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Library Renovation FAQs







RECREATION Page 7 Meet Momodou



SPECIAL EVENT Page 9 **Get Ready** for the Monster Bash!



Takoma Parl PWS

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 62, No. 10 Itakomaparkmd.gov

Important Dates

Holiday Closings

Observed Veterans Day: Friday, November 10. City offices and facilities are closed. Friday trash, food waste and recycling routes will be collected on Thursday, November 9. Emergency police services remain available.

Thanksgiving:

Thursday and Friday, November 23-24. City offices and facilities are closed both days. Thursday trash, food waste, and recycling routes will be collected on Wednesday. Friday trash, food waste, and recycling routes will be collected on Saturday. Emergency police services remain available.

Community Events

Takoma Park Street Festival Sunday, October 1, 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Old Takoma on Carroll Ave.

> Walk to School Day Wednesday, October 4 See article on page 4

Curving Lines Exhibition Opening Thursday, October 5, 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple 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.

> Reading: Stephan Pastis, Looking Up. Monday, October 16, 7 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave.

Fall Book Sale, Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) Saturday, October 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 7505 New Hampshire Ave. Book donations accepted until October 18.

> Monster Bash and Trunk-or-Treat Saturday, October 28, 1 p.m. Takoma Park Middle School



30 Years of Non-Citizen Voting in Takoma Park

by Sean Gossard

November marks the 30th anniversary of the first non-U.S. residents voting in Takoma Park.

The landmark initiative first passed by the Takoma Park City Council in 1992 gave immigrants-regardless of their legal status-the right to vote in municipal elections. In Takoma Park, nearly one-third of the residents are foreign-born, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

"Even if it's only a handful voting in elections-and it's more than that-it's a huge step forward for democracy," said Seth Grimes, co-founder of Takoma Park Mobilization, a volunteer organization that supports local immigrants, among other issues. "Non-citizens have a stake in civic affairs and everyone should have a voice in who governs them."

According to the latest city data from 2017, of the 347 registered non-citizen voters in Takoma Park, 72 cast ballots, making up roughly 20% of those registered. Overall turnout in 2017 was 22%. The original idea for non-citizen voting in Takoma Park started as a grassroots effort to give a voice to those who didn't have one before. Spearheaded by former Montgomery County Council Member George Leventhal and current U.S. Rep. Jamie Raskin (who was a law professor at American University



All residents of Takoma Park have had a right to vote in city elections since 1993.

at the time), the "Share the Vote" campaign was launched to get non-citizens the right to vote.

"I was serving on a city committee on redistricting at the time," said Leventhal. "I lived in Ward 5, as we reviewed the numbers it was clear there were so many more registered voters in other wards. Because Ward 5 had so many non-citizens, it had the smallest number of registered voters, even though it had the same number of residents."

The topic was divisive-even for progressive-leaning Takoma Park-and a nonbinding referendum was passed in 1991 by fewer than 100 votes. The next year, the City Council approved a change to the city's charter allowing non-citizens to vote in local elections. The first citywide elec-

VOTING 🗌 Page 11

Minor Master Plan Amendment Update

Takoma Park City Council Directs Montgomery Planning to Hold Work Sessions to Address Community Questions and Comments Regarding the Minor Master Plan Amendment

On September 14, the Montgomery County Planning Board held a public hearing on the draft Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment (MMPA), providing an opportunity for Takoma Park residents to comment on the plan. Montgomery Planning-the Montgomery County division of the Maryland-National Park and Planning Commission (M-NPPC)-will consider those comments, along with comments submitted in written form as it develops the next draft of the Minor Master Plan Amendment. The Takoma Park City Council passed a resolution on September 13 that provides some guidance to Montgomery Planning as it addresses community concerns and questions through a series of work sessions this fall. The Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment re-envisions the Washington Adventist Hospital and University campuses, the Erie Center, and the area along Maple Avenue. The Public Hearing Draft recommends mixed use zoning (commercial and residential) in the plan area, updates zoning along Maple Avenue for uniformity and conformity, and rezones the site of the former Washington Adventist Hospital so that it can be developed for housing and

commercial uses. The plan is meant to address the need for improved infrastructure, varied housing types, and additional public amenities such as parks and open space in a walkable and bikeable milieu.

Comments at the hearing began with remarks by Takoma Park Mayor Talisha Searcy, highlighting feedback included in Resolution 2023-33, which was shared separately with the Planning Board. The resolution requests that "the Montgomery County Planning Board ensures that the MMPA addresses seven priorities:

In the resolution, the City Council further "requires that the Montgomery County Planning Board holds work sessions that critically examine the following topics during development of the Planning Board Draft Plan":

· Potential Redevelopment of the Washington Adventist Site and the Flower

- incentivizing the creation of a range of housing types,
- retaining and improving existing affordable housing,
- retaining existing and attracting new local businesses,
- creating new public space opportunities.
- strengthening social and environmen-• tal factors,
- continuing community engagement • throughout the planning review process, and
- assessing the impact of increasing resi-• dential units and retail on the provision of public services in the plan area."

Avenue District

- Promoting a Diversity of Housing in the Plan Area
- Public Space, Infrastructure, and Amenities within the MMPA
- Protecting Existing Housing Affordability in the MMPA

Under each topic area, the City Council lists critical questions for Montgomery Planning to examine, such as "What is the impact of the density proposed in the Plan on access to and provision of public space, infrastructure, recreational facilities, school capacity, roads, public utilities, and healthcare?" To read the full resolution, including these notes, visit takomaparkmd.org and search for "Minor Master Plan." On that page, you will find a link to the public hearing video, information about the

MINOR MASTER PLAN D Page 11

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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.

