



# Takoma Park News



September 2023

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 62, No. 9 ■ [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov)

## Important Dates

### Holiday Closings

City offices and facilities are closed on the following dates:

**Labor Day:** Sunday, September 3 and Monday, September 4  
*Trash, recycling, and yard waste collection is canceled.*

**Thanksgiving:** Thursday and Friday, November 23-24

*Thursday trash, food waste, and recycling routes will be collected on Wednesday. Friday trash, food waste, and recycling routes will be collected on Saturday.*

### Public Meetings and Webinars

#### Minor Master Plan Amendment Public Hearing

Thursday, September 14, 6 p.m.

**In person:** Montgomery Planning Wheaton Headquarters 2nd floor Auditorium (2425 Reedie Dr., Wheaton, MD 20902)

**Remotely:** Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912)

**Virtually:** <https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/meetings/watch-online/>

*Note: You must sign up to testify.*

### Community Events

#### Takoma Park Folk Festival

Sunday, September 10

Takoma Park Middle School and Lee Jordan Field

#### Takoma Park Street Festival

Sunday, October 1, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Old Takoma on Carroll Ave.

#### Faith & Blue Unite: Building Bridges with LEGO Bricks for a Stronger Community

Saturday, October 7, 2-5 p.m.

Corner of Maple Ave. and Sligo Creek Pkwy.

#### Monster Bash

Saturday, October 28, 1 p.m.

Takoma Park Middle School

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

Check our website frequently for updates.

## Improving the Maple Avenue Mile

### Connectivity Project Aims for a More People-Friendly Thoroughfare

The Maple Avenue Connectivity Project intends to redesign the roadway on Maple Avenue to prioritize the safety, comfort, and convenience of adults and children who walk, ride bikes and scooters, and take transit. In the process, we hope that it will make driving a car safer, too!

Maple Avenue is one of the most diverse roadways in the city. The one-mile corridor from the D.C. border to Sligo Creek Park traverses three wards, past some of the most expensive single-family homes and some of the densest, most affordable apartment buildings. Along the route, there is a public elementary school, a church, senior living services, public parks, the city services contained in the Community Center (library, city offices, recreation spaces, and the police department), and local retail shops. And the route is a vital transportation connection for public transit riders, hundreds of students and families walking to school, and bicycle commuters and recreationalists accessing the Sligo Creek Trail.

Many people use Maple Avenue in a wide range of ways every day. City staff also regularly hear about how unsafe walkers, bikers, riders, and drivers feel on Maple Avenue. And it's no wonder! The southern section of Maple Avenue is narrow and steep, while the northern section has lanes that are wider than on a freeway, with gaping intersections designed for moving cars through the area as quickly as possible, at the expense of everyone else.



Maple Avenue between Sligo Creek and the Municipal Building now prioritizes automobiles. The section from the Municipal Building to the D.C. line is narrow and steep. Both sections could be friendlier to pedestrians and bicyclists. The Maple Avenue Connectivity Project will explore how to make this vital thoroughfare more inviting to people who walk or bike.

This fall, the Maple Avenue Connectivity Project, a reboot of a past project, will re-evaluate past preliminary designs for the roadway. This will involve a series of pop-up workshops along the corridor, focus groups, and a large format community meeting to gather input from residents who live the experience of Maple Avenue every day. We need your input! That will

be transformed into a new design, and the project will continue the feedback-design loop until we are able to develop final designs by fall 2024.

To find the schedule of community pop-ups, as well as information about the project and how to sign up for regular project updates, visit the project website: [bit.ly/MapleAvenueConnectivity](http://bit.ly/MapleAvenueConnectivity).

## What Are Your Priorities for Our Public Space?

Public spaces are an important part of what makes Takoma Park so great. Residents travel, recreate, and connect with one another in and along the City's parks, playgrounds, sidewalks, roadways, street-eries, trails, and plazas.



Sligo Creek Park is one of Takoma Park's most treasured amenities.

This fall, the City Council will consider the adoption of a new Public Space Management Plan. The purpose of this plan is to take the patchwork of policies and

practices that govern how the City manages its public spaces and create a comprehensive framework.

**PUBLIC SPACE** □ Page 16



Mayor & Council  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Takoma Park, MD 20912

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# On the DOCKET

## CITY COUNCIL

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly City 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, you must register by 5 p.m. on the meeting date. You do not need to register to comment in person.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday, September 6: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, September 13: City Council Regular Meeting, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, September 20: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, September 27: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, October 4: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium

## CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Check the calendar on the City website for the most up to date information, including links to access meetings and agendas. Visit [takomaparkmd.gov](http://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 virtually).

### ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 14, 7:30 p.m.

### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, September 14, 7:30 p.m.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 21, 7 p.m. (hybrid: in-person and virtual)

### ETHICS COMMISSION

Tuesday, September 26, 6:30 p.m. (virtual)

### GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 12, 6:30 p.m.

### POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, September 18, 7 p.m. (hybrid: in-person and virtual)

### POLICE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 12, 9:30 a.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room)

### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 21, 7 p.m. (virtual)

### SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND CERTIFIED COMMITTEE

Monday, September 11, 7 p.m.

### 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](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

## Resident Vacancy on the Police Employees' Retirement Plan Committee

The Takoma Park Police Employees' Retirement Plan Committee has an opening for a Takoma Park resident to serve as a voting member of the Committee. The Committee serves as the pension board for the City's police retirement plan. It consists of seven members: the city manager, the city 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 the city clerk, at 301-891-7267 or [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) for additional information or to apply.

## CouncilAction

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

### July 26, 2023

- **Ordinance 2023-17** amending Takoma Park Code Chapter 6.16 Landlord-Tenant Relations and 6.36 Unsafe Buildings – Public Nuisance Abatement was voted on at first reading. The ordinance is intended to clarify and strengthen the protections for tenants displaced through fire and other structural failures. Second reading was delayed until September to enable additional notice to landlords and tenants regarding the proposed ordinance.
- **Ordinance 2023-20** authorized execution of a contract with Ministries United Silver Spring Takoma Park (MUSST) to administer the Rental Housing Program and Emergency Assistance Program.
- **Resolution 2023-18** affirmed David Eubanks as the Acting City Manager for the City of Takoma Park in Lieu of Hiring an Interim City Manager. Mr. Eubanks will serve as Acting City Manager until such time as his appointment is rescinded and/or superseded by future action of the Council. His annual salary will be \$210,000.
- **Resolution 2023-19** designated David Eubanks as the City's resident agent for service of process.
- **Resolution 2023-20** supported the Benefit Corporation for Africa Forum, scheduled to take place in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium on November 11, 2023. The Council waived fees for the rental of the Auditorium and for staff support during the event. (Councilmember Honzak abstained.)

### August 2, 2023

- **Ordinance 2023-18** approved FY24 Stormwater Management Budget Amendment No. 1. (First reading was held on July 26.)
- **Ordinance 2023-19** approved FY24 Budget Amendment No. 1. (First reading was held on July 26.)

- **Ordinance 2023-21** authorized execution of a contract for an Executive Search Firm to administer the recruitment for a new City Manager. The firm's cost is expected to be \$20,500 which includes all fees except third-party advertising fees (0-\$2,500), recruitment costs (not to exceed \$1,500), and travel expenses for candidates as needed. (Councilmember Small abstained.)
- **Resolution 2023-21** established the City Council's Goals and Priorities for the City Manager: 1) respect and work collaboratively with the City Council and city staff to achieve community goals and priorities; 2) be community focused and embrace Takoma Park's unique culture; 3) manage day-to-day city operations to ensure the future success of the community as a whole; 4) be an empowering staff leader and effective team builder and serve as a fiscally prudent financial manager for the long term; 5) engage staff, City Council, other elected officials, and members of the community, and understand the importance of consensus and healthy debate, and of transparency in decision-making; 6) be innovative, grounded in best practices, and foster new ideas to solve challenging problems; and, 7) collaborate with government, private, nonprofit, community, and educational partners to achieve our community goals.
- **Resolution 2023-22** provided for the City Council Summer Recess (August 3 – September 6).
- **Resolution 2023-23** appointed Joshua Vickery (non-resident) and reappointed Jose Luis Diaz (Ward 2) and Rick Henry (Ward 3).
- **Resolution 2023-24** reappointed Ben Bellows (Ward 3), Mathew Ling (Ward 2), and Joseph Goldman (Ward 1) to the Board of Elections.
- **Resolution 2023-25** reappointed Scott Gilmore (Ward 5), Michale Shands (Ward 3), Samuel Bryson (Ward 3), and Jeffrey Hopkins (Ward 3) to the

*Continued on page 3*

## Apply to Serve on City Boards and Committees

The City Council welcomes residents with all different types of experience and knowledge to apply to serve on boards and committees. 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 participate.

City boards and committees are appointed by and report to the City Council and focus on a particular priority area. Meetings are open to the public and residents are welcome to observe anytime.

Appointed board and committee members are eligible to receive \$40 for each

meeting attended.

To apply, go to <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/>.

The City Council is accepting applications for boards and committees on a rolling basis but makes appointments only in January and June (or thereabouts). The next appointments will likely be made in January. Now is the time to sit in on meetings, ask questions, and learn about responsibilities and benefits of serving your community.

Questions? Contact the city clerk at [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267.

# Building COMMUNITY

## It's Happening! Library Renovation!



## Takoma Park Maryland Library Construction Parking Plan

### What you need to know

Takoma Park's library renovation expected to begin in mid-September. Regular project updates will be provided to schools throughout the project via email and the City's website, [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov).

**Parking at the Community Center will be very limited.** Please consider walking or taking public transportation to the Community Center when possible. Please refer to the map.

- A new student drop-off and pick-up plus short-term parking of 15 minutes has been designated at the front of the building on Maple Avenue.
- New parking spots have been assigned for Handicap Accessibility to the Community Center building.
- Short-term parking spots have been allocated in the parking lot of the Community Center for services such as passports and notary.

### Safe Routes to School: Walk and Roll!

The increase in car trips to schools increases traffic congestion and creates gridlock near school drop-off and pick-up lines. This often fuels aggressive driving by drivers stuck in these traffic jams. More delays should be expected with the library construction added to the mix. Ease the strain by considering walking and biking to school, which promotes these benefits:

- Supports physical and mental health
- Improves personal and road safety
- Improves air quality and lowers the risk of lung and heart diseases
- Improves academic performance and life skills
- Builds stronger communities and households

For more information on the library construction and how it will affect your route to school, contact Safe Routes Coordinator Kaysi-Ann Webley at [kaysiw@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:kaysiw@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7232.



**LEGEND**

- Short-Term Patron Parking (Until 6:00 pm)
- Pick-up/Drop-off Zones
- Accessible Parking
- No Parking

**Resources to stay up to date**  
 web: [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov)  
 X @TakomaParkMD  
 f City of Takoma Park, MD - Municipal Government  
 @takomaparkmd

## Notice of Final Regulation—Outdoor Cafe Permits

The July 2023 issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter included notice of the City's intention to amend the Outdoor Cafe Permit Regulation (2018-1), which 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 notice was published in accordance with the requirements of the Administra-

tive Regulations Ordinance (Authority: *Chapter 2.12, Administrative Regulations, of the Takoma Park Code*) to allow the public the opportunity review and comment on the proposal. This notice is to inform the public that the final regulation will become effective on October 1, 2023. Regulation 2023-2 will now supersede the prior regulation (2018-1).

## 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:

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## David Eubanks Appointed as Acting City Manager

On July 26, the Takoma Park City Council appointed David Eubanks as the Acting City Manager as the search for a new City Manager continues. Andrew Bolduc has been appointed as the Acting Deputy City Manager. Mr. Eubanks joined the City of Takoma Park in 2021 as the Deputy Director of Public Works and has most recently been the Director of Housing and Community Development. Previously, Mr. Eubanks was a project manager at the NHP Foundation, the mission of which is to preserve affordable housing.



David Eubanks

### COUNCIL ACTION

■ From page 2

- Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs.
- **Resolution 2023-26** appointed Benjamin Glickstein (Ward 1) and Claire Huson (Ward 2) and reappointed Chris Beck (Ward 2), Diane Cherry (Ward 5), and Frank Disimino (Ward 4) to the Emergency Preparedness Committee.
- **Resolution 2023-27** reappointed Lucy Moore (Ward 3), Mike Schoenke (Ward 3), Jim Sebastian (Ward 1), Mark Swartz (Ward 1), and Louise Klees-Wallace (Ward 5) to the Grants Review

Committee.

- **Resolution 2023-28** appointed Alan Kahn (Ward 4) and Thomas Radman (Ward 2) and reappointed Michael Asrat (Ward 2), Mackenzie Brown (Ward 3), and Ellen Marcus (Ward 2) to the Recreation and Community Engagement Committee.
- **Resolution 2023-29** appointed Emanuel Wagner (Ward 2) and Jeremy Schwartz (Ward 3), and reappointed Diana Picon Manyari (Ward 3) to the Sustainable Maryland Committee.
- **Resolution 2023-30** reappointed Xavier (Blake) Sparrow (Ward 3) to the Tree Commission.



