bikes for users to borrow. Takoma Park was one of the first Montgomery jurisdictions to welcome Capital Bikeshare. Now, the City hosts seven stations, and three more exist just outside the border, including at the Takoma Metro station, the busiest Bikeshare station in the area.

Despite good coverage compared with the rest of Montgomery County, the City lacked data on ridership and usage. Into that data gap stepped a team of four Georgetown McCourt School of Public Policy master's degree students. Over the past academic year, the planning division worked with the student consultants to analyze the local Bikeshare network and identify key

trends in ridership and network connectivity. Here are a few of the findings:

- The three stations on Carroll Ave. (Takoma Metro, Carroll/Westmoreland Aves., and Carroll/Ethan Allen Aves.) are the most used;
- The two stations on New Hampshire Ave. (at Kirklynn Ave. and at the Takoma Park Recreation Center) are the least used, but also on the most dangerous, with exposed roadways;
- The journey between the Takoma Metro station and the station at Carroll/Ethan Allen Aves. was the most popular route in the entire network;
- The Bikeshare network is clustered most densely in more affluent and more ethnically white parts of the City.

STATION	STARTING RIDES	ENDING RIDES	TOTAL RIDES	NET BIKES
2022				
Takoma Metro	3656	3431	7087	225
Carroll & Ethan Allen Ave	1362	1144	2506	218
Carroll & Westmoreland Ave	1340	1075	2415	265
Maple & Ritchie Ave	715	954	1669	-239
WAU / Flower Ave & Division St	751	757	1508	-6
Philadelphia & Maple Ave	378	481	859	-103
New Hampshire & Kirklynn Ave	169	165	334	4
Takoma Park Rec Center	117	189	306	-72

Source: Capital Bikeshare System Data

This table shows the number of rides that started and ended at each Bikeshare dock. The last column, Net Bikes, shows the difference between the number of rides started and ended, illustrating the flow of ridership.

City Awarded \$60,000 in Consulting Services for a Traffic Study

In April 2023, the City of Takoma Park was awarded a technical assistance grant from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government Transportation Land Use Connections program. The grant awarded the City \$60,000 in consulting services to conduct a full-scale traffic analysis of the potential impacts of various closure scenarios at the Laurel Avenue Streeterly, which provides a space for people to dine on the street.

The City decided to apply for this grant due to feedback from residents requesting that any discussion of longer-term changes to the Streeterly include an analysis of traffic, including current traffic patterns and potential residential impacts. The study also anticipates the findings from an independent conceptual design study from the Old Takoma Business Association. The findings of the traffic analysis will provide data to help inform any future decisions

by the City about potential changes to the current configuration of Laurel Ave. This study will solely gather data and receive expert analysis from traffic engineers; there will be no design work of the Streeterly or community engagement on preferred road patterns during this grant period.

The Streeterly, which halted traffic in the northbound direction during the COVID-19 emergency, saw widespread community support for the new gathering space. In 2021, the City Council authorized the closure of the lane with automatic annual renewal of the authorization.

The findings of the traffic analysis are expected in June 2024. To stay up to date on the Laurel Avenue Streeterly Closure, visit the Laurel Avenue Street Closure page on the City's website.



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 አዲ ደረጃ ላይ የዚህ መጽሔት አርከም ራስዎ ምኞት በኢሉቱ ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታከማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድርጅቱ ጣቢያ ጠቀ ከዲፖን በኋላ ስጽሑፉ አንገጽ ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥግ ላይ ታንባሽን የአሰሳ አምሌን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን.

What's Next for the former Washington Adventist Hospital Campus?

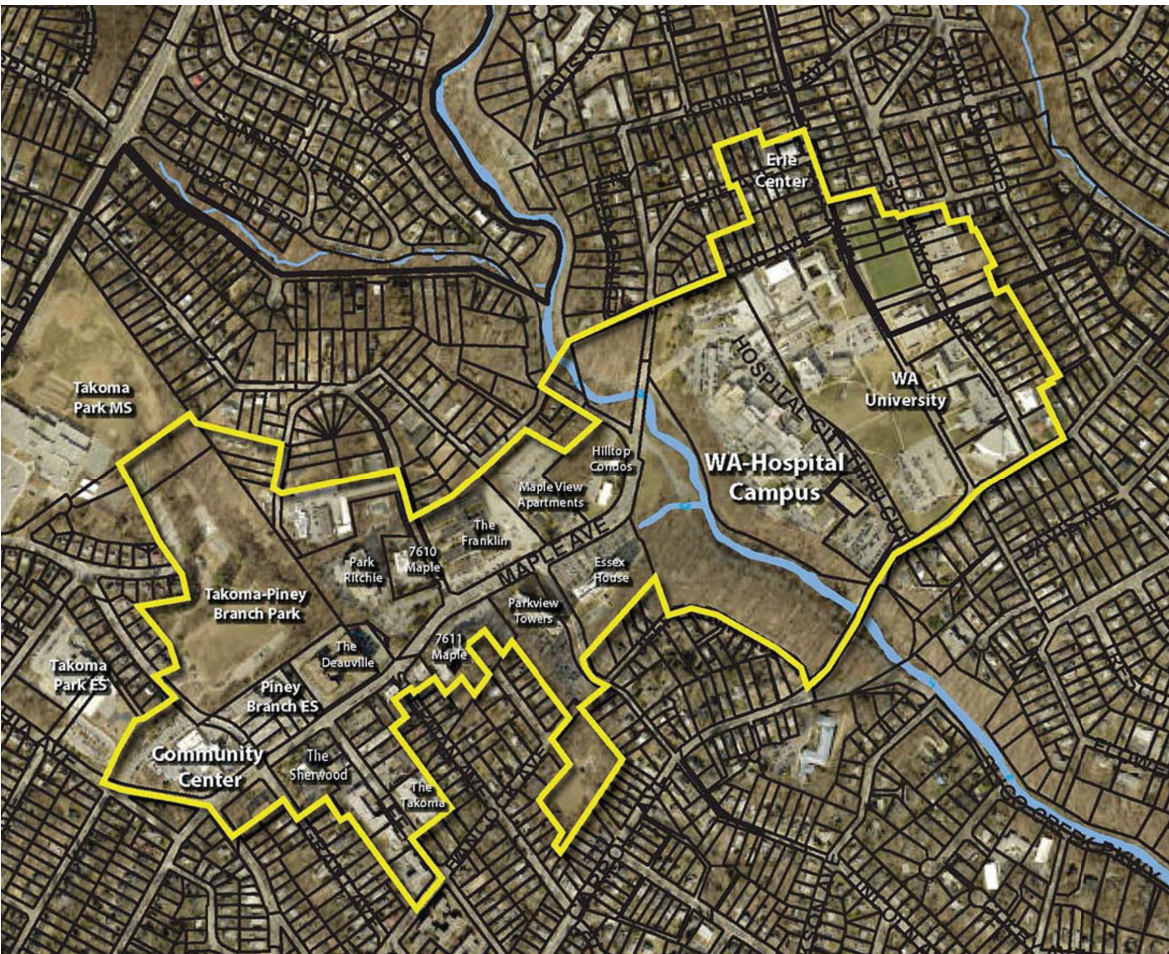
Montgomery County Planning Board Schedules a Minor Master Plan Hearing for September 14