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. There is no need to register to comment in person.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Wednesday, October 4: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, October 11: City Council Regular Meeting, 7 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, October 18: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community **Center Auditorium**
- Wednesday, October 25: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, November 1: 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 and click on "Events and Meetings." Most city boards and committees continue to meet virtually (on Zoom). Some are holding hybrid meetings (in-person/virtual)

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, October 12, 7:30 p.m. (virtual)

Thursday, October 19, 7 p.m. (Hydrangea Room and virtual)

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 10, 6:30 p.m. (virtual)

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, October 16, 7 p.m. (hybrid: in-person and virtual)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE Thursday, October 19, 7 p.m. (virtual)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND CERTIFIED COMMITTEE

Monday, October 2, 7 p.m. (virtual)

ADA NOTICE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing is invited to contact Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

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 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 Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, at 301-891-7267 or clerk@takomaparkmd. gov for additional information or to apply.

Engage With Your City Government!

The Takoma Park City Council consists of seven members. Six of these members are elected by ward, and one is elected at-large and serves as the mayor. You can watch and participate in city council meetings at the community center or online. On the City Council page of the city website (takomaparkmd.gov), you can find agendas, supplementary information, and links to videos of past meetings.

If you are unsure about which ward you are in, check the Ward Map and Street Directory, also available through the City Council page. Below is contact information for the mayor and city council.

- Mayor Talisha Searcy: talishas@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 1 Councilmember Shana Fulcher: shanaf@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 2 Councilmember Cindy Dyballa: cindyd@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 3 Councilmember Randy Gibson: randallg@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 4 Councilmember Terry Seamans: terrys@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 5 Councilmember Cara Honzak: carah@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 6 Councilmember Jason Small: jasons@takomaparkmd.gov

You can follow news from the mayor and city staff on the city blog at takomaparkmd.gov. To receive news in your inbox, sign up for e-newsletters and alerts by going to the city website and searching for "Sign Up." You can receive the Takoma Insider weekly e-newsletter, alerts for Council Agendas and Committee Meetings, police bulletins, and Takoma Arts updates.

In addition, several councilmembers maintain blogs or weekly e-newsletters with updates specific to council actions and their ward. Contact your councilmember to be added to their mailing list.

CouncilAction

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

Sorenson (Ward 3), and Kalib Bond (Ward 6).

 Resolution 2023-32 reappointing Sophia Yarrow (Ward 2) to the Sustainable Maryland Committee. the City Attorney's guidance on City Code language for assigning the still relevant tasks of the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee to other

area. Meetings are open to the public and residents are welcome to observe anytime.

September 6, 2023

Ordinance 2023-17 amending Takoma Park Code Chapter 6.16 Landlord-Tenant Relations and 6.36 Unsafe Buildings – Public Nuisance Abatement was adopted. (First reading was approved on July 26.)

September 13, 2023

- Resolution 2023-31 appointing members to the Youth Council: Maeve Monahan (Ward 3), Anand Ginsburg-Shukla (Ward 3), Nuhamin Michael (Ward 2), Ava Bedaque (Ward 2), Kamilla Sorenson (Ward 3), Nathaniel DeRoche (Ward 3), Leul Wondwosen (Ward 4), Samuel Vaena (Ward 1), Leah Kirschner (Ward 5), Safiya
- Resolution 2023-33 approving public comments of the City Council to be submitted to the Planning Board regarding the Public Hearing Draft of the Minor Master Plan Amendment. The resolution was submitted to the September 14 Planning Board Public Hearing. Mayor Searcy also read comments at the hearing.

Addendum: The following was accidently omitted from the September 2023 Newsletter

August 2, 2023

• The City Council unanimously approved the following motion: "Moved that the City Council seek municipal functions." This motion indicates the City Council's intention to sunset the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee.

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

To apply, go to takomaparkmd.gov/ government/boards-commissions-andcommittees.

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 Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267.

Building COMMUNITY

Looking Toward 2025 An Update on the Library and Community Center Renovation Project

After years of conversations and planning, the Takoma Park Maryland Library and Community Center renovation project has begun. Note that the Community Center back parking lot is now closed. City Planning anticipates welcoming the community to the new Library and Computer Center facilities in spring 2025.

In the meantime, the Library and Computer Center have relocated to ensure that access to our books, media, and computers will be available throughout this project. We will also continue to offer Books-to-Go curbside pickup at the new location and Books-to-You deliveries to Takoma Park residents.

During renovation, visit the temporary library facility at 7505 New Hampshire Ave. You can contact the library at newlibrary@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7259.

Frequently Asked Questions Where can I go for updates?

Please sign up for the City's Takoma Insider electronic newsletter or check the City's website: takomaparkmd.gov/newlibrary.

Will books and computers still be available?

Yes. Please visit, call, or email the Library and Computer Center. We are also still ordering new books. If you would like to search our catalog, visit takomapark. info.

Where will Library programs be held?

Library programs will primarily be held at the interim location at 7505 New Hampshire Ave., but please call or visit our website to verify. Other departments may relocate programs and activities as necessary; please contact those departments for more information.

Will Recreation programs and facilities reservations be available?

A portion of Recreation programs have been temporarily moved to the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave.), and we plan to keep a portion (including childcare) on-site at 7500 Maple Ave. during the renovation. Most rentals at the Takoma Park Community Center have



Takoma Park Maryland Library Construction Parking Plan



Construction has begun on a renovated Takoma Park Maryland Library, new Computer Center, and improved Community Center facilities. This image shows the view of the Library after the renovation is completed.

calling or visiting the City's website to ensure that the office you intend to visit is open or to make an appointment.

Will parking be impacted?

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

Will the City be communicating with the schools?

Yes. We will be communicating regularly with nearby schools, and we will work with them to minimize the impact on dropping off and picking up students. More information will be available through the schools and on our website.

What changes can we expect to see in the near future?

When work begins, there are four trees that must be removed; we will attempt to repurpose these trees as furniture in the new building if the wood is found to be in suitable condition. Three trees are maple oaks, and one is a spruce. The plaque commemorating the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial tree will be preserved and reinstalled on the grounds once construction is completed. Once the trees have been removed, the Library building will be razed and rebuilt. Other work will be taking place inside the facilities.



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:

ኮታች ያስውን ይህን አዶ ይፈልን የዜና መጽሄቶች እርስዎ ራስዎ ናቸው በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይችላል ትርፖሙን በመጠቀም በታኮማ ኮተማ ውስጥ ያስውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ. ጠቀ ካጿረማን በኋላ ለጽሑፉ አንናኝ ላይ, ይመልኩቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥማ ላይ ታንባለች የእሰሳ አሞሌን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን. been discontinued due to limited parking. Please contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290 for availability.