## Understand the Minor Master Plan Amendment

In Montgomery County, a master plan creates a comprehensive view of land use trends and future development for a community, like the 2000 Takoma Park Master Plan. These plans make recommendations related to land uses, zoning, transportation, schools, parks, and community and public facilities, and they address housing, historic preservation, pedestrian and trail systems, and environmental issues.

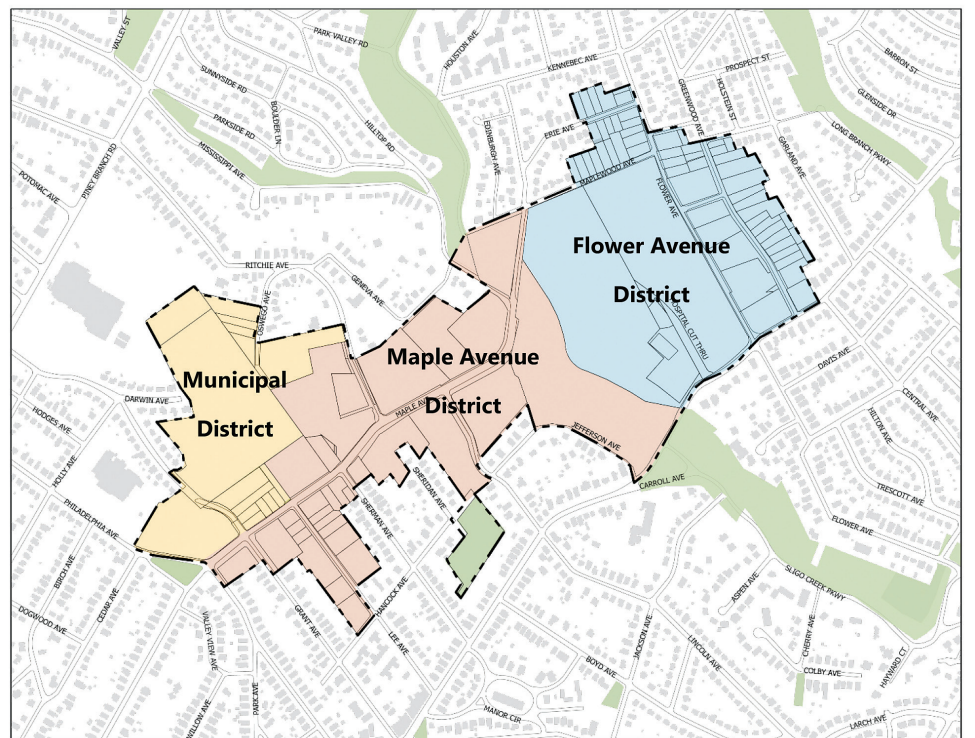
The proposed Minor Master Plan Amendment, developed in coordination with City Planning staff, is meant to address the need to develop the former Washington Adventist site, while synthesizing the housing and business goals outlined in the City's 2019 Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan in the area around the hospital site and along Maple Ave. to the Municipal Building.

The plan is meant to encourage reinvestment and reimagining of underutilized parcels and properties along Maple and Lee Aves., the Erie Center and the Washington Adventist Hospital and University campuses, as well as surrounding areas. This

is the vision outlined in the Public Hearing Draft:

- **A vibrant, mixed-income community** where the housing stock, open spaces, and mix of uses meet the needs of an economically, socially, and racially diverse population.
- **Safe, healthy, and convenient connectivity** within and between the plan's districts, and to high-capacity transit beyond the plan area, the existing trail network, and nearby activity centers.
- **Climate-forward planning and design** to address the impact of climate change.
- **Implementing a green promenade** to provide a green, efficient, and attractive pedestrian connection through the plan area.
- **Protected historic resources** and community history to promote a unique sense of place.

You can read more about the Minor Master Plan Amendment, including the complete draft plan, on the City website, [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) (search for "minor master plan").



The Minor Master Plan Amendment is segmented into three districts: Municipal, Maple Avenue, and Flower Avenue.

## How Does This Plan Address Takoma Park's Commitment to Affordable Housing?

The Minor Master Plan Amendment recommends preserving and improving existing affordable housing in the area while supporting the creation of a diversity of new market-rate and affordable housing. The Plan proposes the increase of affordable housing opportunities and sets the benchmark of no net loss of affordable housing.

The Minor Master Plan is built on the goals of Thrive Montgomery 2050, which strive to make housing more affordable and attainable both through new construction and preservation. The Plan proposes new zoning for Maple Avenue from Philadelphia Avenue to Maplewood Avenue. The purpose of the new zoning is to clean up old zoning that is obsolete, to make existing buildings compliant with zoning laws, and to allow for a mix of both commercial and residential uses.

### A Snapshot of Existing Housing

The current zoning in the Maple Avenue District is predominantly residential, with an overlay zone which allows for small amounts of retail. Most of the Maple Avenue properties are zoned R-10, the densest residential zone, and a few are R-20, moderately dense residential. Under current zoning, in an R-10 district, multi-unit properties may be redeveloped under the standard method to a maximum height of 100 feet. Generally, every 10 feet of height represents a story in a building. Currently, several of the largest buildings in the Maple Avenue District are 12 stories high. The tallest building is 17 stories. Most of the buildings were constructed in the 1950s and 1960s.

There are approximately 1,260 housing units in the Maple Avenue District; condominiums make up 16 percent of the units; approximately 40 percent are market rate rental units governed by the City's rent stabilization laws; and 44 percent are affordable rental units, also known as "deed restricted subsidized housing," managed by nonprofit housing providers.

The existence of Takoma Park's rent stabilization ordinance has succeeded in preserving highly affordable rents in the City when compared to the broader Washington Metro region.

### Regional Median Monthly Rents

DC Metro Area	Montgomery County	City of Takoma Park
\$1,783	\$1,844	\$1,198

Source: American Community Survey (ACS) and the City of Takoma Park's rental licensing data



Photo by Sam Kittner

Most of the current housing in the Maple Avenue District falls far below market rates for Montgomery County. The Minor Master Plan Amendment proposes an increase in affordable housing opportunities and sets a benchmark of no net loss of affordable housing.

### How Does the Minor Master Plan Amendment Intersect with Takoma Park's Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan?

In the Washington area, there is a shortage of housing. Takoma Park generally has two types of housing available: affordable apartments or single-family housing, which in today's market is out of reach of younger or lower income residents. The Takoma Park Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan has informed the Minor Master Plan Amendment process. The Strategic Plan was passed by the Takoma Park City Council in 2019 with the following goals:

- to preserve existing businesses and affordable housing in Takoma Park, including in revitalizing areas;
- to produce more housing and opportunities for businesses to start and grow across the income spectrum and in neighborhoods across the City to meet the diverse housing and economic needs; and
- to protect renters, homeowners, and local businesses

from discrimination and displacement; and protect our environment from destruction.

The following objectives are listed in the Strategic Plan, with the aim of producing more housing and business opportunities:

- Increase the number of units and variety of housing types across the affordability spectrum that are attractive to a diverse demographic and do not result in economically segregated communities or increase existing economic segregation.
- Encourage the construction of new moderate and higher density infill commercial, residential, and mixed-use development and redevelopment, consistent with the recommendations of the City's Sustainability and Climate Action Plan.

The draft Minor Master Plan echoes these objectives in its recommendations for housing production, affordable

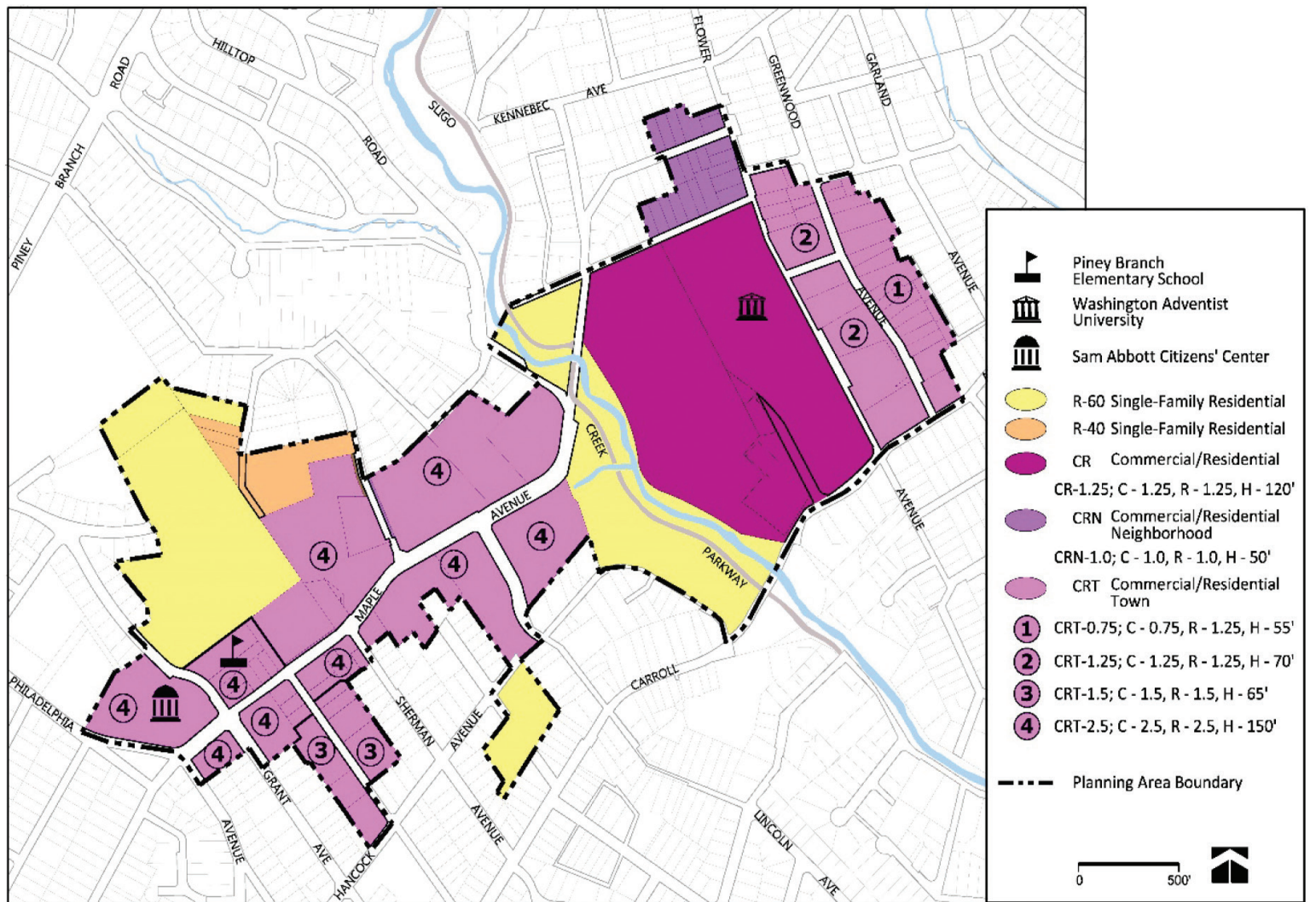


# Minor Master Plan Amendment

## How Much Density and Height Will This Plan Allow?

The Minor Master Plan defines the limits of site areas through a push-and-pull between height limit and floor area ratio (density). No site would be permitted to be developed on the entire site area to the maximum height limit. It might be taller and take up less of the site footprint. Or it might be shorter and cover more area. Requirements for a green cover minimum (35%), excluding existing forest cover, will also impact the allowable building footprint and height for multiple properties. In addition, the zoning would change (in most cases) from residential to mixed use—the CR set of zones, meaning commercial/residential—to encourage a mix of housing and retail. **To understand the zoning designations, refer to the map on the right and the FAR and density explanations on the next page.**

This is the proposed zoning in the draft Minor Master Plan Amendment. Read below for an explanation of the language. Each zoning color tells what type of zoning (for example, CRT stands for commercial/residential town). The first number refers to the density (see the explanation of FAR, below), followed by the specific density according to use (C being commercial and R being residential). The final number is the maximum permitted height.



## Minor Master Plan Amendment FAQs

As community members familiarize themselves with the draft Minor Master Plan Amendment, city staff are receiving questions about details of the plan and their impacts. Here is a selection of some commonly asked questions:

### If I live in an area that gets rezoned, will I be forced to change anything about my property?

No. The adoption of the Minor Master Plan Amendment will not force anyone to sell, give up, or change a property that they already own. Over time, based on nearby development, there may be impacts on assessed property value (likely increase), but how an owner chooses to keep, develop, or sell their property will remain up to them.

### Have Washington Adventist Healthcare and Washington Adventist University been involved in the planning process to date?