**By Alexander Freedman,
Takoma Park City Planner**

The relocation of the Washington Adventist Hospital to White Oak, has given Takoma Park an opportunity. To address next steps for hospital property and the surrounding area, Montgomery Planning, in partnership with the City of Takoma Park, is revisiting the area to update related portions of the 2000 Takoma Park Master Plan—with the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment.

The amendment will re-envision the campuses of Washington Adventist Hospital and Washington Adventist University, the Erie Center, and the area along Maple Avenue to the Community Center. The planning teams intend to work with community members throughout the planning process to create a roadmap for the development and the community resources this area might provide in coming years.

These areas are not owned by the City of Takoma Park. Zoning decisions about allowed and preferred uses for this land are set by Montgomery County. However, residents of the city and the Takoma Park City Council have a role in expressing their zoning preferences as the amendment to the Master Plan develops.



This map shows the footprint for the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan amendment.

In early June, the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment hit some milestones in its years-long development process. The City Council passed a resolution

on June 8 in support of the working draft of the plan. The following day, the Montgomery County Planning Board set the hearing date for the next draft (known as

the *hearing draft*) to be reviewed by the Planning Board on September 14 at 6 p.m.

The public hearing will take place at the 2nd floor auditorium of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission headquarters in Wheaton (2425 Reedy Dr., 14th Floor, Wheaton, MD 20902). It will also be livestreamed through the Planning Board's website and at the City of Takoma Park's Community Center for the public to watch and provide testimony.

This plan is still a long way from completion. Throughout the summer and extending into the fall, the Planning Board will conduct working sessions at which they will negotiate and refine many of the working draft recommendations. These will be followed by a set of public hearings and votes by the Planning Board before the updated draft goes to the County Council for a public hearing and vote of approval.

For residents looking to share comments or testimony on the working draft, the most effective method is to send that feedback directly to the Planning Board. This assures that the testimony ends up on the record and must be responded to by staff.

To stay up to date on upcoming events and updates, visit the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan page on the city website.

Mosquitoes Suck!

Make It Harder for Them to Breed


**By Rick Baravechia'
Code Enforcement Manager**

Mosquitoes are a persistent irritant and threat during Takoma Park summers. They can squeeze through one-quarter-inch openings. They can smell standing water over long distances. And just one bottle cap of stagnant water is enough for them to breed.

This means that they have many microhabitats around your home where they may live and breed. Here is a checklist of many known mosquito breeding sites—in alphabetical order: bamboo pole openings; bird baths; buckets; cans; clogged gutters; corrugated downspout

pipes; flower pots; garden tools; (stagnant) fountains; furniture; pet water bowls; planting boxes with water reservoirs at the bottom; (improperly maintained) pools; pop-up drain emitters; pot saucers, puddles and wet soil around leaking faucets, hoses, and air-conditioning systems; rain barrels; sagging covers of any kind; tires; toys; trash cans; water catch-basins; and wheelbarrows.

Check your garden for these possible mosquito breeding sites. Get rid of breeding sites and reduce mosquito populations, eliminating the need to use pesticides.





TAKOMA PARK YOUTH COUNCIL

Call for Youth Council Applications

The City Council is now seeking applicants for the 2023-2024 Takoma Park Youth Council. The 11-member Youth Council is open to youth in grades 7-12. Complete information and the application form are now available at takomaparkmd.gov. Please apply by July 14.



Photo by Eric Bond

Megan and Matt Bormet are opening People's Book this summer on Westmoreland Ave., featuring books and literary events for all ages.

Summer Reading: Takoma Park Bookstores Break the Ice

By Eric Bond

In a 1904 letter to a childhood friend, Franz Kafka reflected on a massive tome that he had just finished reading and wrote that "[a] book must be the axe for the frozen sea inside us."

With a new bookstore, People's Book, opening on Westmoreland Ave., the number of ice axes are increasing in Takoma Park.

People's Book joins HouseMouse Books and Vintage as a destination for bibliophiles young, old, and in-between. (And let's not forget the Little Free Libraries that dot the community or the Takoma Park, Md., Library, temporarily relocated to New Hampshire Ave.)

Megan and Matt Bormet, the couple behind People's Book, chose that name as an allusion to People's Drug, the local drugstore chain of bygone D.C. With plans to open by July, People's Book is located between the House of Musical Traditions and the Takoma Radio studio at the head of Westmoreland Ave.

The Bormets have a love of books and bookstores, going back to their childhoods. Matt grew up in Portland, Oregon, where he took a 45-minute bus trip twice a month to Powell's City of Books, the flagship independent bookstore of the Pacific Northwest.

"It was very much worth it to go hang

The ARTS

Concrete Is the Page

As new sidewalks are built, more poems are being pressed in fresh concrete across Takoma Park in a sidewalk poetry program celebrating the creativity of local poets of all ages.

The City's Arts and Humanities Division began the project in 2021 with a poetry contest—10 children and 10 adults were selected as winners from more than 150 entries. Each winner received a \$100 prize and an opportunity to have their original poem stamped into a sidewalk.

Ten of the 20 poems have been stamped so far, including three new poems on Kentland and Larch Aves. near the New Hampshire Ave. intersection. A poem by David Alberto Fernandez was stamped in both Spanish and English outside the Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School at 1010 Larch Ave. Poems by local residents Veronica Jackson and 10-year-old Graham Gould have also been stamped in the neighborhood.

Fernandez said he was honored to see his poem immortalized in concrete in both Spanish and English.

"There is something pleasant and unexpected in having words greet you on the ground and seeing a physical manifestation of a poem meeting you along the road," he said. "With sidewalk poetry, concrete is the page."

You can find all of the sidewalk poems using an online map at bit.ly/sidewalkpoetrymap. The map includes photos and icons marking the locations of the poems along a looping route that travels past many popular locales, including Old Takoma, Opal Daniels Park, Sligo Creek Trail, and Adven-

tist University.