Will the Takoma Park Police Department be impacted?

The Takoma Park Police Department will remain open throughout this process. It is open 24/7 for emergency services. If you have an emergency, please call 911 for the fastest response.

Will residents be able to access other Community Center services throughout construction?

Passports, Finance, Housing and Community Development, and other City offices will remain open and accessible to residents for the majority of construction. Occasionally, there may be brief periods of closures for utility work. Please consider

What work has already been completed?

Several tasks have already been completed, including the removal and storage of solar panels, disconnection of gas and water utilities at the construction site, hazardous material abatement, and interior demolition. The mosaic from the front of the library has been carefully removed and stored to ensure its preservation until it can be reinstalled on the new building's façade.

We are excited to offer you new and improved facilities when we reopen in 2025. Thank you for your patience while we are in transition to serve you better.

Step into Walktober **Embrace the Joy of Walking in Takoma Park**

by Kaysi-Ann Webley Safe Routes to School Coordinator

October is here, and it's time to lace up those sneakers, breathe in the crisp autumn air, and embrace the countless benefits of walking. As the leaves change and the weather cools, our charming city offers a perfect backdrop for exploring on foot. But it's not just about leisurely strolls; it's about community, education, and healthy habits.

This Walktober, we're highlighting the importance of walking to school and encouraging you to participate in Walk to School Day, Walking Wednesdays, and even form walking school buses with other parents and students. Let's step into this exciting journey together!

Walk to School Day

Walk to School Day, celebrated on October 4 this year, is the perfect way to kickstart Walktober. This international event encourages students, parents, and community members to ditch the car and choose the healthy and eco-friendly option of walking to school. It's not just about getting exercise; it's also about promoting safety, reducing traffic congestion, and fostering a sense of community.

Here's how you can participate:

- 1. Plan your route: Choose a safe and scenic route to school that adheres to traffic rules.
- 2. Join or organize a group: Walking with friends and neighbors makes the journey more enjoyable. Consider forming a walking school bus, a group of stu-



dents and parents who walk to school together.

- 3. Dress comfortably: Wear weatherappropriate clothing and comfortable shoes to make the walk enjoyable.
- 4. Capture the moment: Take photos of your Walk to School Day experience and share them on social media using the hashtag #WalkToSchoolDayTakomaPark.

Walking Wednesdays

But why stop at just one day of walking? Why not designate every Wednesday in October as Walking Wednesdays? It's a simple way to build a healthy habit and explore your neighborhood on foot. Whether it's a leisurely stroll or a brisk walk, Walking Wednesdays provide an opportunity to connect with your surroundings, discover hidden gems, and reduce your carbon footprint.

Take the Walking School Bus!

Imagine a safer, more eco-friendly, and community-driven way for children to get to school. That's where the concept of a walking school bus comes in. This innovative approach to school transportation not only benefits the environment but also builds a sense of camaraderie among students and parents.

A walking school bus is a group of students who walk to school together, accompanied by one or more responsible adults. The bus doesn't involve any vehicles but instead relies on the power of foot traffic.

It promotes a sense of community, ensures children's safety, and encourages healthy habits-all while reducing the number of cars on the road.

The Benefits of a Walking School Bus

- Safety: With adult supervision, children can navigate busy streets and intersections more safely, reducing the risk of accidents.
- Physical activity: Walking to school promotes physical activity, contributing to children's overall health and wellbeing.
- Environmental impact: Fewer cars on the road mean reduced traffic congestion and lower carbon emissions, making a positive impact on the environment.
- Community-building: Walking school buses bring parents, students, and neighbors together.

Quick Tips for Organizing a Walking School Bus

- 1. Gather interested parents: Start by reaching out to parents in your neighborhood or school community who are interested in participating.
- 2. Identify routes: Determine the safest routes to school, considering factors like pedestrian-friendly pathways, crosswalks, and traffic lights. See the Safe Routes to School page on the City website.
- 3. Set up a schedule: Establish a consis-

WALKING D Page 11

New Tool Will Help Determine Public Space Priorities

by Alex Freedman **City Planner**

On October 18, the City Council will conduct a work session to review a draft of the Public Space Management Plan. The plan proposes a holistic approach to thinking about the city's public spaces, areas meant to be used and enjoyed by all residents, such as parks, plazas, roadways, sidewalks, streeteries-and all the amenities that support such spaces.

In addition to 37 policy and practice recommendations, the plan proposes a new decision-making tool to help City Council, staff, and the public more rigorously compare projects and priorities. Often decision makers are pressed to advance a new project or initiative without data to compare the project under consid-





develop project scores on new proposals and initiatives.

To download the Project Evaluation Scorecard Exploration Kit, visit the City's Public Space Management Plan page on the City website: bit.ly/publicspacemanagementplan.

What Will Be Affected by the **Public Space Management** Plan?

This plan touches many pieces of public space management by the City. These include:

- How Council and City staff prioritize new projects and investments in public space
- City park maintenance strategies

How to Get Involved with the Plan

Share your thoughts on which recommendations to prioritize in one of a few different ways:

- Complete this brief 5-question survey: surveymonkey.com/r/ **PSMPComments**
- Send comments or questions to the Alex Freedman, city planner: alexanderf@takomaparkmd.gov
- Send comments or questions to your City Councilmember
- Give public comment at the City Council meeting (work session scheduled for 10/18 and voting session scheduled for 10/25).

The Streetery on Laurel Avenue represents a unique recent use of public space.

eration with other priorities. The Project Evaluation Scorecard attempts to fill that gap.

The scorecard uses a set of eight benefit categories, each encompassing several criteria. New projects or initiatives would be scored by city staff. Three benefit categories receive an added weight to their score to reflect recent City policies that prioritize racial equity, environmental sustainability, and safety. The completed scorecard would be shared publicly as an attachment to council cover memos. The scoring becomes a tool for city staff and the City Council to begin comparing different projects.