Yes. The Montgomery Planning team was in regular conversation with both Washington Adventist University and Washington Adventist Health through the duration of the process, including monthly coordination meetings. Both organizations are stakeholders in the process, but do not drive the planning process; all stakeholders are taken into account.

### Will the green space at the corner of Maple Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway, next to Essex House, be developed?

No. The green space being discussed is owned by Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) and is treated as a part of Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park. The Minor Master Plan Amendment recognizes the



Photo by Sam Kittner

Sligo Creek is a key environmental resource that the Minor Master Plan Amendment aims to enhance through improvements to stormwater management and greenspace.

green space as a conserved area important for stormwater management. There is a recommendation to “address failing outfall infrastructure and unstable banks at Brashear’s Run where the stream daylights on parkland” (See page 87 of the draft plan). There are no recommendations for new building structures of any kind to be built on the parcel.

### What will the influence of the MMPA’s recommendation of a green promenade be with the Maple Avenue Connectivity Project?

The Maple Avenue Connectivity Project is already in the design stage, ahead of

the Minor Master Plan approval. However, the Minor Master Plan was developed with the awareness that the Maple Avenue project is underway and deliberately leaves room and flexibility for the development of the project, without points of conflict.

### Will the county conduct a climate assessment, and when does that happen?

As required by Bill 3-22, approved by the County Council in July 2022, Montgomery Planning staff will prepare a climate assessment for the Planning Board draft of the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment that will be transmitted to the County Council, hopefully lat-

er this year. The document will be publicly available at that time.

### The next step of this process is for the County Planning Board to set up work sessions; what is the purpose of these, how is a given topic selected and by whom?

Maryland law requires Montgomery County Planning to conduct a “comprehensive review” of the numerous aspects related to land development (e.g., land use, environment, transportation, schools, and more) before zoning can be changed for a defined Plan Area.

As also required by the law, the Planning Board must hold a public hearing on the public hearing draft plan to receive public comment. Oral testimony provided at the public hearing and written testimony provided to the Planning Board within the designated timeframe collectively constitute the public record for the plan.

The purpose of work sessions is for the Planning Board to discuss the comments received on the public record and determine if zoning, text, or other changes are needed to the public hearing draft plan. After reviewing the public record, Montgomery Planning staff will schedule work sessions during the Planning Board’s regular meetings, with recommended topics to discuss at each. The Planning Board ultimately determines the topics to be addressed at a work session.

For more answers to frequently asked questions, check out the series of informational blog posts shared on the Minor Master Plan Amendment project page on the City website: takomaparkmd.gov.



FAR	0.25	0.5	1	1.5	2
<b>COVERAGE</b>					
<b>25%</b>					
<b>50%</b>	N/A				
<b>100%</b>	N/A	N/A			

The Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is the relationship between the amount of allowable floor space in a proposed building (gross floor coverage area) and the total size of the piece of land being built upon. For example, a 100,000 square foot property with 1.0 FAR would allow a building with 100,000 square feet of floor area, divided among all the floors of the building, up to the allowable height. The table above illustrates how FAR can affect surface coverage.

## Floor Area Ratio (FAR)

The zoning for a property sets parameters for how much building can be built on that land. One important piece of that equation is the Floor Area Ratio (FAR). FAR determines a site's allowed development as a ratio of building area over buildable lot area. The bulk allowed by FAR can be configured in different ways. Conceptually, for example, a FAR of 1 would allow a one-story building that covers the entire property area or a two-story building that covers half the lot or a three-story building that covers a third of the lot.

In urban areas, FARs tend to be high, around 6 or 7 in downtown Washington and around 19 or 20 in midtown Manhattan. The FAR in the draft Minor Master Plan Amendment ranges from .75 to 2.5. This designation means that any building that is built to the highest maximum height would occupy a relatively small portion of the property. Conversely, it would allow for the building to occupy a larger percentage of the site at

a lower height. This plan would not allow for tall buildings to occupy the entire footprint of a property.

FAR allows a great variety of building designs but can't address the details of setbacks (the required distance from the lot lines for a building), build-to lines, and human-scale features like windows, doors, and materials. The configuration of a lot and the natural features such as topography, trees, stream buffers will all influence the shape and design of a building. FAR controls bulk, but the character of a street comes from the fine grain. Any project would go through a review process to evaluate how well the project meets the design requirements and development goals of the City and county.

## Commercial/Residential (CR)

The Draft Minor Master Plan Amendment proposes the implementation of a few new zoning types for this area of the city. The commercial/residential (CR) zones belong to

CR ZONES □ Page 16

# Share Your Thoughts on the Minor Master Plan Amendment

You can provide feedback on the draft plan recommendations to the Planning Board at the public hearing on **Thursday, September 14 at 6 p.m.** in the Montgomery Planning Wheaton Headquarters 2nd floor Auditorium (2425 Reedy Dr., Wheaton, MD 20902), as well as virtually through the Planning Board's website. An additional remote location for the public hearing will be at the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912).

Use this website to Sign up to testify either in person or online: [bit.ly/mmp-signup](http://bit.ly/mmp-signup).

The Planning Board and its staff encourage you to be part of the public hearing. Translation and interpretive services are available upon request. If you want to tes-

tify at the public hearing's livestream at the Takoma Park Community Center, you must follow the same procedure and sign up to testify. For additional questions pertaining to the Takoma Park remote location please contact Rosalind Grigsby, City of Takoma Park community development manager, at 301-891-7205 or at [rosalindg@takomarkmd.gov](mailto:rosalindg@takomarkmd.gov).

The Public Hearing Draft Plan and Appendix are available online: [bit.ly/46ZdyCy](http://bit.ly/46ZdyCy).

Additionally, hard copies are at the Takoma Park Maryland Public Library, 7505 New Hampshire Ave.

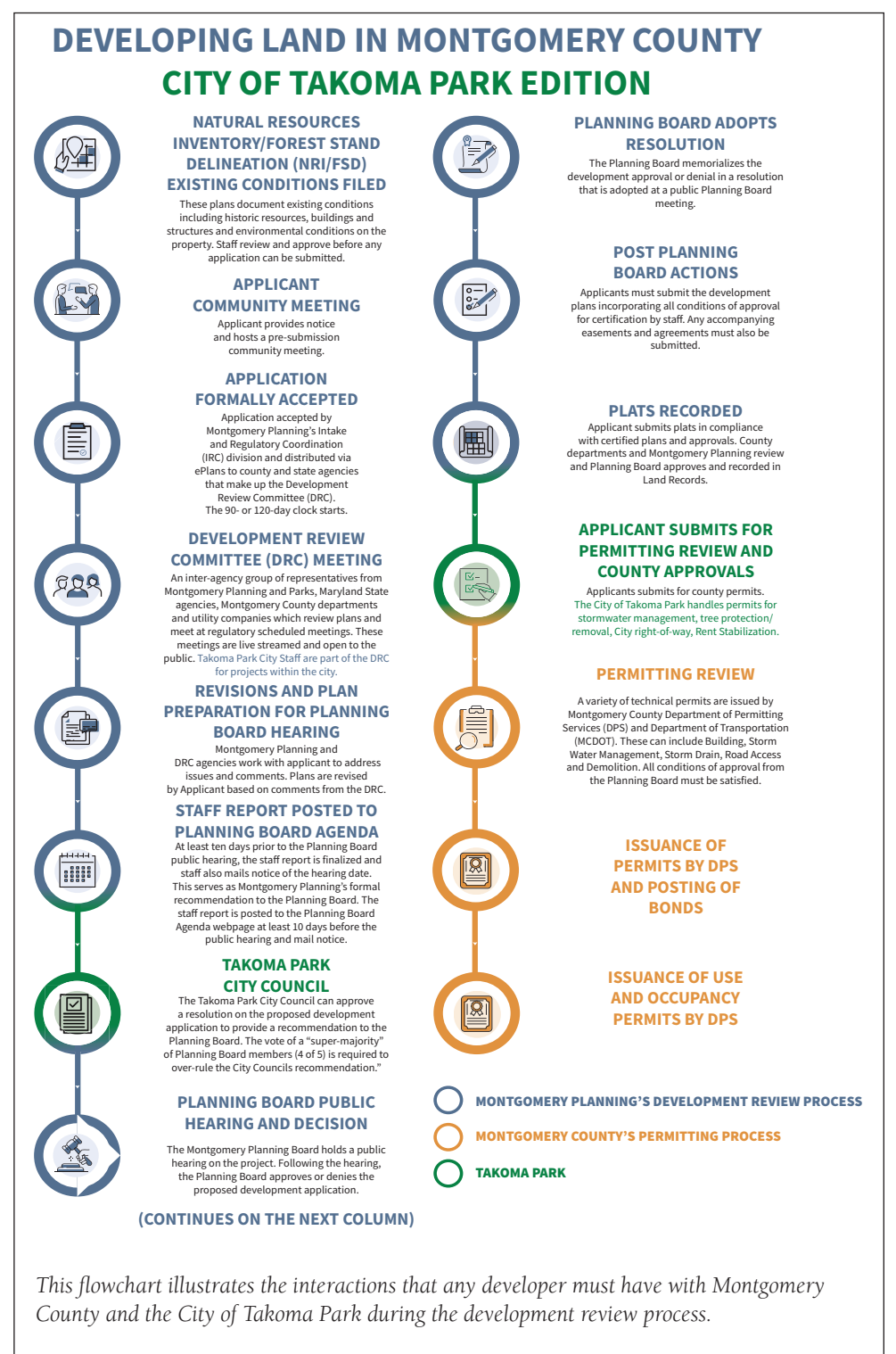
If you have any questions, reach out to Melissa Williams at 301-495-4642 or via e-mail at [melissa.williams@montgomery-planning.org](mailto:melissa.williams@montgomery-planning.org).

# What Control Will the City and County Have Regarding Future Development Projects?

A Master Plan (and this Minor Master Plan Amendment) provides a framework for individual projects that still must go through normal review processes prior to putting any shovel to the ground. Plan recommendations, improvements, and amenities are implemented in one of two ways: private development or public capital projects. These public amenities can include open space, public facilities, and more, as well as improvements to sidewalks, sewers and utilities, bike lanes, and roadways along the property frontage.

These amenities and improvements are implemented on a project-by-project basis through the public development review process. The flow chart below outlines the

review and engagement process that any development plan must follow to meet the policies established by Montgomery County and the City of Takoma Park. In addition to the county's analyses and requirements that come during the development review process, the City's stormwater management and tree protection policies also would be triggered. Each proposed project would be required to show detailed plans for how they plan to manage stormwater run-off on the site and maximize protections for trees. A project that does not adequately address the requirements from both the county and the City would not be approved for construction.



## HOUSING

■ From page 4

housing production, and preservation of housing and affordability:

- **Support a creative diversity of housing options** including personal living quarters and/or micro units; "missing middle" housing types such as tiny houses, cottages, duplexes, townhomes, multiplexes, and small apartment buildings; shared housing, cooperative housing, co-housing, live-work units, and acces-

sory dwelling units (ADUs), to help meet housing needs and diversify housing options.

- **Provide financial and other incentives to boost housing production for market rate and affordable housing**, especially near transit and in Complete Communities.
- Strive to increase the quality and quantity of housing units in new housing developments that are **accessible to people with disabilities and older adults**.



# Clear the Path for Young Scholars!

By Anna Mische-John,  
Vegetation Maintenance Supervisor

For many of us, September is synonymous with going back to school. I find these marks in time to be a nice reminder of seasonal changes (and motivators to prepare for the season).

Caregivers and educators are preparing for the upcoming school year, and I propose that we gardeners also prepare by making sure that sidewalks and crosswalks are clear and safe for pedestrians of all sizes and mobilities. After months of summer growth, your plants may need to be nipped back to make sure the full width of the sidewalk is passable. Remember that plants wet from rain will hang lower. And most herbaceous plants will continue to grow for another couple months.

City code requires that sidewalks be

kept free across the entire width and up to 8 feet in height. Don't forget about the street. Trees and shrubs must allow 14 feet of clearance over lanes of vehicular travel. Sightlines are also worth considering with seasonal pruning. Vegetation other than trees should be no taller than 3 feet high within 20 feet from an intersection.

If you are thinking about planting this fall, make future back-to-school clearing easier by checking the mature size of the plant before you dig the hole. There's no point in planting in a location that will require excessive pruning when you could simply move it 6 inches from the get-go.

I can't wait to see big new backpacks on small people walking to school, and to hear the whistles from the crossing guards. Let's all do our part to make the path a bit easier.



Photo by Eric Bond

# Stay Safe During Stormy Weather

## What to Do When a Tree Falls

**Note: For any storm-related emergencies—an injury, tree fallen into a structure, or downed power lines—call 911.**

It's crucial to use extreme caution on your property after experiencing any kind of inclement weather. It's especially important to use caution after particularly high winds, tornados, ice storms, or lightning.