"We thought the map would be a fun way to highlight our sidewalk poems and encourage people to get outside and walk or bike around town," says Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith. "It's exciting to see poetry by local residents in unusual locations that are literally underfoot. Don't forget to look down when you're walking around town."

Takoma Park has the only sidewalk poetry program in the D.C. area. The project was inspired by a similar program started by artist Marcus Young with Public Art Saint Paul in St. Paul, Minn.

Using large custom-made metal plates with raised letters, City public works crews press the poems into wet concrete during new sidewalk construction or sidewalk repairs. More poems will be stamped as sidewalk work continues this year. You can read all of the winning poems at bit.ly/sidewalkpoetrywinners.

This project is part of the City's *Public Art Works* initiative which incorporates public art into public works projects as a means of installing public art across the city in an equitable manner.

"It's rare to be able to add an artistic touch to basic concrete so we are happy to participate," says Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite. "The thoughtful and playful sentiments expressed in the poems will have a long life in our sidewalks."



David Alberto Fernandez with his sidewalk poem



Graham Gould



Veronica Jackson



Takoma Park News

Send submissions to: Editor: Eric Bond • editorbond@gmail.com | Assistant Editor: Sean Gossard • TPNewsEditor@takomaparkmd.gov
Questions: Donna Wright Communications Manager • donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov | Eric Bond • editorbond@gmail.com
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.

RECREATION

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

YOUTH

CAMP



Dance Camp

Children will learn basic dance skills, rhythm, musicality and improvisation—with a focus on choreography, ballet, modern dance, and hip-hop. Instructors will focus on building self-esteem and personal creativity and gaining confidence in the craft of dance. In addition, 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.
6-12 years
2 Week Sessions
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Session 1: July 17-July 28
Session 2: July 31-August 11
Resident: \$295 / Non-resident: \$325

Before Care: 7-9 a.m.
After Care: 4-6 p.m.
Resident: \$90 / Non-resident: \$110 per session

TEENS

CAMP

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.
4 Weeks
July 3-July 28
(No Camp July 4)
Resident: \$150 / Non-Resident: \$170



ADULT

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 jump-start your memories, organize your ideas and edit your work. Prepare to have fun! Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt

Virtual
16 & 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 & up
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
July 11-August 24
Resident: \$105 / Non-Resident: \$125
Drop-in: \$10

Ker De Zuri DanXercise, 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 & up
9 Week Session
Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.
July 6-August 31
Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70
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 & up
9 Week Session
Saturdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m.
July 1-August 26
Resident: \$100 / Non-resident: \$110
Drop-in: \$10

SPORTS



After Hours Basketball

This program will provide a drop-in service for the teens and young adults ages 16 - 24. The Recreation Department is partnering with the Takoma Park Police Department to offer basketball on Tuesday and Thursday nights over the course of the summer. We are looking to provide safe but fun activities for the young adults in our community as well as build the relationship between the community and the Takoma Park Police Department. Instructor: Greg Harris

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
16-24 years
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 9-11 p.m.
July 6-August 17
Free

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
\$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.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ EXTENDED CARE

Registration is open for School Year 2023-2024

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

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

Programs operate when Montgomery County Public Schools are 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.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Before the Bell & After the Bell

Transportation will not be provided through the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Please contact Montgomery County Public School Transportation at 301-840-8130 to change your bus route to Hampshire Towers. Recreation Department staff will wait with children at the bus stop

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Morning Addition is full, add your child to the waiting list!

Morning Addition & Afternoon Addition

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

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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

RECREATION

RECREATION

■ From page 6

*Virtual option also available!
55 & up
Fridays, 10-11 a.m.
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 & up
Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.
July 11 - August 15
\$6

Rhythmic Drumming

Cardio Fitness Drumming lets the rhythmic beat move you through tapping and drumstick clapping while standing, and/or sitting to exercise your mind and body. No drumming experience required. Instructor: Dance Solutions
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Back Activity Room
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
55 & up
Tuesdays, 1:15-2:15 p.m.
July 11-August 15

\$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 well-being. No experience needed. Students must bring their own yoga mats. Instructor: Sarita Lama
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
55 & up
Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m.
July 11-August 15
\$6

Yoga for Healthy Aging

This class helps build strength, endurance, flexibility, and range-of-motion, while improving posture and balance. Yoga aids in preventing/reversing bone loss related to osteoporosis using seated, standing, and floor poses and through breathing and relaxation techniques. 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 & up
Fridays, 12-1 p.m.
July 14-August 18
\$6

SPORTS / CAMP

Pickleball 55+ Summer Camp for Beginners

Do you feel left out of the fun and what 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 on-line or in person. Space is limited, 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 & 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

SPECIAL EVENT

Please join us for Takoma Park's
4th of July celebration!
There will be a parade, music,
food, and entertainment.
The 4th of July Parade will begin at 10 a.m.
at Takoma Junction,
with Congressman Jamie Raskin
serving as the grand marshal.



Q&A with Zumba Instructor, Yesika Flores

Yesika Flores has been teaching Zumba Gold, a class for residents aged 55 and older, with the Takoma Park Recreation Department for seven years. This summer, she is adding an additional Zumba class for all adults on Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. at the Takoma Park Recreation Center.

Yesika showcased her skills and led a free demonstration at our annual Fitness Expo in April. During the Expo you could easily see Yesika's passion for fitness and why her students are so enthusiastic about her class. Stop by the Recreation Center on a Saturday morning to meet her in person!

Where did you get your interest in fitness?

I have always been interested in fitness since I was a kid. However, when I became a mother, I joined a gym and fell in love with Zumba.

How long have you been teaching Zumba?

I became a Zumba Instructor on November 8, 2008, and have been loving teaching ever since! Wow, I can't believe it's almost 16 years.

Why do you think it is important for people to work out?

Any type of exercise is important; it helps with improving your mental and physical health. Dancing helps with improved energy, a better mood, and lowered stress.



Yesika Flores

What do you hope people will take away from your class?

I love teaching and do it from the heart. I love seeing my students learning to move easier and see their mood change. They will leave the class feeling accomplished, less stressed, and happy.

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

Their faces tell the story. I see it in their faces and their energy levels are very high. I work hard on turning class into their HAPPY HOUR.

What other hobbies or interests do you have besides fitness?

I love cooking for my family and friends. Guatemalan food is my favorite to cook. Every Sunday afternoon I like to prepare meals for the week.

What should students bring with them to your Zumba class?

Students should bring a water bottle, positive vibes, their smiles, energy of course, and an open mind to learn new things.