The scorecard is not meant to be a judgment upon the merit of a project. Instead, it evaluates how a project stacks up against existing city priorities, and then that score can be compared to the scores of other projects. The scorecard would not be prescriptive or determine whether or not a project advances; it would be one of the considerations, publicly shared, for how to advance new projects.

The tool may be used to compare two or more projects under consideration at a given time. It may also be used longer term to test potential projects against a benchmarked level of benefit. Over time, certain scores may emerge as minimum thresholds for project consideration. The tool will be made publicly available so that community members and City Council members can try it out to

- · New sidewalk and traffic calming requests
- Infrastructure around sensitive community uses, like schools and senior centers
- Public event permitting and management
- Community outreach strategies
- Green stormwater management
- Parking zones and metering
- Signage and wayfinding
- Native and climate-adapted planting
- Public space data management and mapping
- Inter-agency collaboration

The ARTS

Artists Share Abstract Work in *Curving Lines* **Exhibition**

Free Opening Reception Thursday, October 5, 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave.

Arcing lines, merging colors, and abstract imaginings will fill the walls of the Takoma Park Community Center in the new *Curving Lines* art exhibition.

A free opening reception will be held on October 5 with the featured artists, including Gerardo Camargo, Kay Layne, Craig Moran, and G. Jackson Tanner. Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith curated the exhibition in the City's *Takoma Park Arts* series.

"Even though these artists each have their own distinct styles, their art complements each other not only through their abstract nature but also their emotional content," Smith said. "Viewers can reach their own interpretations of the work which is untethered from traditional realistic imagery."

Gerardo Camargo was born in Mexico City and began working as a cartoonist at the age of 12. In 2004, he founded the Zarco Gallery, an independent artist-led contemporary art space. His work has been shown in galleries and museums in Mexico and the United



Level Connection by Gerardo Camargo



Katapátisi skión by G. Jackson Tanner

States, including Joan Hisaoka Healing Arts Gallery, Mexican Cultural Institute, and the Siqueiros Museum.

"In my work I examine the use of materials and labor in domestic architecture construction sites," Camargo said. "I find labor represented as a group of segmented small gestures that, united, compound the way of making, transforming, or demolishing a structure."

Kay Layne's work has been displayed in juried solo shows at the Arts Club of Washington, Schlesinger Center, Krause Gallery, Glenview Mansion, Maplewood Gallery, and other venues. "I have been drawn to abstract painting because I can create paintings that are intended to elicit emotion, whether that be soothing, challenging, or upsetting," she said. "My textured paint surfaces reflect the hard environment of the Southwest and are created with crumpled tissue paper, paste medium, or trowel marks."

D.C. native Craig Moran received a B.A. in English and studio art from the University of Virginia and completed post-graduate courses in painting and drawing at the School of

EXHIBITION 🗌 Page 12

The *Takoma Park Arts* series features



Presence by Craig Moran



Orange Comet by Kay Layne

Class: The Carla Perlo Story

Thursday, October 19, 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center Free Event – No tickets required

This documentary explores the life and legacy of Carla Perlo, the founding director of Dance Place located in the Brookland neighborhood in Washington, D.C. The film is interspersed with interviews and performances by local dancers. Thursday, November 2, 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center Free Event – No tickets required

Nomad Meets the City

Former herder Tumurbaatar works tirelessly as a garbage truck driver in the Mongolian capital of Ulaanbaatar, striving to better his daughter's education and compete in the modern economy. Torn between life in the city and his home and family in a countryside town, the pressures of distance and separation take a toll. many free events at the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue, including film screenings, art exhibitions, theater, concerts and



ganized by the City's Arts and Humanities Division, and no tickets or reservations are required. You can find more info and sign up for our e-newsletter at takom-aparkmd.gov/arts.

TAKOMA PARK

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Takoma Park News

Send submissions to: Editor: Eric Bond • editorbond@gmail.com | Assistant Editor: Sean Gossard • TPNewsEditor@takomaparkmd.gov Questions: Donna Wright Communications Director • donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov | Eric Bond • editorbond@gmail.com www.takomaparkmd.gov The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov.

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RECREATION

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

TOTS

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 7315 New Hampshire Ave. (Gymnasium) Ages 3–5 Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m. Through October 28 Resident: \$60/ non-resident: \$70

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 hiphop 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

YOUTH: WINTER BREAK CAMP

Winter Wonderland

Come enjoy Winter Wonderland at the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave.). Campers will have the opportunity to add some excitement to their break with games, group activities, and crafts. This winter break is set to be a whole lot of fun! Must bring a lunch, snacks, and labeled water bottle. Registration is required. Space is limited, sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp. There will be no program on Monday, December 25.* Morning and afternoon care is available for an additional fee.

Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave. Grades K–5, minimum age: 6 Tuesday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. December 26–December 29 Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170 Before Care: 7–9 a.m. After Care: 4–6 p.m. Resident: \$45 / non-resident: \$55



YOUTH: WINTER SPORTS LEAGUES

Sports registration opens on October 9 for City residents and on October 16 for people living outside the City (nonresidents). Registration is available in person and online.

Futsal League 2024

Futsal, a sport that is similar to soccer, offers the perfect combination of learning and fun. It is designed to improve fundamental technique and skill development during the winter months. It's also a great opportunity to meet new friends, stay in shape, and prepare for the upcoming season. Please note that program registration is first-come-first-served.. Parents are encouraged to volunteer as coaches. The season includes eight games games. Practices will be once a week, beginning in January. Games are on Sundays and begin January 21. Game times are subject to change based on gym availability and number of teams in a division. Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium 7315 New Hampshire Ave. Games on Sundays (eight games in the season) January 21–March 10 7–8-year-old division, 12–2 p.m. 9–10-year-old division, 2–4 p.m. 11-12-year-old division, 4-6 p.m. Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110

Winter Basketball League 2024

The Winter Basketball League is a developmental, community league. Program goals are to introduce children to the fundamentals of basketball and to emphasize that playing the game and being a member of a team are more important than winning. The coaches in this league will focus on personal improvement, sportsmanship and fun.