- **Watch for and avoid fallen power lines around trees.** Do not touch or remove fallen tree branches near sagging or downed power lines. Instead, report power line problems to your local utility company immediately. Power lines that have fallen or are near a tree following

the storm can be extremely dangerous and require the professional attention of a qualified technician.

- **Use caution around fallen branches hanging from the tree.** Avoid walking under or around trees that have visible limbs dangling or a leaning trunk. Doing so will put yourself at risk for injury from falling branches or a toppling tree. Even the smallest disturbance can send the branches or tree crashing down. If you want to inspect your trees following the storm, use binoculars instead and contact a trusted local tree service to provide a professional inspection.
- **Stay away from uprooted trees.** If you notice uprooted trees after a major storm event, avoid walking around them.

There may be underground utilities that have experienced damage and can pose a safety hazard. By contacting your local utility company and tree service, you can protect yourself from injury or even death.

- **Refrain from tree work without an experienced professional.** While it may be tempting to get out to clean up your yard following a storm, it's better to wait for a professional inspection first. Attempting to remove trees or prune limbs that may be damaged requires professional equipment and skills. Also avoid using unqualified tree cutters who may come to your neighborhood to offer their services. They tend to prey on stressed homeowners who want a quick fix, but

they can end up doing more damage than good due to their lack of expertise.

**To report trees down in the roadway blocking traffic, call the Takoma Park Police Department at the non-emergency number, 301-270-1100.**

**To report downed branches and other debris in the public right of way—roadways or sidewalks—contact Takoma Park Public Works at [publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7633.**

**To report power outages and to check estimated restoration times, call Pepco at 1-877-737-2662 or visit their power outage webpage at <https://www.pepco.com/Outages/CheckOutageStatus>.**

## What to Put in Your Power Outage Kits

### For a Short-Term Power Outage

- ❑ **Water for one day.** During any power outage, it may or may not be safe to use the plumbing at your home. Make sure you have at least one gallon of water per person available with your short-term power outage kit. If you have pets, you should also set aside enough water for them as well.
- ❑ **One easy meal and snacks.** The food in your refrigerator will stay safe to eat for four hours after the power goes out, as long as it stays cold. That means that as long as the power comes back on in under four hours, you won't have to throw away all of the perishables in your fridge. The same rules apply for your freezer, but your frozen foods will stay safe for 48 hours if full or 24 hours if half-full. With all that said, it is recommended to have some ready-to-eat food available in the event of a power outage. These include canned foods that you can eat without heating and shelf-stable snacks like protein bars. You may also want to include instant coffee or tea bags. You'll also want to have a plan for your pet that includes backup dry food or cans as well.
- ❑ **Medications.** If anyone in your household takes prescription medications, make sure you have at least three days' worth of each medication available at all times—just in case you don't have access to a pharmacy when the power is out.
- ❑ **Flashlights and lanterns.** Keep one high-quality flashlight in your kit for

each member of the family. You might also want to store one or two battery-powered camping lanterns in your kit to light up the main room or room of your home. In the event you have to fix something or need both hands for a task, a headlamp may be worth keeping around as well.

- ❑ **Cash in small bills.** During a power outage, stores and amenities near you probably won't be able to accept cards or checks. And nearby ATMs may be out of service, too. Instead of traveling further to reach necessities like food, water, and shelter from extreme temperatures, you could pay in cash. It's best to stash small bills in case a store is out of change.
- ❑ **Games and books.** You don't necessarily have to keep these with the rest of your power outage supplies, but they're good to have around the house in case of a power failure. Keep a few books around that you haven't read yet, as well as board games that the whole family can enjoy.

### For a Long-Term Power Outage

Once a power outage crosses the threshold from short-term to long-term (more than 12 hours), you might need extra supplies. That's where a long-term power outage kit comes in.

- ❑ **Two weeks of food and water.** The Red Cross recommends stocking your long-term power outage kit with at least two weeks' worth of food and water. As described above, you should put aside at least one gallon of water per person, per day and choose foods

that are shelf-stable and easy to prepare.

- ❑ **One or more coolers.** If you need to keep something cold such as food or medication, you may want to pick up ice from a nearby store. Fill one or two coolers (inexpensive, Styrofoam coolers work fine) with ice and make sure the items inside are protected from water. You can also fill your refrigerator and freezer with ice to keep perishable foods safe longer.
- ❑ **Extra batteries.** We listed flashlights and lanterns as part of your short-term kit, but of course, they're a crucial part of a long-term power outage kit, too. Make sure you have extra batteries for your flashlights and any other battery-operated devices in your kit.
- ❑ **Digital thermometer.** Once four hours have elapsed with the power out, the food in your refrigerator will no longer stay at a safe temperature. You can test the temperature of the perishable food inside with a digital, easy-to-read thermometer.
- ❑ **Battery-powered or crank radio.** Without power, there's no wi-fi or cable television. So you could be left "in the dark" about what exactly is going on. To stay in communication with the outside world from inside your home, you may want to have a battery-powered or crank AM/FM radio handy.
- ❑ **Power banks and car chargers.** No one wants to lose the ability to use their devices, even if the Wi-Fi is out. Depending on the scale of the power outage, nearby cell phone towers might still be up and running. And

that means you'll still have access to your cell phone data and the internet. To keep your devices up and running, you should keep a few (charged) power banks in your power outage kit. You can also keep one or two power adaptors in your car to help charge your devices. But keep in mind that you'll have to use the car's gas to avoid killing its battery. Some car power adaptors even turn your vehicle's charging ports into a standard outlet, so you can plug in devices without a USB.

- ❑ **Outdoor charcoal grill or camp stove.** If you have an outdoor charcoal grill, you can use that to cook your food during a power outage. You'll just need to make sure you have plenty of charcoal on-hand and that you use the grill safely. If you don't have a grill, you can pick up a small camp stove, instead. Read the directions carefully, and only use the stove outside the home.
- ❑ **Important personal documents.** If you don't have a designated place to store your important documents, please make sure to do so. You may want to make copies of important documents, like insurance policies, leases, birth certificates, and medical histories. Keep copies of these important documents with your power outage emergency kit. You should also include a list of emergency contacts with these documents.

Stay prepared and safe!



# Memorial Service for Bob Guldin on September 30

Bob Guldin, who edited the Takoma Park Newsletter from 2002 to 2005, died suddenly on July 10 while swimming. He had just celebrated his 77<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 7. A memorial service will be held for Bob on Saturday, September 30 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center auditorium.

"Bob had a passion for journalism," says Bob's wife, Susan Strasser. "It was more than just writing. It was the idea of what a newspaper is."

Recognizing the threat of global warming, in recent years Bob channeled his activist energy into climate change. He was an active member of the Takoma Park Mobilization Environment Committee—and the founder of an unofficial climate brain trust, generating content about climate change for WOWD-LP, Takoma's community radio station, with a focus on local action.

"I am heartbroken about Bob's death," says David Blockstein, who worked with Bob to raise awareness about the climate crisis. "He walked, biked, and wrote the talk."

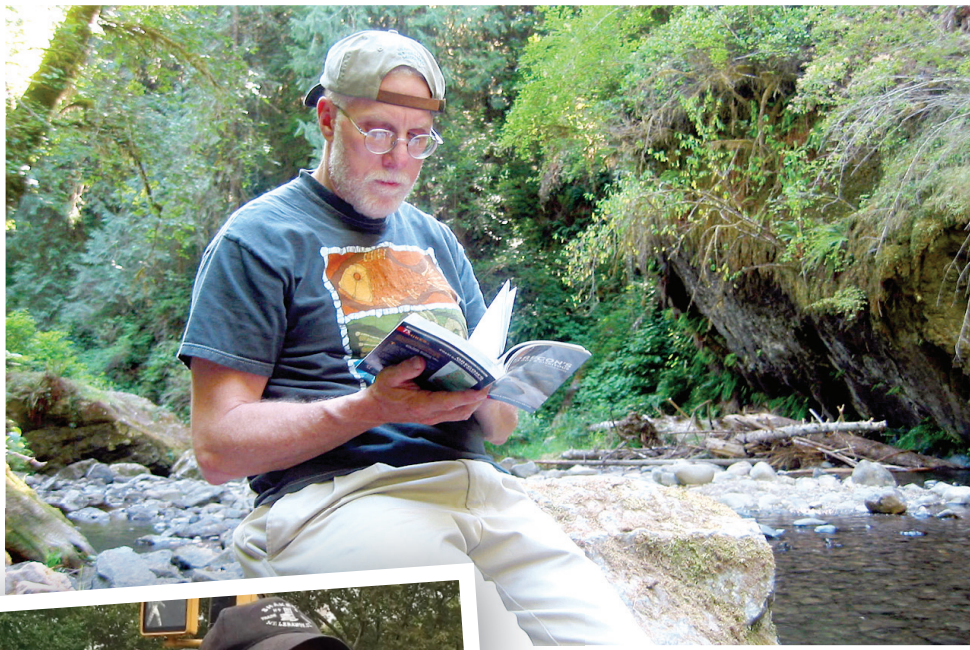
Bob grew up in the Kensington neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York, where he was recognized as a gifted student and was enrolled in the Special Progress program, which allowed him to finish public schooling one year early.

"We were born at a moment in time in the middle of 1946," says Hank Prensky, former Takoma Park city councilmember and Bob's childhood friend. "The war was over in Europe. The war was over in Japan. Everything was starting to relate to hopeful futures rather than the horrors of the present."

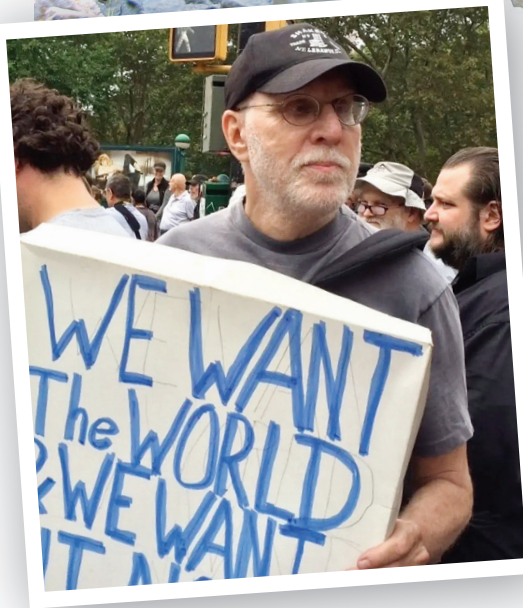
"He's been my friend for 68 years, and that was since the fourth grade at PS 179 in Brooklyn," says Hank.

Upon graduating from high school, Bob was accepted into Cornell University, where he majored in political science and English. He also started his official path as a writer and journalist as the city editor of the Cornell Sun.

After college, Bob explored the world,



Photos courtesy Susan Strasser



hitchhiking around Europe and the Middle East and eventually landing in Eugene, Oregon, where he lived for 13 years, working at the University of Oregon Library, writing, and engaging in activism—notably toward ending Apartheid in South Africa.

Eventually, Bob returned to New York City to take classes at the Columbia School of International Affairs, where he earned a certificate in Advanced Soviet Studies. After earning his graduate certificate, Bob

bought a house on Willow Ave. in Takoma Park, Maryland, in 1991 and were wed in 1992.

"Bob had a combination of sweetness as a person and determination as a political person," says Susan. "During the Trump administration when we were all just wringing our hands, Bob identified climate as an arena in which he planned to do more than wring his hands."

"And so he had a sense of the outdoors," says Susan. "He absolutely cycled everywhere, and he loved to swim, probably three or four times a week. "I mean, we could be in Helsinki, Finland, and he would find a public pool."

"Bob was smart and a bit of a contrarian," adds Hank. "And he was a friend for all time. He was always connecting people to the things that gave him pleasure. He made everybody mix tapes and mixed CDs and gave people lists of his hundred favorite films."

"He was a good talker, a good sleeper, a good eater," Hank continues. "He once said he could put on his epitaph: 'A good eater and a good sleeper.'"

*Bob Guldin was the beloved husband of Susan Strasser; son of the late Max and Rose Guldin; loving brother of Laura Guldin and stepbrother of David Freed; dear uncle of Jed Ela, Nate Ela, Nazgol Ghandnoosh, Meghan Morris, Asha Ela, Taba Ela, Philo Morris-Ela, and Calix Morris-Ela.*

moved to Washington, D.C., to intern at the Center for Defense Information and then became the editor for Arms Control Today. In ensuing years, Bob was the editor of George Washington University Magazine, Foreign Service Journal, Public Citizen News, and, of course, the Takoma Park Newsletter. He worked as a freelance writer and consultant to a panoply of organizations in D.C., such as the Smithsonian, over the years.

In 1989, Bob was living in Takoma D.C. when he met Susan Strasser. They



## Be a Local Star

City TV is looking for a group of actors of all ages, to participate in the production of Public Service Announcements. To participate, send an email to [CableTV@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:CableTV@takomaparkmd.gov) with the subject "PSA actors."