Yesika will be teaching Zumba classes throughout the year, check out ActiveNet (case sensitive: bit.ly/TPRDActiveNet) for the next available class.



LIBRARY

Library Calendar

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 July 4 for Independence Day.

Our address is 7505 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 205. 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 now optional in City facilities.

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

Programs & Events

NEW! Art Appreciation MOOC (adult program). 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 study Art Appreciation using the Great Courses, available on Hoopla and Kanopy: "How to Look at and Understand Great Art." Email Anne LeVeque at annel@takomaparkmd.gov to join. The Library will hold MOOC sessions on Sundays at noon through August.

SummerQuest: The World Tree. Get ready for the latest adventure! 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.

Crochet and Cozies (adult program). Join us at 10:30 on Monday mornings for crochet and cozy mysteries. Bring your hooks and yarn. Don't have any? We'll find some for you. A beginner? You'll find help. Knitters and loom knitters, please join us. Registration is optional, but it does allow us to contact you if necessary.

Neighborhood Circle Time. Join Ms. Kati and/or Ms. Verónica every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. for Circle Time, indoors in our interim 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 July 11.

Canta Juego: Spanish Circle time every Thursday at 10:30 am via Zoom! Join the fun at our weekly Zoom Spanish Circle Time, led by Señora Geiza. In this 30-minute program, kids and adults can sing songs and do rhymes and movement exercises in Spanish. To participate, go to 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. In August Canta Juego will return in-person in the interim library.

Tableros: Board Games/Juegos de mesa. Several board games for all ages will be available for play at the Library. Play your favorite games and discover new ones! In person at our interim location, Wednesdays from 4 to 6 p.m.

Chess for Kids. Sundays at 11 a.m. Kids and caregivers are invited to play. Bring a chessboard and pieces, if possible. Players of all levels are welcome.

Lego Club. Come in and play with Legos! Sunday, July 9 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Kids' Art. Make a craft with us on Sunday, July 16, 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 11:00 a.m., in-person at the Crossroads Farmers Market.

Sketch Club. Join Dave on Thursdays at 4 p.m. for Sketch Club, now in-person only at 7505 New Hampshire Ave. the interim library location. This is a mostly unstructured, self-guided class. Kids who like to draw can hang out and work on whatever they feel like drawing.

All-ages Sketch Club at Night. Mondays from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. The popular weekly sketch club makes time in the evening to allow for 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.

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

Author Event! Patricia Tanumihardja. Join us on Wednesday, July 12 at 6 p.m. to meet Patricia Tanumihardja as she introduces her debut picture book: *Ramen for Everyone!* In-Person at the library's interim location, 7505 New Hampshire Ave. Sponsored by Politics & Prose.

Listen to this!

by Jessica Jones

Welcome to Night Vale by Joseph Fink and Jeffrey Cranor.

Do you love surreal, nonsensical, end-less narratives? *Welcome to Night Vale* might be for you. It's really weird. Also,



librarians are wraiths that haunt the very dangerous Night Vale Public Library. There are also some books that complement this podcast that will help you catch up on the story-lines if you want to dive deep. The Library has *Welcome to Night Vale: A Novel*, by the aforementioned Joseph Fink and Jeffrey Cranor. Found wherever you get your podcasts.

PODCAST



REVIEW



ChatGPT for You

By Phil Shapiro

One interesting use of ChatGPT is for English language learners. ChatGPT can help you write a business letter if you tell it the aim (goal) of the letter. For example, a parent of a school-aged child might ask ChatGPT, "Write a letter to a school principal asking how I can find help for my child struggling with math." A parent could also ask ChatGPT, "List 15 ways for me to get involved in my school's PTA."

Naturally, it pays to read carefully what ChatGPT writes. Some of it may not be true, but my experience so far is that ChatGPT can be a useful tool for writing assistance—and for learning English writing skills. For those

who might be interested, my own ChatGPT explorations, involving creative writing, are collected together on a website at philshapirochatgptexplorations.blogspot.com.

I am also concerned about the dangers of artificial intelligence and am happy to speak about that topic with community members who visit our library. I work at the library Mondays through Fridays. For our community to succeed, we need to have frequent conversations about the promise and perils of new technologies. Collectively, we can reach some wisdom on this. Be cautious and skeptical, but also keep an open mind. We can learn much from each other.

Gritty Lit

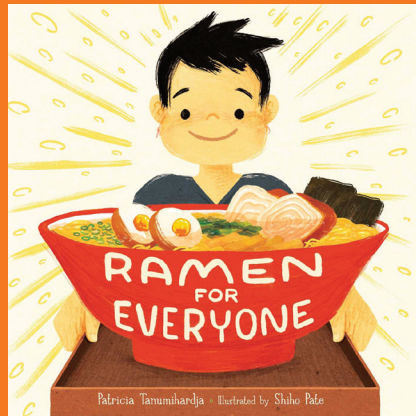
Reminder: the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library is discussing its July selection, *True Grit* by Charles Portis, on Thursday, July 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the interim location of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, 7505 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 205.



Takoma Park
Maryland
Library

Meet the Author!

Wednesday, July 12 | 6:00 PM
Library (7505 New Hampshire Ave Suite 205)



PATRICIA TANUMIHARDJA
Children's Author



Free event. Book sale and signing to follow!

Look Up! Summer Stargazing

by Jessica Jones

Every 11 years, the sun completes a solar cycle, during which its north and south poles switch. Accompanying this change is a peak of solar activity, which means more chances to see the aurora borealis, also known as the northern lights. Summer 2025 is the expected peak of the current solar cycle, and we have already been seeing



Here’s a photo I took of the aurora in April, from a lookout at Shenandoah National Park. It was bright enough to capture with my phone!

some pretty big flares. Did you know that the aurora was visible as far south as Shenandoah a couple of times this spring? There were events on March 24 and April 23 that represent some of the most significant activity so far in Solar Cycle 25. Summer is also right in the middle of the timeframe when the Milky Way is more clearly visible, roughly February through October. Some things to consider if you want to go stargazing:

- **Light pollution:** The less light pollution, the better. Light pollution is why you can see more stars in rural areas than in the city. Cities mean more population density and more lights at night. One nearby place to visit is the Green Bank Observatory in West Virginia, home of the Green Bank Telescope, a massive radio telescope surrounded by a large area of radio silence—you will have no cellphone service there. Pocahontas and Greenbrier Counties, West Virginia, both have designated **dark zones** for stargazing.