Practice times (1 hour a week) vary throughout the week at various local schools. Games are held on Saturdays, times vary. Specific details regarding each league will be available at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/sports/ winter-basketball-league/

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

SPORTS

Teen Basketball Fundamentals



From improvement on defense to achieving perfect shooting form, this class will help you enhance your basketball skills! All necessary materials will be provided. Concepts that will be covered include: Static and dynamic stretching, Ball handling skills, Shooting form, Defense drills, Passing, Creating your own shot off the dribble. There's always room to grow. All skill levels are welcome!

Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave. (Outdoor Basketball Court) Grades 6–12 Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4–5 p.m. October 10–November 28 (No class on November 21) 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. 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. Enrollment on ActiveNet is FREE but required to visit the lounge. 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 7500 Maple Ave.



You MUST be registered by November 10, no exceptions! No registration is required to attend the event as a spectator. Come out and have fun with a DJ, food, 3-point contest, and raffle prizes!

Takoma Park Middle School 7611 Piney Branch Rd. (Gymnasium) Grades 8–12 Friday, December 1, 6–8 p.m. Free

Teen Harvest Fest

Fall is in full swing! To celebrate, the Teen program will be hosting a Harvest Fest full of food, games, raffles, and music. Come to hang out with friends, meet new friends, and have a good time!

Takoma Park Community Center Teen Lounge 7500 Maple Ave. Grades 6–12 Friday, November 17, 4–6 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, Md. 20832). Voted the best screampark 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.

Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave. (Meet at: Teen Lounge) Grades 6–12 Friday, October 20, 5–9 p.m. Resident: \$30 / non-resident: \$40

Coaching Information: Volunteer coaches are always needed. Please contact the Takoma Park Recreation Department if interested (240-687-2202).

Team Assignments: Grades K–2 divisions will reflect gender equity based on number of participants.

Special Requests: Requests must be made in writing and submitted through ActiveNet at time of registration, though requests are not guaranteed.

Various local school gyms Grades K–8 Practices: weekday evenings Games: Saturdays, January 20–March 9 (eight games in the season) Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110 (Teen Lounge) Grades 6–12 Monday–Friday, 3–6 p.m. 2023–2024 school year Free

EVENTS

Old School vs New School Basketball Game

Prepare for an epic battle of Old School vs New School this Fall! The Teen Program will be hosting a basketball game with 10 adults against 10 teens to determine the ultimate Old School vs New School match up! Who will take the crown?! The winning team is awarded a trip to a Washington Wizards basketball game!

Teens and adults wanted! If you would like to participate as a player and submit your team, please register on ActiveNet.



Teen Winter Break Trip - Snowtubing

Join the Teen Program for a day of snowtubing fun at Liberty Mountain Resort in Carroll Valley, Pa. Teens will be able to enjoy various tubing courses throughout the park for a few hours. Please dress warmly. Water-resistant outer layers are strongly encouraged. You must bring a bagged lunch

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

RECREATION

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and/or spending money. Teens will meet in the Teen Lounge at the Takoma Park Community Center at 11:30 a.m. The bus will be departing at 11:45 a.m., so be sure to be on time!

Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave. (Meet at: Teen Lounge) Grades: 6–12 Wednesday 12–5 p.m. December 27 Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

ADULTS

ART

Button Up! (Button Making)



Frustrated with the limited choice of commercial buttons? Learn to fashion one-of-a-kind buttons that enhance your knitted and crocheted creations. In this three-hour workshop, you'll learn several techniques for creating polymer buttons to complement your handmade sweaters, shawls, and scarves. You'll leave with a variety of buttons that are uniquely yours as well as skills for creating polymer buttons without special equipment for years of

future projects.

Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave. (Art Studio) Ages 12 and up Saturday, November 4, 1–5 p.m. Resident: \$90 / non-resident: \$100 Materials Fee: \$23

FITNESS

Also check out the Old School vs New School event, listed under Teens, we are looking for adults who would like to fill the Old School role!

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 7315 New Hampshire Ave. (Gymnasium) Ages 16 and up Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. October 31–December 19 Resident: \$105 / non-resident: \$125 Drop-in: \$10

Ker De Zuri DanXercise Class: AfroBeat

Beat Zuri Sana'a DanXercise's mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuris Sana'a DanXercise combines hip hop, salsa, dancehall, contemporary, and African dance moves within choreography to create a memorable workout experience. The 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 7500 Maple Ave. (Dance Studio) Ages 16 and up 11-week session Thursdays, 7–8 p.m. Through 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 7315 New Hampshire Ave. (Gymnasium) Ages 16 and up Saturdays, 9–10 a.m. Through October 14 Drop-in: \$12

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 and 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+

DROP-IN

Bingo

Come try your luck and win a prize! This is drop-in. Host: Paula Lisowski



Takoma Park Maryland Library 7505 New Hampshire Ave. Ages 55 and up Tuesday, October 24, 12–2 p.m. Free

RECREATION 🗌 Page 9

Meet Momodou Kuyateh

Momodou has grown up coming to TPRD programs, from summer camp to the teen lounge, and this summer he got his first job through our Summer Youth Employment program—working at that same camp he attended as a child. We wanted to ask him some questions to get to know him better and share with our community.

Tell us about yourself. Your hobbies, interests, etc.

I am a junior in High School. I enjoy working with kids and I enjoy spending quality time with my friends and family.





RECREATION

How long have you lived in Takoma Park?

I have lived in Takoma Park for eight years

What has been your favorite program at TPRD?

My favorite program is Teen Night because me and my friends get to hang out and have a good time together.

What is your favorite memory while attending a TPRD Program?

My favorite memory while attending a Rec Program, is doing the Summer Youth Employment program and working at New Ave summer camp. I liked it because I got to experience having my first job and also going on field trips and having fun.



Who was your favorite TPRD counselor/instructor? Why are they your favorite?

My favorite instructor is Mr. Vince because throughout my eight years of living in Takoma Park, he has always supported me and helped me out when I needed it.

If you could create your own TPRD program or activity what would it be and why would you create it?

I would create an affordable tutoring program so students could get the help they need and parents wouldn't have to worry about spending a ton of money.