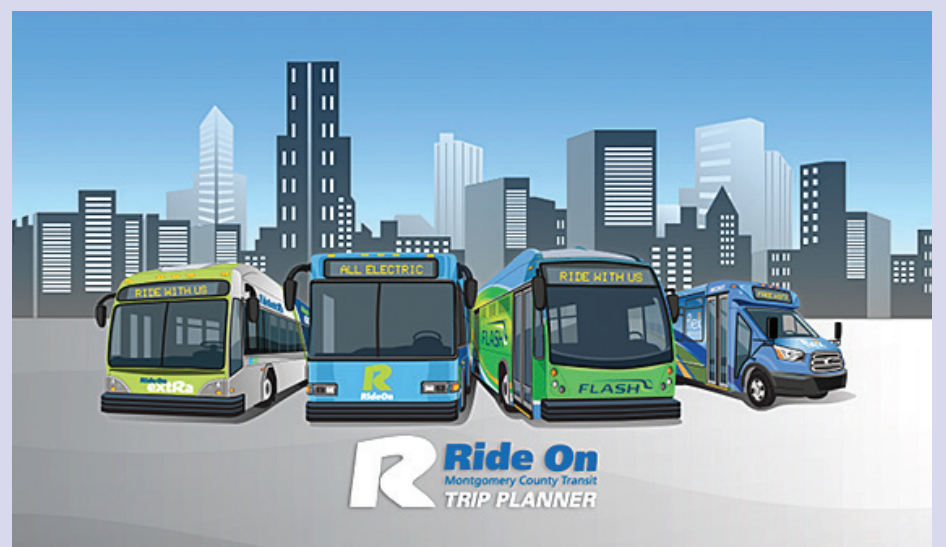
## Adopt a Hydrant!

Adopting a fire hydrant means the adopter will maintain the hydrant by clearing it of snow, grass, or debris, thereby ensuring it is visible for firefighters to see the hydrant when there is a fire incident or emergency. Being able to access water quickly and easily during a fire can be a matter of life and death.



You can register to adopt a fire hydrant at [gisportal.wsscwater.com/adoptafh](http://gisportal.wsscwater.com/adoptafh). If you need help registering, contact [WSSC\\_GIS@wsscwater.com](mailto:WSSC_GIS@wsscwater.com).

And please email [emergencycenter@wsscwater.com](mailto:emergencycenter@wsscwater.com) to report fire hydrant issues, tampering, damage, or disrepair.



## Taking the Bus Is Even Easier with New Ride On App

The Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) has launched a new Ride On Trip Planner app that will make using the Ride On bus service easier and more convenient. Riders can download the app from the Google Play or Apple app store.

The new Ride On Trip Planner app allows for trip planning across multiple modes including Ride On buses, Metro-rail and Metrobuses, scooters, and Bike-share. Additionally, the app will give

live reports on wait times and ridership levels for Ride On buses by utilizing a crowdsourcing information feature.

In a trial period for the app, MCDOT encourages riders to download the app and share their experience with Ride On by emailing comments to [RideOn.TripPlanner@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:RideOn.TripPlanner@montgomerycountymd.gov), through MC311, or via social media. The feedback is being used to optimize the application.

## Bag Single-Use Plastic Bags

Back in 2016, the City of Takoma Park passed a single-use plastic bag ban in an effort to reduce waste, litter and plastic pollution

- Plastic bags complicate the recycling system.
- Plastic bags contain chemicals that are toxic once released into the environment.
- Plastic bags cost retailers money.
- Plastic pollution poses both physical and chemical threats to marine life.



Please stick to reusable bags or recyclable bags.



# The ARTS

## Dancing Joy Transports Viewers Across the World

by **Brendan Smith**  
Arts and Humanities Coordinator

In a celebration of dancers from diverse cultures across the globe, a film crew traveled 56,000 miles to four continents to film local dance troupes performing traditional dances to *Ode to Joy* from Beethoven's Symphony No. 9.

As part of the City's *Takoma Park Arts* series, a free film screening will be held at 7:30 pm on September 29 in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium at 7500 Maple Ave. No tickets or reservations are required.

More than 200 dancers choreographed and performed in Indonesia, Fiji, Nepal, Korea, Botswana, Greece, Northern Ireland, West Virginia, and a dozen other locations.

In a female-led production, Kate Tsubata prepared for 12 years before embarking on producing the film. Film director Lan T. Lee—herself a choreographer and dancer—utilized the language of dance to guide the performers, many of whom didn't speak English. Closer to home, the film also features deaf and hard-of-hearing dancers at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C.



Dancers in Botswana move to Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*.

"We wanted to honor Beethoven's own battle with hearing loss so the first group we approached was the Gallaudet Dance Company, which was founded in 1955," Tsubata said. "They originated ASL dance and play a key role in the film with sign language-based dance moves that interpret the

choral lyrics."

Authenticity was a high priority for the production. Capturing the historic and natural beauty of the varied locations as well as the dance traditions of each culture was paramount. Handheld cameras, drones, and GoPro action cameras helped bring viewers

into close proximity with the performers.

During two months of shooting, the film crew experienced summer and winter in the Northern and Southern hemispheres, high altitudes, and tropical climates. "Local crews in each nation helped with translation, local regulations, and wardrobes," Tsubata said.

Danish cinematographer Henrik Meyer and Japanese camera operator Yousuke Kiname captured the sweeping movements of each dance tradition to weave a tapestry celebrating cultures across the world.

Don't miss the free film screening on September 29 at the Takoma Park Community Center. Find more information about the film at [joydancemovie.com](http://joydancemovie.com).

The *Takoma Park Arts* series, which is organized by the City's Arts and Humanities division, includes many free events at the Takoma Park Community Center, including film screenings, art exhibitions, concerts, theater, and poetry readings. Go to [takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts) and sign up for our e-newsletter to get updates about upcoming events.



Dancers in Fiji.



Dancers in Indonesia.

## Takoma Park Poet Laureate Wins National Award

In recognition of his work as Takoma Park poet laureate, Taylor Johnson has received a \$50,000 fellowship award from the Academy of American Poets.

The 2023 awards honor 23 poets laureate from states and cities across the country. In his role as poet laureate, Johnson has served as emcee of the City of Takoma Park's poetry reading series and has organized new poetry readings at People's Books in downtown Takoma Park. He also is working with the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library to update the Spring for Poetry series with new poetry posters in various outdoor locations in Takoma Park.

"The Academy of American Poets cel-



Taylor Johnson

brates the unique position poets laureate occupy at state and local levels, elevating the possibilities poetry can bring to community conversations and reminding us that our national spirit can be nourished by the power of the written and spoken word," said Ricardo Maldonado, the Academy's president and executive director.

The Takoma Park City Council appointed Johnson to a three-year term as poet laureate in 2022. He previously served as the inaugural poet in residence at the Guggenheim Museum in New York City.

Johnson is the author of *Inheritance*, winner of the Norma Farber First Book Award from the Poetry Society of America. He also has received fellowships from Cave

Canem, The Nicholson Project, Callaloo, and other organizations.

"It's very rare for a small city like Takoma Park to have a poet laureate so it's even more rewarding to have our poet laureate receive national recognition for his work here," said Brendan Smith, the City's arts and humanities coordinator.

Established in 2005, the Takoma Park Poet Laureate program is organized by the City's Arts and Humanities division to honor the achievements of a local poet who serves as the city's ambassador to promote public appreciation of poetry, support a creative community for local poets, and encourage people of all ages to write their own poetry.



### 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)  
Questions: Donna Wright Communications Manager • [donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov) | Eric Bond • [editorbond@gmail.com](mailto:editorbond@gmail.com)  
[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).



# RECREATION

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

## TOTS

### DANCE

#### Combo Tot Dance

Fun and energizing class for your little ones. This is the introductory foundational class consisting of rhythmic movements, basic tumbling, and various styles of dance. This class is so jam-packed with games and toys that your little ones won't even realize they are learning to dance! Instructor: Dance Solutions

Takoma Park Community Center  
(Dance Studio)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 3–5

Sundays, 12:15–1 p.m.

September 10–October 29

Resident: \$125 / non-resident: \$145

### SPORTS

#### Tot Sports

Children are introduced to the fundamentals of sports such as soccer and basketball. The goal of this program is to provide the opportunity for each child to develop motor skills and nurture their growth socially and emotionally through teamwork and good sportsmanship. Instructor: Recreation Staff

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 3–5

Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.

September 23–October 28

Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

## YOUTH

### EXTENDED CARE

#### Fun Days

Fun Days are offered on specific days when Montgomery County Public Schools are not in session. The program is designed to provide recreational activities for children enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade. Through structured, socially distanced activities, crafts and presenters, there are opportunities for socializing, unwinding, and releasing energy. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Must bring a lunch, snacks and labeled water bottle. Activities and trips are subject to change. **Registration is required. You can sign up for one day or all.** Space is limited, sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of the program.

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Ave.

Grades K–5

8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Monday, September 25

Monday, October 9

Wednesday, November 1

Resident: \$55 / non-resident: \$65

### DANCE

#### Ballet & Stretch

This 45-minute class focuses on the basics of ballet, but highlights advanced concepts including history, stage production, performance etiquette and choreography. Students will explore the history of ballet and practice combinations from various ballet choreographers. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center  
(Auditorium)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 5–12

Saturdays, 12:30–1:15 p.m.

September 9–October 14

Resident: \$85 / non-resident: \$95

#### Dance with Me

A class that provides fun and excitement to everyone. This class allows for everyone to bring a friend or family member to learn fun dances and games in a safe, entertaining, and supportive environment. Dance with me caters to youth with differing abilities.

Instructor: Dance Solutions

Takoma Park Community Center  
(Dance Studio)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 8–11

Sundays, 1:15–2 p.m.

September 10–October 29

Resident: \$125 / non-resident: \$145

#### Hip Hop Dance

This movement class focuses on the basics and culture of hip-hop. Students will learn basic b-boy and b-girl dance techniques, practice temporal awareness and spatial awareness, and learn choreography.

Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center  
(Auditorium)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 5–12

Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

September 9–October 14

Resident: \$85 / non-resident: \$95

### SPORTS

#### Basketball Skills

This class will teach the fundamentals of the sport. Good sportsmanship will be emphasized. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching. You will learn proper dribbling, shooting, and defensive techniques. Instructor: Greg Harris

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 6–12

Saturdays, 12–1 p.m.

September 9–October 28

Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110

## TEENS

### DANCE

#### Afterschool Hip-Hop Dance @ TPMS

Hip-hop incorporates aspects of modern dance, tap, and swing, integrating music and complex movements to form artistry. Come and learn the fundamentals of hip-hop dance by learning fun routines! Teens will also have the opportunity to explore other types of dance, such as stepping. Taught by Kokoe Abas.

Takoma Park Middle School  
7611 Piney Branch Rd.

Grades 6–8

Wednesdays, 3:30–4:30 p.m.

October 4–November 15

Free

### EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

#### Teen Money Management

Teen Money Management is all about learning fundamental financial skills to be prosperous in life! By learning the concepts listed below and putting them into practice, participants will be much better prepared

when they begin building their own credit history and managing their own money. Concepts include long-term savings, credit, opening a bank account, debt, and budgeting.

Virtual

Grades 6–12

Mondays, 6–7 p.m.

September 18–November 6

Free

### DROP-IN

#### Teen Lounge 2023-2024

Welcome to the Teen Lounge! Where teens can get a quick snack, do their homework, participate in fun activities, or simply kick back with friends after school in a safe environment. Open Monday–Friday, 3 p.m.–6 p.m., youth in grades 6–12 are encouraged to come to the lounge after school! Various afterschool programs may be held in the lounge throughout the school year and will be announced accordingly. The Teen Lounge is free, but to visit, you must enroll first. Students will need to register once every school year. Registration forms can be picked up from the Takoma Park Community Center or completed online via ActiveNet. The Teen Lounge is closed on non-school days, including holidays and weekends.

Takoma Park Community Center  
Teen Lounge

7500 Maple Ave.

Grades 6–12

Ongoing during the school year

Monday–Friday, 3–6 p.m.

Free

### TRIPS

#### Teen Trip – Field of Screams

Join the Teen Program for a spooky trip to the Field of Screams (4501 Olney-Laytonsville Rd., Olney, Maryland)! Voted the best scream park in Maryland, teens will have a frighteningly fun time taking part in the haunted house and trail experiences. Additionally, there will be carnival games with tickets available onsite. Parent discretion is advised! Space is limited, so register today. Teens will meet in the Teen Lounge, and the bus will depart at 5:30 p.m.

Meet at: Takoma Park Community Center  
(Teen Lounge)

7500 Maple Ave.

Grades 7–12

Friday, October 20, 5–9 p.m.