- **Humidity:** Less humidity means less haze, which means less light distortion and clearer skies.
- **Altitude:** The higher up you are, the less atmosphere the starlight has to pass through to reach you.
- **Clouds and other atmospheric occlusions:** Clouds are annoyingly opaque (translucent at best), so cloudy nights are not great for stargazing. Make sure to check the forecast to see if or when you can expect cloud cover in your chosen observation area. Smoke is another occlusion that can prevent you from seeing stars, so keeping an eye on forest fires is also important. Smoke can travel surprisingly far, so it’s not just local wooded areas that you might want to check. When my husband and I were living in Santa Fe, New Mexico, it once rained ash that had traveled through atmospheric air currents from southern Arizona. And we are all now sadly familiar with the smoke that came from the wildfires in Quebec smothering the northeastern

United States last month.

- **Moon phase:** The moon is surprisingly bright when your eyes have a chance to adjust to the night. New moons mean brighter stars. In July, the new (dark) moon occurs on the 17th, so the days around that date will offer the best views. This year, the Perseid meteor shower in August will take place with very little moonlight, just a sliver of a waning crescent at the shower’s peak on August 13. If it’s a clear night, you can even see the Perseids in Takoma Park!

We have many books and resources at the Library for stargazing - here are just a few:

Stars & Planets: A Viewer’s Guide, by Gounter D. Roth

Stars and Planets, by Ian Ridpath, with star charts from the Royal Greenwich Observatory

A Field Guide to the Stars and Planets, by Jay M. Pasachoff;

And we have many kids’ books on astronomy and stargazing in the J520s.



Más de 700 libros nuevos en español disponibles en la biblioteca

por Verónica Rivera-Negrón

Con ayuda del COVID Relief Fund 2022 de la Asociación de Bibliotecas de los Estados Unidos (ALA, por sus siglas en inglés), la biblioteca obtuvo materiales nuevos y desarrolló iniciativas para atender a los hispanohablantes de nuestra comunidad. Adquirimos más de 700 libros en español para niños, jóvenes y adultos. Además de trabajar con proveedores convencionales—es decir, aquellos de donde las bibliotecas regularmente compran libros—la beca nos permitió trabajar con algunos espacios independientes, como:

- Buscalibre (Librería en línea de títulos importados en español)
- Céspedes Libros (Librería en Buenos Aires, Argentina)
- Libros 787 (Librería en línea con sede en Puerto Rico)


Conseguimos varios títulos publicados originalmente (y algunos exclusivamente) en español. La mayoría han sido importados de países como Argentina, Colombia, España, México y Puerto Rico. Así, hemos comenzado a crear una colección diversa y con perspectivas internacionales. Producto de nuestra relación con librerías independientes, varios de nuestros nuevos títulos

son únicos en el área metropolitana de Washington, D.C. Nos enorgullecemos del esfuerzo realizado. Somos una pequeña biblioteca municipal e independiente que tiene la capacidad de brindar servicios que complementan lo que otros sistemas de bibliotecas del área ofrecen. También usamos parte de la beca para desarrollar dos iniciativas nuevas y comprar equipo que nos permitirá llevar la biblioteca más allá de sus cuatro paredes. La primera iniciativa fue una serie de talleres en español para tutores o guardianes en la escuela primaria Rolling Terrace. Melissa Strova-Valencia (Fundadora de TELAS Colectivo Teatral) y yo co-facilitamos tres sesiones sobre cómo hacer la lectura más divertida. En éstos compartimos herramientas teatrales para apoyar la alfabetización en más de un idioma. Los asistentes a los talleres fueron reclutados en colaboración con el personal administrativo. La segunda iniciativa la llamamos El Cuento. Los participantes disfrutaron de un juego de Lotería y escuchan un libro en español leído en voz alta. Quienes facilitan estas actividades son voluntarios. Recibimos 20 solicitudes de voluntarios-facilitadores, his-

panohablantes de la comunidad. Actualmente, 8 voluntarios-facilitadores están activos. Esto significa que completaron la capacitación y están facilitando el programa, el cual se ofrece cada dos sábados (abril-noviembre 2023). Gracias a la beca, los voluntarios-facilitadores recibieron:


- Capacitación bilingüe (inglés-español) por parte de profesionales de programas públicos.
- Almuerzo en los días en que el entrenamiento duró más de tres horas.
- Todos los materiales.

Finalmente, parte de la beca se utilizó para comprar equipo con el que se aumenta la visibilidad de la biblioteca en espacios comunitarios. Cabe destacar el hecho de que, por primera vez, la biblioteca tiene una carpa y manteles con logo. Este verano, utilizaremos estos materiales para que la biblioteca tenga una estación en Crossroads Farmers Market, donde el 79% de los visitantes son hispanohablantes, según una encuesta realizada en 2022 por los organizadores. ¡Takoma Park Maryland Library y sus aliados agradecen a la Asociación de Bibliotecas de los Estados Unidos y al Comité del COVID Relief Fund por apoyar nuestro trabajo!





LIBRARY @ CROSSROADS

June 21
July 19
August 16



Crossroads Farmers Market



tinyurl.com/TkPkLibPrograms

Crossroads Farmers Market is located on Anne St. at University Blvd. East in Takoma Park, MD, one block west of New Hampshire Ave. (next to Mega Mart).

At Your SERVICE



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department
www.tpvfd.org

Be a Cool Cat this Summer

Extreme summer heat is increasing in the United States. Climate projections indicate that extreme heat events will be more frequent and intense in coming decades. However, some heat-related illness and death risks have diminished in recent decades, possibly due to better forecasting, heat-health early warning systems. Despite this, extreme heat events remain a cause of preventable death nationwide. Did you know in the United States, each year, on average

- **702** heat-related deaths occur.
- There are **67,512** heat-related emergency department visits.
- **9,235** people are hospitalized because of heat.