Momodou through the years: On a field trip at a Bowie Baysox game (Momodou is on the right), at the New Ave Adventure camp (above), and now as a staff member.





Library and Computer Center

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

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 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 allows us to contact you if necessary.

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..

Chess for Kids. Join us on Sundays at 11 a.m. 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, October 8, 1–3 p.m.

Kids' Art. Leaves are falling and autumn is here! Make a craft with us on Sunday, October 15 at 2 p.m.

El Cuento: Lotería and Storytime in Spanish. October 14 and 28 at 2 p.m.

Sketch Club. After school art! Thursdays, 4–5:30 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 is not required.

Dory Fantasmagory event! At long last, there is a new Dory Fantasmagory book! *Dory Fantasmagory #6: Can't Live Without You* dropped on 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!).

Listen to this!

PODCAST

by Jill Raymond

Sisters-in-Law, with Joyce Vance, Barbara McQuade, Jill Wine-Banks, and Kimberly Atkins Stohr, all commentators on MSNBC.

Do you need a little help parsing the recent assortment of indictments? The Sisters discuss issues of law and judicial practice emanating from today's headlines. Their combined range of experience is enormous: McQuade and Vance are both law professors and former federal prosecutors, Wine-Banks was a young assistant prosecutor in the Watergate case, and Atkins Stohr was a trial attorney before becoming a journalist on the national stage. The podcasts are a comradely free-for-all, and especially McQuade and Vance manage to explicate byzantine bits of legal minutiae for a lay audience. Episodes are like an evening where four friends with great legal minds are having a good time batting around the juridical crises of the moment. But the camaraderie does not obscure the focus on what is true, or what can be known, about a set of circumstances. The Sisters avoid spinning grandiose legal or political fantasy, providing reliable and grounded analysis. Found wherever you get your podcasts.

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library News

Book Sale!

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) are having their fall book sale on Saturday, October 21 at the Library's interim location. The Library is accepting book donations until October 18. Please donate gently used popular fiction and nonfiction, and children's books in particular. Please do not donate textbooks, manuals, yearbook, or books that have been stored in a basement. Bring your donations in boxes, if possible.

The Fall Book Sale is a great opportunity to do a little early holiday shopping—many of these books are brand new. FTPML supports many Library programs and events.

Friends Book Group

The Friends Book Group will be meeting on November 9 to discuss various Christmas stories by Charles Dickens. For more information, including future dates and titles, email ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com. Copies will be available at the Library front desk or online on Freading or Hoopla.

Verónica Rivera-Negrón has created this informational graphic (below) to illustrate the impact of our summer employment program.

Verónica Rivera-Negrón ha creado este gráfico informativo (abajo) para ilustrar el impacto de nuestro programa de empleo de verano.



The **Young Adult Librarian-in-Training (YALIT)** was a **paid job opportunity** as part of the City of Takoma Park Summer Youth Employment Program, coordinated by the Recreation Department.

Neighborhood Circle Time. Join Ms. Kati and/or Ms. Verónica every Tuesday at 10:30 am for Circle Time indoors in our interim library. We sing songs, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, dance, and do movement exercises. We read a book in the middle of the program. And we close with bubbles. Jumpstart with the Arts joins us with live music for Circle Time on the first Tuesday of each month - the next time they will be with us is October 3. Author Event: Stephan Pastis. The *Pearls Before Swine* cartoonist will be joining us in the Community Center auditorium on Monday, October 16, at 7 p.m. to share his new book, *Looking Up.* From the publisher: "A quirky and heartwarming middle grade novel about a girl struggling with loneliness and the curveballs of life featuring black and white illustrations throughout. This story from comic genius Stephan Pastis is equal parts touching and hilarious, and is sure to resonate with any child who has ever felt like they don't quite fit in!" Under the supervision and mentorship of the Manager of Children and Young Adult Services at Takoma Park Maryland Library, **the YALiT learned about and practiced three areas of library** work: readers' advisory, collection development, and program development.



"The most surprising thing about working at the Library was how, even as a teenager, I was given the power to add and change its services in so many ways." Bintou Sangare, 2023 YALIT / SYEP Participant

Director's column You're Grounded

By Jessica Jones Takoma PaMaryland Library Director

Five things you can see Four things you can touch Three things you can hear Two things you can smell One thing you can taste

The above prompt is a grounding exercise you can use if you're feeling anxious, overwhelmed, overstimulated, dissociative, or otherwise un-grounded. I've been thinking a lot lately about a sense of "overwhelm" as it pertains to change. Here is an example from sitting at my desk:

- Computer monitor, ceramic vase, coffee mug, Post-It notes, UV lamp
- Keyboard, alpaca-fur stuffie, corrugated cardboard, crocheted yarn
- Air purifier, fan, someone making copies
- Coffee, lavender lotion
- Strawberry Pocky

We've had so much change in the last year with relocating the Library, and there's still more to come. "Change management" is the theme for my position, basically from when I started here in 2021 until we reopen the new Library building.

The new facilities will be worth it, and I remind myself of this every time there's a delay, or when logistics get complicated. Change can be hard, but it's how we grow. Without these changes, it would be so much harder to advance our work towards inclusivity and belonging. *Could* we even do this without changing some things? I don't think so.

Facilities, resources, and flexibility — these are all variables we want to address with this new construction. They are also how we meet the disparate and simultaneous needs for quiet reading and working areas, developmentallyappropriate settings and collections for all ages, engaging programs, classrooms for lifelong learning, and community gathering spaces.

As work gets underway on the Library and Community Center Redevel-



opment Project, we will all be managing change. Staff, residents, and visitors may all feel the impacts. The parking lot will get smaller, some programs will move to other facilities, and reservable spaces may be harder to come by. It will be worth it, though. The inconveniences are temporary.

Take a pause, take a breath. Remember to breathe into your diaphragm.

Speaking of breathing into things, my favorite grounding tool is actually my cat Waffles. I love his brother/ roommate Falafel to pieces, but Falafel has boundaries (rude) that prevent him from being the best grounding tool he could be. Waffles, despite his name, can provide everything except for taste. I love taking a timeout to be present with him, get my nose in behind his ears, and inhale.