Resident: \$30 / non-resident: \$40

## ADULTS

### 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. Instructor: Jeremy Sherron

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 16 and up

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

September 12–October 26

Resident: \$105 / non-resident: \$125

Drop in: \$10

#### Ker De Zuri DanXercise Class–Afro Beat

Zuri Sana'a DanXercise's mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuri Sana'a DanXercise combines hip-hop, salsa, dancehall, contemporary, and African dance moves within our choreography to create a memorable workout experience. Our moves are feasible and suitable for all ages. Participants will be able to shred calories and learn fun choreography, all in one class. Instructor: Khady N'Diaye

Takoma Park Community Center  
(Dance Studio)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 16 and up

Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.

September 7–November 16

Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

Drop-in: \$10

#### Zumba: New Ave.

Zumba is a total body workout, combining all elements of fitness with cardio, muscle conditioning, balance and flexibility. Zumba takes the work out of the workout, by mixing low and high intensity moves. The class will incorporate Latin music that will easily move you through your workout. Drop-ins are welcomed. Instructor: Yesika Flores

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 16 and up

Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.

September 9–October 14

Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

Drop-in: \$12

#### Zumba: Maple Ave.

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.

Ages 16 and up

Saturdays, 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

September 16–November 18

Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110

Drop-in: \$10

### MARTIAL ARTS

#### Kung Fu

Bungo Fu, the Jamaican style of Kung Fu! Come learn meditation, self-defense, improved flexibility, and self-awareness! This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise which could help the students defend themselves by strengthening hand and eye coordination as well as assist with the maintaining of balance as they get older. The student will gain physical fitness and mental and spiritual strength. There is a \$70 non-refundable uniform fee payable to the instructor. Instructor: Robert Thompson

Takoma Park Community Center  
(Dance Studio)

7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 16 and up

Mondays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

September 11–October 30

Resident: \$180 / non-resident: \$200

Uniform Fee: \$70



# RECREATION

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

## RECREATION

■ From page 10

### SPORTS

#### Adult Pickleball Drop-In

The entire magic and success of pickleball is the way it has been set up to be a welcoming sport in an informal setting—meaning, you can show up to the courts and pick up a game. It doesn't matter what your age is; you can just play. That is the beauty of drop-in play!

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
(Gymnasium)

Ages 16 and up  
Mondays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
September 18–November 6  
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

#### Takoma Park Volleyball Club

Join the Takoma Park Volleyball Club! Grab a friend or make a new one on the court. The club will meet weekly at the Takoma Park Recreation Center for pick-up games of volleyball. Registration is required to participate. All skill levels are welcome.

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
(Gymnasium)  
Ages 16 and up  
Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.  
September 20–November 8  
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

### 55+

### ART

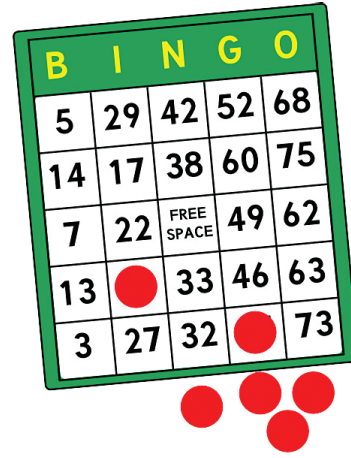
#### Art & Crafts

These classes cover a variety of quick art and craft projects. Have fun and learn a new skill such as decorating vases, painting ceramic tiles, creating table decorations, and working on holiday projects. Enjoy the supportive and relaxed atmosphere.

Instructor: Alice Sims  
Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Ave.  
(Lilac Room)

Ages 55 and up  
Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.  
September 20, October 18  
November 15, December 13  
\$6

### DROP-IN



#### Bingo

Come try your luck and win a prize! This is drop-in. Host: Paula Lisowski  
Takoma Park Community Center  
(location subject to change)  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Lilac Room  
Ages 55 and up  
Tuesdays, 12–2 p.m.  
September 26 and October 24  
Free

### 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. Instructor: Barbara Brown

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
(Gymnasium)

Ages 55 and up  
Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.  
September 12–December 12  
\$6

#### Zumba Gold

Active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity. The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on

RECREATION □ Page 12

## VOLUNTEER

# Looking to get back on the court in a new way?

The Takoma Park Recreation Department relies heavily on parents/adults as volunteers to orchestrate our winter basketball and futsal Leagues. This helps immensely in the continued success of these programs. Our winter sports leagues will tip off in January for a fun-filled eight-week season.

“Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. Without their hard work and dedication, we couldn't do what we do every day to help kids, families, and the community thrive,” said Debby Huffman, Recreation department deputy director. By bringing people together from all walks of life around a shared purpose to do good, the Recreation department is helping create a stronger, more cohesive community.”

During the 2023 winter bas-



Recreation Manager John Webster (left) hands Volunteer Basketball Coach Dickson Mercer a jersey.

ketball season, Dickson Mercer coached for the first time—a first grade team that included

his son, Henry. In his day job, Coach Mercer manages a group of speech writers. We asked

Coach Mercer some questions about his first season.

#### Why did you decide to coach?

*I wanted to support my son playing basketball. This was the first sport that I began to play as a child, and I thought that it would be super cool to coach my son. I wanted to be there with him, and coaching was a good way to make that happen.*

*Coaching is a good way to serve. It is fun and educational at the same time. Plus, I find parallels between my job as a speech writer manager and coaching. In both I am stressing fundamentals and good communication.*

#### What did you enjoy most about coaching?

*I enjoyed watching the kids' progress. Seeing them make a*

*score for the first time and seeing their excitement and pride made it that much more fun for me.*

Coach Mercer said that there was a moment when he and Henry were shooting baskets, and Henry realized how much stronger he was getting. Henry said, “Dad, I am playing basketball again this year.” Dickson immediately confirmed that he will be a coach again for the upcoming 2024 season.

The primary objective of the Takoma Park Recreation sports leagues is to develop people, not professional athletes. Volunteer coaches are dedicated to developing youth and will emphasize the values of caring, honesty, respect, and responsibility. For more information on volunteering please contact John Webster via [tpsports@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpsports@takomaparkmd.gov). We are looking forward to another great season!





# RECREATION

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

Registration opens for city residents 8/15  
9 a.m. online and in-person.

## RECREATION

■ From page 11

balance, range of motion and coordination.  
Instructor: Yesika Flores

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
(Gymnasium)  
Ages 55 and up  
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.  
September 15–December 15  
\$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  
Ages 55 and up  
Tuesdays, 9 a.m.–10 a.m.  
September 12–December 12  
\$6



## CDL Drivers Wanted!

Flexible Schedule. Takoma Park Recreation Department is looking for part-time, on-call drivers for our programs throughout the year for senior citizens, teens, and youth. Must have a current commercial driver license with a passenger B endorsement and pass a background check. Interested applicants, please apply with the Human Resources department.

### Rhythmic Drumming

Cardio Fitness Drumming lets the rhythmic beat move you through tapping and drumstick clapping while standing, and/or sitting to exercise your mind and body. No drumming experience required. Instructor: Dance Solutions  
Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
(Back Activity Room)  
Ages 55 and up  
Tuesdays, 1:15–2:15 p.m.  
September 12–December 12  
\$6



## SPORTS

### Pickleball Open Play

Join other new players for pickleball practice and play in the gymnasium. This activity is geared toward beginners.  
Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
(Gymnasium)  
Ages 55 and up  
Thursdays, 12–2 p.m.  
September 14–December 14  
Free with membership

## SPECIAL EVENT

### Monster Bash

The Takoma Park Recreation Department staff is preparing for an event for the entire family! Our event will kick off at 1 p.m. with games, fun activities, and the annual costume contest and parade—ending with the costume award ceremony and celebration. More information at [takomaparkmd.gov](https://takomaparkmd.gov).

Takoma Park Middle School  
7611 Piney Branch Rd.  
Saturday, October 28  
Starting at 1 p.m.

# Meet Takoma Park's New Advocate for Pedestrian Safety

By Sean Gossard

Takoma Park's new special projects coordinator says she is excited to support the city in becoming more walkable for its residents, especially children walking to and from school.

Kaysi-Ann Webley began working for the city in June and hit the ground running to make walking in the city safer.

"It bugs me to no end when I see children walking and looking at their phones and not paying attention to traffic," she says. "I want to do something to improve that."

Webley says she already conducted several "walk audits" near schools, with the involvement of school staff, PTA members and other city staff. These audits looked at traffic conditions, street signs, sidewalks and other areas that could use improvements.

"We walk on the same routes that children will take to school and see what traffic is like, what the street crossings look like and see if any changes need to be implemented to make it safer," she says. "That's the main goal, to make it safer for children to get to school whether walking, riding or rolling."

She says they've already seen a few places where improvements could be made so people are safer.

"There are a few areas that we noticed that some work needs to be done," she says. "Whether the sidewalks would benefit from being widened or are overgrown, or re-evaluating a crossing. I want to understand the unique challenges schools are having to keep children safe as they walk or bike to school and help them improve."

To keep improving on the city's walkability, the city conducts a survey of parents in the fall and spring to help better understand how children commute in the mornings and afternoon.

"That will give us a baseline for how our children get to school," she says. "It gives us a lot of data on how to implement these



Photo by Eric Bond

Safe Routes Coordinator Kaysi-Ann Webley meets young scholars at the Crossroads Farmers Market to share school supplies and promote safety.

## Safety Tips!

### DRIVERS

- Slow down and watch your speed.
- Please avoid all distractions.
- Watch out for students walking and biking to school during arrival and dismissal times.
- Stop for all pedestrians and bicyclists.

### PARENTS

- Pick a safe route to school with your child and practice it with them.
- If you are not able to walk with them, help your child identify a friend in your neighborhood they can walk with.
- Make sure your child leaves on time so they are not rushed.
- Ask your school if they have any Safe Routes to School education or encouragement programs.

### STUDENTS

- Know your route and stick to it!
- Walk or bike to school with an adult, sibling or friend.
- Wear bright colors and tie your shoes.
- Walk on the sidewalk or facing traffic on the left edge of road if no sidewalk.
- Ride your bike on the sidewalk or with traffic on the right side if no sidewalk.
- Always wear a helmet and walk your bike across the street.

### NEIGHBORS

- Be the eyes and ears in your neighborhood.
- Always obey the speed limit and avoid distractions.
- Report any non-emergency safety concerns to your neighborhood school administrator or safe routes to school coordinator.

programs and gives parents support so they feel good about having their children walk to school."

Another way to bring focus on walking to school safely is the city's annual Safe Routes to School Day, held this year on Wednesday, October 4, which gets children and their parents out to walk or bike to school.

"The simple act of choosing to walk to school instead of drive contributes so much to our goals of reducing traffic congestion and emissions and providing built in exercise for the students and parents," says Webley.

She says there are plenty of other advantages to walking to school too, including increased attentiveness and confidence. Webley says she hopes to have a lot of participation in the event and that it encourages growth in walking over the school year.

Webley says her own interest in street safety stems partially from her 3-year-old son who she teaches to be safe near roads. She says he's already learning about road signs, is developing a keen sense of direction and can tell when they are close to home.

"We want to make the whole roadways safe for our children, not just for today, but tomorrow and into the future. We always want to keep improving."

Webley, who lives in Washington, D.C., just a few blocks from the Takoma Park border, has a background in civil engineering and real estate and says she loves to dance and has been since she was 3 years old.

"I'm looking forward to meeting and talking with the parents and getting feedback from them," she says. "I'm excited to get parents and students out walking or riding and being active."

If you'd like to volunteer for Safe Routes to School, email [kaysiw@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:kaysiw@takomaparkmd.gov). For more information, visit the City website, [takomaparkmd.gov](https://takomaparkmd.gov), and search for "safe routes to school."



# At Your SERVICE



## Foil the Fraudsters

by Claudine Schweber,  
Emergency Preparedness Committee

Scam artists never sleep, and neither should you. Here are two current scams and tips to avoid losing your money

### Check washing

This is not about your laundry—it's a scheme that can turn your \$445 check into one for \$2,498, with your signature intact!

How do scammers do this? Thieves steal checks from mailboxes, or U.S. Postal Service collection boxes. Then, they using bleach or acetone (nail polish remover) to remove the name of original payee and the amount. Once dry, they rewrite the amount and new payee, and the check still has your original signature.

### What you can do

- Pay bills online (but do not use a public Wi-Fi connection).
- Personally deposit envelopes containing checks at the post office.
- Don't let delivered mail sit in your mailbox; grab it close to delivery time. If you will be away, have the Post Office hold it until your return or have a friend pick it up.
- Closely monitor your bank account. Check weekly or more

often for odd withdrawals.

- Immediately report check washing to your bank; contact the U.S. Postal Service and your credit report agencies.