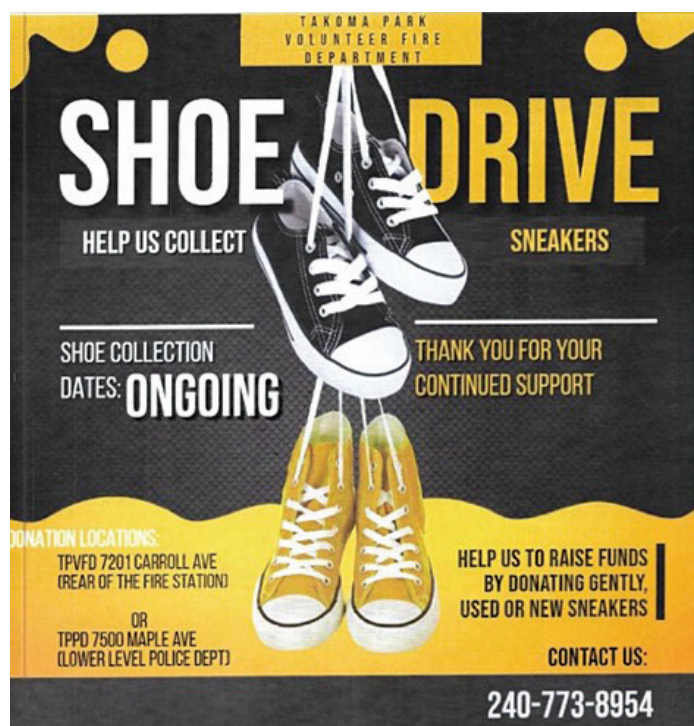
Death rates are noted to rise during and after heat waves, resulting from

- heat stroke and related conditions,
- cardiovascular disease,
- respiratory disease, and
- cerebrovascular disease.

Hot weather is associated with an increase in heat-related illnesses, including cardiovascular and respiratory complications, renal failure, electrolyte imbalance, kidney stones, negative impacts on fetal health, and preterm birth.

Anyone can be at risk to the health effects of heat, but some are more vulnerable, including pregnant women, people with heart or lung conditions, young children, older adults, athletes, and outdoor workers. Additionally, urban heat islands, combined with an aging population and increased urbanization, are projected to increase the vulnerability of urban populations to heat-related health impacts in the future.

Source: United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



A Checklist for Your Summer Vacation

By Claudine Schweber
Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair

Your bags are packed; you're ready to go. Before you lock your door and head out, review your vacation readiness checklist.

Prepare Your Home

- ❑ Contact the Takoma Park Police Department (301-270-1100) so that it can do a vacant house check (for single-family residences only, 4-30 days).
- ❑ Tell a trusted neighbor or loved one where you can be reached in case of flooding, burglary, street damage, or other difficulties.
- ❑ If you have pets that remain home, arrange for their care and make sure the caretaker knows how to reach you and the vet.
- ❑ If you have a security service, let it know that someone will be coming for mail, to feed pets, etc. (And provide information about the security service for anyone who may be checking on your home—with your permission.)
- ❑ Set the home environment to have a continually lived-in look (for example, light timers in various rooms).
- ❑ Ask someone to take in your mail, newspapers, and packages—or stop deliveries.

Prepare for Travel

- ❑ Check the weather forecast of your destination.
- ❑ Make a list of important numbers, allergies, and special conditions to share with medical personnel, police, rescue units or other emergency workers in your vacation location.
- ❑ Pack extra medications and special items you

may need if you are stuck somewhere. Have a list of prescriptions and any relevant prescription information.

- ❑ Check that your insurance will be accepted at your new location.
- ❑ Prepare for situations when you may not have cell phone coverage (such as hiking). Identify escape routes and set a gathering spot in case members of your group are separated.
- ❑ If you are driving, make sure that you have enough supplies and emergency items if the car breaks down or there's a road emergency that delays you?
- ❑ Pack working flashlights and extra batteries and a fully charged portable cell phone charger.
- ❑ Check your car insurance and make sure that you have a plan for towing.
- ❑ If you are traveling with small children, pack extra water, baby food, snacks, change of clothes, and toys.
- ❑ And finally, don't forget to create a vacation music mix. Mine begins with Seals and Croft's "Summer Breeze."

It's easy to contact the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee: tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126. Send me your preparedness questions. And listen to Talk of Takoma at 2 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month on WOWD-LP Takoma Park (94.3 FM, takomaradio.org) where I give advice from my alter-ego, Bea(trice) Prepared.



Police Report

Deter Theft: Mark Your Stuff

Did you know that Takoma Park Police have an engraver for marking your valuables? Find out how to check it out by searching on *engrave your valuables* on the City website (takomaparkmd.gov).

Do Not Leave Pets in Hot Cars!

They Can Die in Minutes

Each year, thousands of beloved companions succumb to heatstroke and suffocation when they are left in parked cars. It happens most often when people make quick stops—the dry cleaners, the bank, or the local market. Please be advised that it takes only minutes for your pet to face death—and it doesn't have to be that hot out. On an 85-degree day, it only takes 10 minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102 degrees, even with the windows cracked. Within 30 minutes, a car's interior can reach 120 degrees. When the temperature outside is a pleasant 70 degrees, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter.

Shade offers little protection on a hot day and moves with the sun. ALL pets are at risk, but at the most risk for hyperthermia (overheating) are young animals, elderly animals, overweight animals, those with short muzzles, and those with thick or dark-colored coats.

You can save lives.

- **Don't gamble on your pet's life.** No matter how much your dog loves to go along when you run errands, don't take a chance. Leave your pet home where it is safe.
- **Educate other.** Tell your friends with pets about the danger of leaving them in a car.
- **Speak for pets in cars.** If you see a dog alone in a vehicle, immediately call animal control or 911. Local law officials have the ability to enter

a vehicle and rescue the pet. Do not leave until help has arrived.

If your dog is overcome by the heat, bring down the body temperature by soaking him or her in cool (not ice) water. Make sure the water does not get into the mouth or nose of an unconscious animal. Seek immediate veterinary care.

Your Sneakers Can Take the Next Step

Used Shoe Collection

Not sure what to do with all those unwanted sneakers? Clean out your closet and head over to the Takoma Park Police Department lobby (7500 Maple Ave.) where you can drop them in a bin. Takoma Park Police have partnered up with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department to recycle used sneakers.

Most people throw away their used sneakers without a second thought. Recycling and reusing sneakers keeps them out of landfills, reduces the need for manufacturing new shoes and sneakers, and supports a growing circular economy.

The process of manufacturing sneakers produces large amounts of CO₂, which contributes to the serious effects of global warming. And since sneakers are manufactured with materials that are not biodegradable, when they are thrown in the trash, they remain in landfills or are incinerated, releasing toxic chemicals into our soil and air. The environmental benefits of recycling and reusing sneakers are significant.

All proceeds will go to the volunteer fire department. Ask your neighbors, friends, co-workers, school clubs, church, and anyone in your social network to help.

POLICE REPORT □ Page 11

PRIORITIES

■ From page 1

- residents experience a sense of belonging.
2. **Fiscally Sustainable Government**
- Establish the City’s long-term fiscal sustainability strategy.
 - Explore expanding City revenue options to identify long-term solutions necessary to diversify the City’s revenue streams.
 - Explore ways to provide a more equitable property tax assessment system including providing property tax adjustments to residents in need.
 - Continue to build on improvements in the budget process, presentation of budget information, and communication to residents.