I hope you have your own ways to feel grounded. Part of trauma-informed public service is assuming that we have all experienced trauma and understanding that everyone's triggers are different. Grounding can help us stay present when our brains are telling us that our environment is too much or that a trauma is being triggered. Change itself can be a trigger, but besides being inevitable, it is also a path forward towards creating the conditions in which we can meaningfully act on our shared values. We're investing in ourselves, in Takoma Park.



reat

Businesses wanted!

Choose to have a table or

decorate the trunk of your vehicle

Saturday, October 28th

In conjunction with the Monster Bash Kick-Off Event at TPMS To reserve your space contact Chelsea Nunez at Chelsea N@TakomaParkMD.gov

RECREATION

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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. Through 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-tofollow Zumba choreography that focuses on 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. Through 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.

SPECIAL EVENT

Monster Bash

Get your costumes ready! The Takoma Park Recreation Department staff is prepping for our annual monster bash, with fun for the entire family! We will kick off at 1 p.m. with games and other fun activities, followed by the costume parade down to Maple Ave., ending with the costume award ceremony and celebration. More information at takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Middle School 7611 Piney Branch Rd. All ages Instructor: Adriene Buist Virtual Ages 55 and up Tuesdays, 9–10 a.m. Through December 12 \$6

Rhythmic Drumming

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave. (Back Activity Room) Ages 55 and up Tuesdays, 1:15–2:15 p.m. Through 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. Through December 14 Free with membership





Saturday, October 28, starting at 1 p.m. Free





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At Your SERVICE



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

Cooking Safety Starts with You Fire Prevention Week: October 8–14

Fire Prevention Week is observed each year during the week of October 9 in commemoration of the Great Chicago Fire, which began on October 8, 1871, and caused devastating damage. This horrific conflagration killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures, and burned more than 2,000 acres of land.

Since 1922, the National Fire Protection Association has sponsored the public observance of Fire Prevention Week. In 1925, President Calvin Coolidge proclaimed Fire Prevention Week a national observance, making it the longest-running public health observance in our country. During Fire Pre-



Courtesy National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

vention Week, children, adults, and teachers learn how to stay safe in case of a fire. This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign, "Cooking safety starts with YOU" intends to educate everyone about simple but important actions they can take to keep themselves and those around them safe when cooking. For instance, have a "kid-free zone" of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried. Find more information at nfpa.org/Events/Events/Fire-Prevention-Week.

Halloween Safety

Halloween is a time for fun and spooky celebrations and activities, but it can also be a time for some truly scary fire safety hazards. As the holiday nears, take simple precautions that can help ensure the holiday remains fun and fire safe:

- Use glow sticks or battery-operated candles for jack-o'-lanterns and other Halloween decorations.
- When choosing costumes, stay away from long trailing fabric.
- Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Teach children to stay away from open flames, including jack-o'-lanterns with candles in them.
- Keep Halloween decorations away from open flames and other heat sources, such as light bulbs and heaters.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes. Make sure all smoke alarms are working.

Courtesy National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

TPVFD Member Spotlight Neal Santangelo: Walking in Familiar Boots

Neal Santangelo joined the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Rescue Squad in 2015 and transferred to the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department in 2021. Neal walks in the boots of many other family members who served fire and rescue service, including his father, his grandfather, and several uncles. His wife and kids love visiting him at the fire house. When Neal is done with a shift, his family is always interested to hear about his experiences. He appreciates that the emergency education and training are provided free. Some of the classes the Neal has taken include Essentials of Firefighting, Emergency Vehicle Operator Course, Emergency Medical Technician-Basic, and Aerial Company Operations. He finds the opportunity to serve his community rewarding and likes helping people when they most need it.



Weather the Storm



by Claudine Schweber **Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair**

When you heard or saw the Hawaii fires--did you think about how you would cope? Were you prepared for our recent torrential rain storms or heat extremes? Are you prepared in case there is a power outage due to extreme weather this fall?

Use the emergency preparedness checklist below to see how ready you are.

Prep for a power outage	Ready	To do/ deadline
Lights and radio		
 Several working flashlights are on each floor and easy to reach. 		
Flashlights have been tested.		
• Extra batteries are easy to access.		
• A battery-powered radio is available for news updates.		
• Do not light candles or allow anyone to do so.		
Cell phone		
 At least one cell phone charger is fully charged (check power levels at first warning of a potential power outage). 		
Medical equipment		
 Make sure that necessary medical equipment is in order and that there is a charged power source. 		
 Register for the Emergency Medical Equipment Notification Program at Pepco. Go to Pepco.com and search for "Emergency Medical Equipment Notification." 		

Fire preparedness and prevention	Ready	To do/ deadline
• Fire alarm is working. (Note that Marylanders must have alarms with 10-year batteries or hard wired install on every floor. Montgomery Fire and Rescue will install new smoke alarms for free: mcfrs.org/mcsafe.)		
 If members of the household are deaf/hard-of-hearing or visually impaired, install the proper alarm. (For more information, call 311 or search for "disability services" on montgomerycountymd.gov.) 		
 You have an escape route for getting out of the house or apartment quickly and safely and have identified a safe meeting place. (Make sure that everyone in the household practices evacuating.) 		

Storm preparedness	Ready	To do/
		deadline

Consider Volunteering at Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department

The fire/rescue service and emergency medical service offer exciting challenges and a valuable, rewarding way to serve the community. In return for your commitment of one evening per week, we offer training that will always be in great demand. 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 for details. For more information, visit tpvfd.org/volunteer.

- Sign up for Takoma Park text and email alerts. (Search for this service at takomaparkmd.gov.
- Keep cash on-hand in case you need to buy supplies if ATMs and credit card machines are not working.
- · Electronic and hard copies of important documents have been placed in safe places.
- A list of medications and doctors is accessible in case of emergency and has been shared with a contact person.

In all cases, you should have two emergency contacts-one local and one out of the area—who agree to be the source/conduit for information about your situation. How did you do? Are you ready to have a wonderful, safe Fall? By now, we autumn be ready!