### Charity thieves

Sometimes supposed representatives of charities are actually scammers. Here are some warning signs that the charity is not legitimate:

- The representative asks for donations in cash, gift card, or by wiring money.
- They try to rush you in making the donation quickly.
- Some claim your contribution is tax deductible when it's not.
- Some use names sounding like real charities, but aren't. Don't give money until you have checked out the charity.

These are some tips for doing a charity check-up:

- Research the charity via the Better Business Bureau, the Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator, or Charity Watch. These organizations provide reports and rating about how the charity spends its donations.
- Keep a record of all donations and check your monthly bills to make sure you haven't been signed up to recurring donations and the amount is what you said.
- Find out if the charity is tax exempt as they claim. Use the IRS tax exemption organization search tool to find out: [irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search](https://www.irs.gov/charities-non-profits/tax-exempt-organization-search).

If you discover false information, report this ASAP to [reportfraud.ftc.gov](https://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov).

### Watch out for your household and neighbors

These are two services provided by the City of Takoma Park to help you protect your property and stay safe in your home.

### Make your mark

Have you made a list and photos of all electronic items, jewelry, bicycles, and other valuables that can be easily pawned or sold? Mark them with an engraving pen so that it will be easier to track them if they are stolen. You can borrow an engraving pen from Takoma Park police for up to two weeks for free. Find out more on the City website, [takomapark.md.gov](https://www.takomapark.md.gov) (search for "engrave valuables").

### Get CARE

Do you live alone and have special needs or need a daily check-in? The CARE program (Caring About Residents Every Day) offers help. Once you register for the CARE program, you can call the police department's non-emergency number, 301-270-1100, once every day between the hours of noon and 5 p.m. to check in. If you forget or are unable to call, the police department will initiate contact after 8 p.m. that day to make sure that you are all right. Register on the city website, [takomapark.md.gov](https://www.takomapark.md.gov) (search for *caring about residents*).



## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

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

### Campus Fire Safety

With young Takomans heading off to college again, they and their parents should review best practices for fire safety in a dorm or apartment. And parents, these are good tips for you to review for your fire safety at home.

- Make sure your sleeping room has working smoke detectors.
- Know two ways out from your room.
- Make sure you know and practice a fire escape plan.
- Talk with your roommates and determine a safe place to meet outside in case of a fire.
- Clear exits/hallways/stairs. In case of a fire, you'll need to leave quickly.
- Have food on hand that doesn't require cooking. Cooking when you've had too much to drink increases the chance you'll make a mistake or start a fire.
- Buy flameless candles. They come in all sizes, colors, and scents.
- Clean the dryer lint trap before and after each use. Help keep dryers safe.
- Leave quickly when the fire/smoke alarm sounds. Spending time retrieving items increases your chances of being trapped. Leave everything and GO.
- Friends keep friends safe from fire-related hazards. Share this checklist with friends.

Source: *Nation Fire Protection Association (NFPA)*

### Join the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department

Fire/rescue and emergency medical service offer exciting challenges and a valuable, rewarding way to serve the community as a volunteer. In return for your commitment of one evening per week, we offer training that will always be in great demand—and the opportunity to help your neighbors when they need it most.

The Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service is a "combination" service, in which approximately 1,000 career firefighters and 1,000 volunteers serve side-by-side. Career and volunteer personnel take the same training courses and are held to the same standards while on duty. Here in Takoma Park, we work closely with the career personnel assigned to Station 2.

Your first step is to schedule an orientation meeting with our membership committee. Please email: [tina.willey@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:tina.willey@montgomerycountymd.gov) for details. Also, please visit the Frequently Asked Questions about Volunteering section on our website: [www.tpvfd.org/volunteer](https://www.tpvfd.org/volunteer)

**Note:** The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department will be hosting an Open House on Sunday, October 1, 10–5 p.m. during the Takoma Park Street Festival

## Police Report

### If They Can See It, They Can Steal It!

The Takoma Park Police Department is committed to fighting theft from autos, homes, and businesses.

### Safeguard Your Car

The Takoma Park Police Department has FREE steering wheel locks. They will be given out on a first-come-first-served basis while supplies last. You can pick one up Monday–Friday, 1–4:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Police Department, Administrative Services window, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 7500 Maple Ave. *We are limiting the locks to one per person.*

According to the National Highway Safety Transportation Administration (NHSTA), more than one million motor vehicles were stolen in 2022.

While there is no guaranteed prevention measure against vehicle theft, the Takoma Park Police advises these precautions:

- Always lock all of your vehicle's doors and windows after entering and exiting.
- Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running, even for a few seconds. Turn off the ignition and take the keys with you.
- Never hide a spare key in your car or outside your residence.
- Never leave personal identification or valuables inside your vehicle.
- Remove phones, laptops, electronic pads, and other removable accessories from view when not in your vehicle.

Unfortunately, despite all efforts, vehicle theft may still occur. To help recovery your property, be sure to store the following information in a safe place:

- Year, make, model, and color of your vehicle.
- License plate and vehicle identification numbers,
- Serial numbers for any special equipment.
- Any dents and/or scratches and/or modifications that distinguish your vehicle from others.

### What Constitutes Suspicious Behavior?

Ensuring the safety and well-being of all of our residents is our top priority. Please remem-

ber to look out for your neighbors and report any suspicious behavior immediately.

When people are going for a walk through your neighborhood, they generally walk with a purpose and are just passing through. Suspicious behavior or activity can be any action that does not fit into the usual day-to-day activity of your neighborhood. These are some examples:

- looking into home or car windows
- pulling on doorknobs or vehicle handles
- walking aimlessly in backyards or garages and sheds
- hiding behind shrubbery or trees
- abruptly changing behavior when seen
- dressing inappropriately for the weather (wearing a coat in the heat)
- driving a vehicle slowly and aimlessly through the neighborhood several times
- sitting in a vehicle for extended periods of time
- claiming to represent a utility company, but not wearing a uniform

If you see a person or vehicle displaying suspicious behavior in your neighborhood, call the police at 301-270-1100. Write down the license plates of any suspicious vehicles, and write down a description of any persons who are exhibiting suspicious behaviors. Lack of information on suspects can hinder an investigation.

### Faith & Blue Unite: Building Bridges with LEGO Bricks for a Stronger Community

Join us and our co-host, Sligo Seventh Day Adventist Church, for our National Faith & Blue event on Saturday, October 7, 2–5 p.m. to build bridges together—out of LEGO. Keep what you build! There will be refreshments and giveaways! For more information, visit the City website and search for community policing.





# 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 September 3 and 4 for Labor 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 optional in City facilities now.

**Internet hotspots to borrow:** The library has 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 back. 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.

### Programs and Events

**A Note about program and event registration:** Library events are always free and open to all. We ask patrons to register for some programs. Registration provides the library and its partners with a headcount so we can prepare accordingly. Registration, however, does not guarantee a seat, and participants are encouraged to arrive early.

**Crochet and Cozies** (adult program). Join us at 10:30 Monday mornings for crochet and cozy mysteries. Bring your hooks, needles, 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 registering allows 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; we dance and do 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 September 5, when we will groove to the beats of **Groovy Nate**.

**NOW IN PERSON! Canta Juego: Spanish Circle Time every Thursday at 10:30 a.m.** ¡Canciones y juegos en español! Join the fun at our weekly 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. Sponsored by Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. In person at the interim library location, 7505 New Hampshire Ave.

**Chess for Kids.** Sundays at 11 a.m. Join us on Sundays for Chess for Kids, caregivers and kids are invited to play. Bring a chessboard and pieces if you like, but we have plenty. Players of all levels are welcome. This is scheduled before the library opens, so registration is important.

**LEGO Club.** Come in and play with LEGOs! Sunday, September 10, 1–3 p.m.

**Kids' Art.** September's Kids' Art is part of an author event this month! Make a craft with us on Sunday, September 17, 2–4 p.m. See the announcement about Tricia Elam Walker for details.

**Yard Dramas.** Interactive outdoor storytelling and community building program happens on Wednesdays at the Crossroads Farmers Market for a couple of more dates before wrapping up this 2023 season—with a Library receiving ceremony on Saturday, September 16 at 1 p.m. During this ceremony, the library will symbolically receive the stories created at the market this year. Join yard dramas on Wednesdays at 11 a.m., in-person at the Crossroads Farmers Market.

**El Cuento: Lotería and Storytime in Spanish.** September 16 and 30 at 2 p.m. in the library.

**Sketch Club.** Sketch Club returns on Thursday, September 7 at 4 p.m. Join Dave Burbank and stretch your imagination and drawing skills. Registration is encouraged so that you can be notified of any changes, but it is not required.

**Peer-led Workshop for 6th graders.** On Monday, September 25, 6:30–7:30 p.m., our teen volunteer Maeve Monahan will lead a workshop on how to use your agenda book effectively. The workshop will be held in the Hydrangea Room at the Community Center, walking distance from Takoma Park Middle School! Registration is required.

**Dory Fantasmagory event!** At long last, there is a new Dory Fantasmagory book! *Dory Fantasmagory #6: Can't Live Without You* will be published September 26, and we will celebrate on Sunday, October 1 at 2 p.m. Hear the first chapter of the new book, make a Dory craft, and enjoy a banana snack (because Dory calls her fairy godmother on a banana phone!).

### Looking Ahead

**Author Event: Stephan Pastis!** *The Pearls Before Swine* cartoonist will be joining us in the Community Center auditorium on Monday, October 16. Look for details in next month's newsletter.

## Listen to this!

by Jessica Jones

**Maintenance Phase** with Michael Hobbes and Aubrey Gordon.

One of my favorite lines from a *Maintenance Phase* episode is "Put me in the de-bunk bed."

*Maintenance Phase* is an excellently researched and charismatically delivered podcast focused on challenging diet culture and debunking nutrition and wellness myths. The episodes usually run about an hour and are on topics ranging from GOOP to the President's Physical Fitness Test to why the Body Mass Index (BMI) is trash. Hosts Aubrey Gordon (author of *What We Don't Talk about When We Talk about Fat* and *You Just Need to Lose Weight*) and 19 Other Myths about Fat People) and Michael Hobbes (also a host on podcasts *You're Wrong About* and *If Books Could Kill*) are self-proclaimed methodology queens who will read scientific papers for you and put them into context without dumbing them down. This is a great podcast for anyone who has to consume food and exist in a physical body. Available on all podcast platforms.

### Maintenance Phase



PODCAST



REVIEW

## Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library News

### Read Zora Neale Hurston, and Join the Discussion

by Tim Rahn

The Friends Book Group's next meeting will take place Thursday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center. This month's book is *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by Zora Neale Hurston.

Published in 1937, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* received mixed reviews and suffered from poor sales. Then the novel faded from mainstream view for decades. In 1975, Alice Walker wrote an essay, "Looking for Zora" for *Ms.* magazine that helped lead to the rediscovery of Hurston. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* was republished in 1977. In the meantime, it was added to the curriculum of Black studies programs at colleges and universities and was soon known as a modern classic.

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* begins with the heroine, Janie Crawford, returning to Eatonville, Florida, after a long absence. There, Janie meets her old friend Pheoby Watson and tells her about her life and her time away. Janie's story includes a list of iconic characters, key among them her grandmother Nanny and her third husband, Vergible Woods, better known as Tea Cake.



Hurston uses Janie Crawford to explore the Black experience in the United States between the wars. She also develops Janie into a prototype of a woman who rises above the expected norms to control her own destiny.

When the novel was published, New York Time reviewer Lucille Tompkins wrote that "from first to last this is a well nigh perfect story—a

little sententious at the start, but the rest is simple and beautiful and shining with humor."

The library has several copies, and both ebooks and audiobooks are available through the library's Hoopla subscription—ask a librarian for assistance with Hoopla.

Future readings include assorted Christmas stories by Charles Dickens in November and *Parable of the Talents* by Octavia Butler for the January book discussion. Contact [ftmplbookgroup@gmail.com](mailto:ftmplbookgroup@gmail.com) for details and to sign up for future notices.

**Book Sale.** Watch this space! The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library will hold its semi-annual book sale in October (date to be determined). Look for the **Insider** email newsletter or go to [ftmpl.org](http://ftmpl.org) for up-to-date information.

## Tricia Elam Walker to Read at the Library

On Sunday, September 17 at 2 p.m. in the library's interim location, local author Tricia Elam Walker will join us and read her award-winning picture book, *Dream Street*. Illustrated by Ekua Holmes, the book is a celebration of the neighborhood in Roxbury, Massachusetts, where Walker grew up. As part of this event, children will be invited to make a crown to wear.