3. **Environmentally Sustainable Community**
- Climate Change Mitigation: Work towards net-zero greenhouse gas emissions goal by 2035.
 - Climate Change Resilience: Improve our ability to adapt and be resilient to local impacts of climate change.
 - Manage our Community’s Natural Resources Sustainably: Protect, maintain, and improve the health of our urban forest, natural resources, and water quality, with an emphasis on equity.
4. **Engaged, Responsive, Service-oriented Government**
- Hire and onboard a new City Manager.

- Advance City communications with residents and adopt innovative, culturally appropriate initiatives to improve public engagement and collaboration with residents, particularly with residents who may face barriers to participating in municipal government activities and community affairs.
- Improve policies and processes to enhance resident interaction with the City government and the Council, including requests for government services, complaint systems, and code enforcement.
- Review and reform the City’s approach to public safety to ensure racial justice and work toward a safer, more livable community for all residents.
- Improve service delivery and reduce administrative burden by updating internal policies, IT infrastructure

- and software to support staff in doing their jobs
5. **Community Development for an Improved and Equitable Quality of Life**
- Ensure that a range of safe, high quality, affordable, green and energy efficient housing options are equitably available in neighborhoods throughout the community.
 - Improve transportation planning, design, and implementation to create a safer, more environmentally sustainable and more racially and economically equitable community for all residents, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicle occupants.
 - Plan and prepare for development in the City and region while maintaining the special character and economic and racial diversity of Takoma Park.

TAX

■ From page 1

During this process, the council cut or re-allocated \$513,021 in general fund operating expenditures and \$363,373 in equipment replacement reserve expenditures. These adjustments included delaying the replacement of aging city vehicles, instituting a six-month hiring freeze for certain vacant positions, and reallocating city project matching funds from the general fund to the City’s balance of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (from the American Rescue Plan or ARPA). The council also expanded the city’s part-time grant coordinator to full-time, increased the tax rebate incentive, and utilized additional ARPA funds to help improve city communications through funding the purchase of new bulletin boards for city lands.

Overall, the FY24 budget begins to meet city leadership’s goals of 1) maintaining historic levels of government services in a fiscal climate of high inflationary impacts on the costs of goods and services; 2) leveraging the City’s \$17.5m in ARPA funds to expand community and social services funding and to smooth property tax increases by funding one-time expenditures; and 3) making

incremental investments to improve the city’s long-term financial health.

The FY24 budget includes the continuation of redevelopment projects regarding the library, the Community Center on Maple Ave., and the Recreation Center on the New Hampshire Ave. The budget also advances a mental health counselor pilot program with the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, which will employ two mental health counselors to respond to residents suffering from mental health crises; it creates a staff data analyst position to improve data driven policy decisions within the community; and it adds \$800,000 to the city’s reserve balance from a \$200,000 reimbursement from the state to the city’s Housing Reserve Fund, a \$50,000 contribution to the Emergency Reserve, and \$550,000 to the Equipment Replacement Reserve.

Over the next two months, city staff will be finalizing the FY24 Budget Book, which will be able to be picked up at the Takoma Park Community Center. For more information on the budget and the FY24 budget process, please visit the Finance page on the City’s website: takomaparkmd.gov/government/finance.

POLICE REPORT

■ From page 10

Cool Drinks for Cool Kids

Takoma Park Police Partner with 7-Eleven for Operation Chill

The Takoma Park Police Department is proud to again partner with 7-Eleven for *Operation Chill*, a program that aims to reduce crime and build rapport between kids and law enforcement. Takoma Park Police patrol officers will be handing out Slurpee vouchers to youngsters they see exhibiting good citizenship. Action that may earn a voucher include helping another person, deterring crime, practicing safety (for example, 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. This is a way to encourage dialogue in a non-threatening, non-law enforcement situation. 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!

We Care About Residents Every Day

Sign Up for a Regular Check-in

With summer come storms that sometimes knock out power, with potentially life-threatening consequences for vulnerable people. The Takoma Park police can do a wellness check on you or a loved one every day through the CARE program (Caring About Residents Every Day). This is a year-round program, though summer may be a good time to start the daily check-in. For information and to register yourself or a loved one, visit the City website and search for “Caring About Residents Everyday.”

Avoid a Fine

ALL Fireworks Are Illegal in Montgomery County, Maryland

Ahead of Independence Day, the Takoma Park Police Department reminds residents that ALL fireworks, including sparklers, are illegal. Private use and possession of fireworks, including sparklers, carries a \$500 fine. Selling fireworks in Maryland carries a \$1,000 fine. Every year thousands of Americans are maimed by fireworks. Stay safe and save your money.

BOOKSTORES

■ From page 4

out on Burnside St. and wander through the halls of Powell’s and find those independent zines and books that sort of made me who I am today,” says Matt, now a progressive lobbyist. “We certainly don’t have the space that Powell’s does, but if we can provide 10 percent of that experience and help mold people’s view of the world, that would be a real joy for us.”

On her part, Megan, an educator, fondly recalls Montague Bookmill in Amherst, Massachusetts, her childhood hometown. In fact, Matt and Megan held the rehearsal dinner for their wedding at the Bookmill. (It is no surprise, then, that they tied the knot at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art.)

“[Montague Bookmill] is my favorite place in the entire world,” says Megan. “It’s on a rushing river. If you go there in the fall, which is when we got married, the leaves are turning and falling into the water, and there are comfy chairs at every little window. They have new books, and they have used books, and they have little nooks and corners. It’s just my favorite place in the whole world.”

“We’re hoping to have that same kind of charm and sense of community,” says Megan.

Speaking of charm and community,

booklovers will find both above the former Mark’s Kitchen. HouseMouse Books and Vintage, which opened in December 2022, is a cozy space with everything from texts on beekeeping to well-read novels to beloved children’s books. Orly Keiner, the proprietor, opened HouseMouse during a sabbatical from her work as international policy analyst.

“I knew that I wanted to get away from kind of the big world of relations between states and focus on something local,” says Orly. “I happened to really love the place where we live, Takoma Park, and I wanted to get more involved in things that I care about here locally.”

“I just love used bookstores,” says Orly. “I love shopping in them, and I wanted one to exist here. So I hooked up with the people at Old Fox Books in Annapolis, which is my favorite bookstore. And those amazing ladies showed me how it’s done.”

For a 170-square-foot shop, we try to be fairly general purpose,” she says. “A section could be two shelves. For example, we have two shelves of poetry, two shelves of science fiction, two shelves of mystery. We have a fairly large fiction section by our standards—a full bookcase. We’ve got history, geography, books about the history of this area and the natural world of this area. And then, science and nature.”