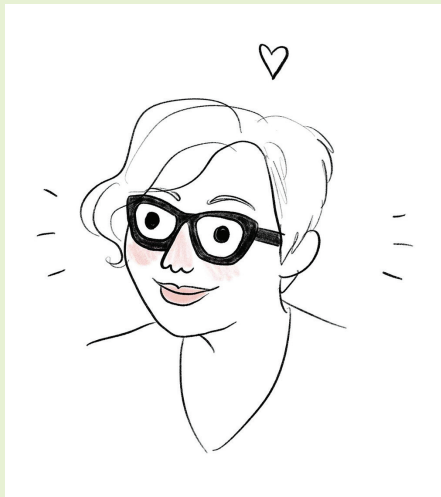
## Director's column

Jessica Jones  
Takoma Park Maryland Library Director

I am ceding most of my column inches this month to Phil Shapiro and a piece he wrote based on conversations we've been having as a staff about allowing for things to be complicated. I've been thinking about this a lot as our political climate gets more and more polarized.

We often want things to be black and white—and sometimes things are. As James Baldwin said, "We can disagree and still love each other unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist." Absolute truths do exist, and I don't personally believe that the devil has need of advocates.

This piece is about holding space for multiple truths, subjectivity, and differ-



ing opinions. Libraries have this really wonderful role in communities as being places where you can find information to support or refute almost any argument. We are, quite literally, a space where many things can be true at once.

## Embracing Ambiguity

by Phil Shapiro,  
Instructional Library Associate

Many Takoma Park residents know me as the local computer geek at the public library, but since my undergraduate degree is in philosophy, I consider myself more of a philosopher than a geek. I'm particularly interested in the process people use to arrive at perceived truth. In my conversations at the public library, I strive to help people think through these processes to reach a more nuanced understanding of truth.

For example, last month, I paid a visit to the public library in Westminster, Maryland—part of the Carroll County Libraries. This library has a fabulous makerspace called the Exploration Commons in their cavernous basement. When taking a tour of the Exploration Commons, I learned that it houses a commercial kitchen, and you can take cooking classes right there in the library.

I asked a library staffer, "Are the cooking classes in this commercial kitchen taught by volunteers or by paid instructors?" I was very happy to hear the correct answer, "Both."

If this library staffer had said anything else, I would have winced. Having all volunteer instructors or all paid instructors is a bad idea. The most benefit to the community happens with both paid and volunteer cooking class instructors. Some very highly talented cooking teachers would not teach in this gorgeous facility if they were not paid. We also want to make sure that previously marginalized community members might earn part of their livelihood teaching cooking at this library. It's entirely possible that one of the best cooking teachers might be someone in re-entry.

On the flip side of the coin, some passionate cooking teachers may not want the responsibilities of a paid teaching gig at the library. And the library's budget may not support compensating every interested instructor. To maximize the communal benefits from this facility, both paid and volunteer instructors should be welcomed.

Let me share a second example. When the subject of our new library comes up in conversation, I might ask people, "Our new library is being built for \$9 million. Is that a lot of money or a little money?"



Photo courtesy Phil Shapiro

Phil Shapiro—computer geek or philosopher? Both and much more.

The typical first response is, "That's a lot of money." I then say, "I agree, it's a lot of money. But it's also a little amount of money. Would you like to hear why?"

People are usually curious to hear why. I then explain, "In Takoma Park, you can buy a \$2 million house that is not a mansion. It's just a regular house. So, for the price of five houses, we are building a new library. That seems like a good deal to me. What do you think?" This added perspective gives a different view of the cost of building our new library.

Now, look around you at all the questions that crop up in your life. How many times is "both" the correct answer? In this complex world we live in, "both" might just be the better answer. I would encourage everyone to develop a fondness for embracing ambiguity. Then, come and tell the library staff what new insights and wisdom you have arrived at. Your capacity for insight is equal to anyone else's capacity for insight.

And always look beyond the surface. The computer geek who works at the library—he's also a philosopher. What other new truths can you discover by looking deeper?

Socrates said, "Philosophy begins in wonder." Increase the quality and quantity of wondering in your life and watch what happens. And always bounce your wonderings off others to benefit from their own insights and wisdom.

Maybe it's time for another visit to your local public library. This is Takoma Park. Our library offers riches you may not have encountered or imagined.

# Noticias sobre los servicios en español

por Verónica Rivera-Negrón

¡Canta Juego regresó en persona!

Luego de tres años en línea, el popular programa de juegos y canciones en español, *Canta Juego: Circle Time in Spanish*, regresó en persona a la biblioteca interina el 3 de agosto.

La señora Geiza, patóloga del habla y facilitadora del programa, lleva casi 15 años presentándose en la biblioteca gracias al auspicio de los Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Si bien el programa en línea permitió tener continuidad y seguir en contacto con los niños a pesar de la cuarentena, la señora Geiza asegura que prefiere el programa en persona. Estando en el mismo espacio físico, es posible el contacto visual, lo que facilita que los niños y sus acompañantes puedan seguir los movimientos de las canciones.

La patóloga del habla, que cuenta con más de 35 años de experiencia, explica la efectividad de un programa como *Canta Juego*: "Se basa en un modelo de tiempo libre y juego no directivo, donde el niño puede expresarse mejor y promover la libre interacción con otros niños y adultos. El papel principal de los padres y facilitadores es guiar e interactuar con los niños. Sin embargo, su papel no es el de líderes".

*Canta Juego* ocurre semanalmente los jueves a las 10:30 AM.

Últimas fechas de *El Cuento* en 2023

Luego de una pausa de verano, *El Cuento*, nuestro nuevo programa en español, regresa

el 16 de septiembre, a las 2:00 PM en la biblioteca interina. Ven a disfrutar de un cuento y canciones en español, así como un juego de Lotería mexicana (¡habrá premios!).

El programa se reunirá por cuatro sábados más (16 y 30 de septiembre, 14 y 28 de octubre) antes de pausar hasta el 2024.

¿Sabías que este programa es facilitado por voluntarios? Descubre más en [tinyurl.com/ElCuentoTkPK](https://tinyurl.com/ElCuentoTkPK)

## Nuevas listas de libros en español recomendados

¿Sabías que puedes acceder a listas de libros en español recomendados a través de la página web de la biblioteca?

Para hacerlo, sigue los siguientes pasos:

1. Accesa la página web de la biblioteca: [takomapark.info](https://takomapark.info)
2. Haz clic en la barra amarilla que lee "catálogo", que te llevará a nuestro catálogo en línea [takoma.bywatersolutions.com](https://takoma.bywatersolutions.com)
3. En la parte superior izquierda, verás la palabra "Lists". Haz clic sobre esta y luego haz clic en "Public lists" para acceder al menú de listas.
4. Explora listas como: "Clásicos en español (Adultos)" y "¡Libros con los que jugar!" haciendo clic sobre el nombre.
5. En estas listas, puedes ver si el recurso en cuestión está disponible en ese momento y hasta reservarlos.

¿Qué otro tipo de lista de libros recomendados te gustaría que publiquemos? ¡Déjanos saber!

**Meet the Author!**  
Sunday, September 17 | 2:00  
7505 New Hampshire Ave.

**Tricia Elam Walker**  
Children's Author

**Free event. Crown-making craft to follow.**

**Dory Fantasmagory**  
book release party  
Sunday, October 1, 2:00

Hear the first chapter of the new book, make a "Dory" craft, and enjoy a banana treat!  
We will give away one free copy!

"Give me that banana, I'm calling Mr. Nuggly!"

**DORY FANTASMA GORY**  
Can't Live Without You  
abby hanlon



# 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)

## 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.

## Correspond with Incarcerated Artists

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

7112 Willow Ave, Takoma Park

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](mailto:ava@thejusticeartscoalition.org) with any questions.



Photo by Eric Bond

Festival season kicks off in Takoma Park, with the Takoma Park Folk Festival on Sunday, September 10, followed by the Takoma Park Street Festival on Sunday October 1. Then, there's the Monster Bash for children on October 28. See details below. Pictured, Munit Mesfin and Locrea return to the 2023 Takoma Park Folk Festival.

## Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.,  
through Nov. 22, 2023  
Anne Street at University Boulevard East,  
Takoma Park

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.

## Family Outdoor Movie Night

Saturday, Sept. 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Ed Wilhelm Field

Pack your blanket and some snacks, it's time for another outdoor movie night. It starts at dusk on Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School). Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a

movie under the stars with your family! The movie will be a family friendly "G" or "PG" rated hit. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged.

## Takoma Park Folk Festival

Sunday, Sept. 10  
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 in September 2023. New ideas and planning volunteers are needed NOW to continue this great festival in the early fall. 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](mailto:info@tpff.org).

## Dance Exchange's 2023-24 Dance On Organizing with Artists for Change Cohort

Application deadline Friday, Sept. 15

Dance Exchange is accepting applications for its 9-month creative aging workforce

development program for artists—the 2023-24 Dance On OAC Cohort. Six artists from Takoma Park and beyond will be paid \$1,000 to build their skills and career for working with older adults. The Cohort program provides opportunities to train, build relationships with leaders in the field, and teach with and get feedback from Dance Exchange artists and Cohort peers. Apply at [www.danceexchange.org/dance-on-oac-cohort](http://www.danceexchange.org/dance-on-oac-cohort).

## Annual Play Day

Saturday, September 23, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.  
Takoma Park Middle School,  
7611 Piney Branch Road

It's time for you to let your hair down, put on your comfy shoes, and get ready to play! Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present this event. Rain or Shine. This event will have tons of fun activities for the entire family to enjoy. To see a full listing of activities and performances, visit [www.letsplayamerica.org](http://www.letsplayamerica.org). The event is free and open to all ages. See you there.

## Takoma Park Street Festival

Sunday, October 1, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Old Takoma on Carroll Ave.

The Takoma Park Street Festival returns for its 42nd year of music, vendors, food and fun. Festival goers will enjoy the day exploring over 150 vendors booths, live music from 18 local bands, food trucks and more. Takoma's unique shops, restaurants and cafes are all open and welcoming visitors. More information at [mainstreettakoma.org](http://mainstreettakoma.org).

## Monster Bash

Saturday, October 28, 1 – 6 p.m.  
Takoma Park Middle School  
7611 Piney Branch Road

The Takoma Park Recreation Department staff is holding a Halloween party designed for the entire family. Monster Bash 2023 will kick off at 1 p.m. with games, fun activities, and the annual costume contest followed by the costume parade, and ending with the costume award ceremony and celebration. More information at [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov)

## PUBLIC SPACE

■ From page 1

View the plan here: [bit.ly/publicspacemanagementplan](http://bit.ly/publicspacemanagementplan).

How do we prioritize our limited financial and staffing resources? Where are there policy gaps that leave uncertainty? Where is there overlap or redundancy that creates inefficiency? How do we make sure that our public spaces center the City's goals of racial equity and environmental sustainability? How can we improve the use of data in our decision-making?

This plan was crafted with input from hundreds of community members, and we are excited to share it with you. The draft plan proposes 37 recommendations to improve the way that the City manages its public spaces. It also offers an evaluation tool to help City staff, City Council members, and the public apply a standardized set of criteria to new projects.

Over the next couple months, City staff invite the public to take a close look at the Public Space Management Plan. The full draft plan is posted to the City's project web page.

Keep an eye out for an awareness-raising yard sign campaign in public spaces around the City. There will also be a series of blog posts released by the City that explore more summarized details about the project.

## How to Get Involved

Share your thoughts on which recommendations to prioritize in one of the following ways:

- Complete this five-question survey: [bit.ly/publicspacemanagementplan](http://bit.ly/publicspacemanagementplan).
- Send comments or questions to Alex Freedman, city planner: [alexanderf@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:alexanderf@takomaparkmd.gov).
- Send comments or questions to your City Council member.
- Give public comment at the City Council meetings.

You are also invited to join a hands-on exploration session for the project evaluation scorecard to see how the new tool works using sample scenarios. The session will be held on Wednesday, September 28, 6–7:30 p.m., at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Additional dates may be scheduled.

## CR ZONES

■ From page 6

a family of mixed-use zones that allow a range of densities and heights. These zones are designed to encourage a mix of commercial and residential uses, create interactive streets, provide meaningful public spaces and foster jobs and services where people can live, work, shop and play within a given neighborhood.

This plan includes three commercial/residential zone classifications:

- CR Neighborhood (CRN), with a maximum height of 50' and an FAR of 1, within the plan. (This is the area at the corner of Erie and Flower Aves.)
- CR Town (CRT), with maximum heights varying between 55' and 150' and FARs ranging from .75 to 2.5, depending upon location. (This is the zone along Maple Avenue, including around the Municipal building.)

- Commercial Residential (CR), with a maximum height of 120' and an FAR of 1.25. (This is the site of the former Washington Adventist Hospital)

These zones offer ways to soften the transition between mixed-use and residential areas. They address concerns about the proximity of some uses to single-family residential properties. And they create rules for parking and drive-through design. When any of these zones about a lower-scale residential neighborhood, a site plan is required. This triggers a version of the development review process that requires action by the Planning Board, and City Council can weigh in on the project. There are also added requirements for building design to set back higher floors to the visual impact on neighboring homes. Additionally, the draft Plan proposes that the Washington Hospital and Adventist properties require a sketch plan, which also creates requirements for public hearings.