Orly sees People’s Book as a partner with HouseMouse in supplying local household

with a variety of books that will be treasured and passed down to future generations.

“Takoma’s a place that can handle two bookstores, easily, she says. “So I’m really excited for the energy that they’re going to bring to the readers of Takoma Park.”

While People’s Book will keep regular retail hours, HouseMouse is a shop for weekend literary excursions—Fridays for after-dinner shopping and all day Saturday and Sunday.

“That leaves me time during the week to find all the treasures,” says Orly. “There’s just a huge number of places that I source books from, and that’s sort of the magic. You just never know what you’re going to find, so there’s a large amount of serendipity in setting up the shop every week.

“Part of the joy of this for me is [that] I go out and try to find what I think people will like. Seeing people find a particular book that they connect with—maybe it’s a book that has the exact cover that they remember from childhood, or maybe it’s a book by an author that they love—that’s the whole other side of the experience that I just get to watch and witness. And that’s a lot of fun for me,” says Orly.

And then there’s the vintage. Among the books, browsers will also encounter previously owned pocketknives, aged keys, and tins for cough drops: “Everyday objects that were made in an unusual shape or a

particularly stylish way, not just for their function, but also because they were beautiful,” explains Orly. “I think the principle of reuse is really important. One of the things that led me to establish this particular type of business is that I think it’s really interesting to bring objects that have served their lives in another context to a place where people can find them and love them again.”

Orly sees books—products of the Gutenberg revolution—as havens from the ubiquitous screens that dominate our lives.

“A physical book is a beautiful thing and can have a really profound effect on our modern lives because it forces you to carve out time and prioritize,” she explains. “Especially for children, there’s just no substitute. I feel so strongly about the need for children to hold physical books in their hands.”

“This is certainly a sentiment shared down the block at People’s Book, where Matt and Megan have been opening boxes of books throughout the month of June and, with the help of a new staff, placing them on shelves.

Matt, says that People’s Book will provide an experience where people can escape the algorithms telling them what they should buy, what they should read: “I find that dystopian and terrifying. I would prefer another human being help me with that

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)
Historic Takoma, 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. Reading Room hours will be 1 – 4 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month. historictakoma.org

Docs In Progress

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

People's Book Club

7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

First Fridays, 10 – 11 a.m.

It's often hard to fit books into our busy, distracted lives. Luckily, we're experiencing a renaissance of the novella, and many of the best ones can be read in one sitting. This is a group for readers who believe short books can still have a big impact. Typically meets the first Friday morning of each month.

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 livestreamed 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.

Correspond with Incarcerated Artists

The 1st and 3rd Monday of each month from 6-8 p.m.
7112 Willow Ave.

Join The Justice Arts Coalition in gathering bi-monthly to respond to recently received art and mail from incarcerated artists in JAC's network. All materials, directions for the letters, and music will be provided. Pre-registration encouraged. Reach out to ava@thejusticeartscoalition.org with any questions.

Takoma Jazz

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

Weekly jazz at Takoma Station Tavern, hosted by Jazz Kitchen Productions. For the schedule, check the website: jkproductions.org.

Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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 Park Independence Day

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 Takoma Park 4th of July Parade begins at 10 a.m. and lasts about 90 minutes. 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 & Ethan Allen Aves., travels south on Carroll Ave., turns right on Maple Ave., and continues to Ritchie Ave. Visit TakomaPark4th.org to learn more.

City Assistance Opportunity: Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Program

Monday, July 24 and August 9, 1 – 3 p.m.
Online

The City will be hosting two webinars on the program on July 24 and August 9. Register for the Webinar at <https://tinyurl.com/yb9x7jjc>.

National Night Out Community Policing Event

Tuesday, August 1, 6 - 9 p.m.
Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Ave.

The City's National Night Out Against Crime observance takes place every year on the first Tuesday in August. National Night Out is held by individual communities to demonstrate their commitment to

being partners in the fight against crime. National Night Out Against Crime is designed to heighten awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit, and enhance police-community relations.

Takoma Park Folk Festival

Sunday, September 10, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School and Lee Jordan Field

The 2023 Takoma Park Folk Festival (TPFF) is presenting an in-person festival with multiple music stages and craft vendors. New ideas and planning volunteers are needed to continue this great festival in the early fall. They especially need people to work on the following teams: Publicity, Groundskeeping, Community Tables, Food, Volunteer Management, and Fundraising. Bring your spirit and energy to TPFF to help make this your festival. For more information about volunteering or about the festival, contact info@tpff.org.

People's Book Opening in Takoma Park

7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

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

BOOKSTORE

■ From page 11

task. I think what we'll be successful if you come in and find something interesting that you didn't know existed or that you didn't know you wanted, and you'll leave happy that you left with it."

Unlike HouseMouse, People's Book will focus on new books (in the sense of not previously owned), from classic children's books to new releases to zines—covering an array of genres and topics. The shop will host book clubs, author readings, and other book-related events throughout the year. In July, Amy Brady, the author of the nonfiction book *Ice: From Mixed Drinks to Skating Rinks*, will be speaking

Megan, Matt, and Orly offer a few suggestions for Takoma Park readers looking for a summer book. Megan hearkens to a childhood favorite, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, by Wilson Rawls, an introspective coming-of-age novel about a country boy and his relationship with his hunting dogs. Matt suggests *Mason and Dixon* a postmodern novel by Thomas Pynchon about surveyors Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon,

who established the infamous line between North and South. And Orly recommends Mikhail Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*, a Soviet-era satirical novel about bureaucracy, religion, and a whole lot more, which was banned by Josef Stalin.

"A book is a portal into someone else's mind, right?" asks Orly, rhetorically. "You see a world through the eyes of someone else. I find it so enriching to shut out the rest of all the things we have going on and just invest in a story, invest in seeing the world a little bit differently for a couple hours or days or however long it takes you to get through it."

People's Book is located at 7014 Westmoreland Ave., Suite A. Find out about hours and events and subscribe to the People's Book newsletter by visiting peoplesbooktakoma.com. Follow on social media: @peoplesbooktakoma.

HouseMouse Books and Vintage is located at 7006 Carroll Ave. #203. It is open 5 - 8 p.m. on Fridays; 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. on Saturdays, and 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Sundays. Follow HouseMouse on Instagram: @housemousebooksvintage.



Photo by Eric Bond

Orly Keiner runs HouseMouse Books and Vintage, a cozy nook above the former Mark's Kitchen on Carroll Ave.