Takoma Park Police Notices

Crime Prevention Month: Make Safe Transactions

October is Crime Prevention Month. Did you know that TPPD offers a safe place for online transactions? We would like the community to feel safe when dealing with strangers through online classified ad transactions, such as through Craigslist. Following that national trend, the department set up a safe place for sellers and buyers to carry out purchases and/or sales in the Takoma Park Police Department parking lot or lobby, 7500 Maple Ave.

Although the department has offered the police department's parking lot and lobby as a safe place to make the transactions, police officers will *not* be involved in the transactions, nor will they oversee them. However, there is a camera outside of the police department that is monitored 24/7 and there are always police officers on duty in and outside the station. To ensure our awareness, those using our facility as a safe place to make transactions, are encouraged to tell police personnel the purpose of their visit.

Breast Cancer Awareness



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Please don't go unchecked. Make it a priority. A pink badge has been temporarily added to our cruisers in honor of this month and to remind members of the community to get checked for breast cancer.

Hispanic Pride

For #NationalHispanicHeritageMonth we pay tribute to our Police Department Hispanic staff who have positively influenced/enriched our department/community. We have staff from the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Bolivia!



Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, October 7

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! Keep what you build! For more information, search for "faith and blue" at takomaparkmd.gov.

Saturday, October 28

Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day

The Takoma Park Police Department will be participating in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, October 28, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. This campaign gives the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Prescription, over-the-counter, and pet medications will be accepted. In addition, vape pens and other e-cigarette devices are now accepted BUT only after the batteries are removed from such devices.

- We have two collection sites this year:
 Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Maryland (first-floor lobby or outside, weath-
- er permitting) • Walgreens, 1329 University Blvd., Takoma Park, Maryland (inside the entrance)
 - As a reminder, residents looking to dis-

Safe Hauntings

It's that time for all the little witches, ghosts, and goblins to venture out in search of treats. Be sure that they are safe, whether they are with their parents or out with friends.

- Make sure your child's costume is bright and reflective. If it's not, consider putting reflective tape or striping on the costumes.
- Make sure their shoes fit well and their costumes are short enough that they don't find themselves tripping.
- Put your child's name, address, and phone number somewhere on them, especially for little ones, in case they get separated from you.
- Review "Stop-Drop-Roll" with your child in case their costume does come in contact with fire.

Trick or Treating Safety Checklist:

- Use a flashlight to see and be seen by others.
- Stay in a group, walk slowly, and communicate where you are going.
- Only trick-or-treat in well-known neighborhoods at homes that have a porch light on.
- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk. If no sidewalk is available, walk at the farthest edge of the roadway facing traffic. Never cut across yards or use alleys.
- Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat.
- Obey all traffic and pedestrian regulations. Only cross the street as a group and in established crosswalks. Always walk. Never run across a street.
- Remove any mask or item that will limit eyesight before crossing a street, driveway, or alley.
- Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will.
- Never consume unwrapped food items or open beverages.
- No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an adult at home.
- Law enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

For your pets, see tips from the ASPCA: aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/ halloween-safety-tips

Please be safe and have a Happy Halloween from the Takoma Park Police Department!

pose of excess and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications can always visit the safe and secure permanent dropoff location at the City of Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Ave. (first floor lobby). The collection site is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked. Items that CANNOT be left are liquids, inhalers, aerosol cans, regular household ointments/lotions, needles/sharps, and/or thermometers. The Takoma Park Police Department will collect and store all items and then safely dispose of them through accepted practices.

WALKTOBER

From page 4

tent schedule for the Walking School Bus, including pick-up times and loca-tions.

- **4. Assign responsibilities:** Divide responsibilities among parents, such as lead walkers, crossing guards, and communication coordinators.
- **5. Communicate:** Ensure that all parents and students involved have a reliable way to communicate, such as a group

chat or email list.

- 6. Be safe: Emphasize safety rules and practices to parents and students. Teach them how to use crosswalks, look both ways before crossing, and follow traffic signals.
- 7. Start small: Begin with a manageable group of students and parents. As the program gains momentum, you can expand. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend one adult for every six children. If children are age 10 or older, fewer adults may be needed.

If children are ages 4 to 6, one adult per three children is recommended.

- 8. Promote it: Spread the word within your school and community about the Walking School Bus. Use flyers, social media, and school newsletters to create awareness. Share your school bus with your local Safe Routes to School Coordinator Kaysi-Ann Webley at kaysiw@ takomaparkmd.gov.
- **9.** Celebrate success: Recognize the achievements of your Walking School Bus, whether it's reaching milestones,

promoting safety, or building a stronger community.

Organizing a Walking School Bus is an effective and rewarding way to promote safety, health, and community spirit within your neighborhood. It's a practical solution to reduce traffic congestion and minimize your carbon footprint while giving your children a healthier and more enjoyable way to get to school. So, put on those walking shoes and start your journey towards a safer, greener, and more connected community today!



tions where non-citizens voted took place on Nov. 2, 1993.

"It was a new idea for a lot of people and there were anti-immigration activists against it and spreading misinformation that the city would become a welfare state and such, things that never happened," said Leventhal. "We combated that through an appeal to Takoma Park residents' generosity and inclusivity."

Since Takoma Park allowed non-citizens to vote, municipalities in Maryland—including Hyattsville, Mount Rainier and Riverdale Park—have adopted similar initiatives. Some smaller municipalities in Montgomery County—including Somerset and Barnesville—had previously allowed non-citizens to vote.

"This was one of many steps Takoma Park took to enshrine the values of democratic participation in this town," Leventhal said. "It's a statement of Takoma Park's values of inclusion and participation."

In March of this year, the D.C. Council passed a bill to allow non-citizens to vote in local races over the objections of Congressional Republicans.

The Mayor will issue a proclamation on Wednesday, Nov. 1, recognizing the 30th anniversary of non-citizen voting and the 10th anniversary of youth voting in Takoma Park.

To vote in Takoma Park elections as a non-citizen, all you need is proof of identification and Takoma Park residency. To register to vote, contact the City Clerk at clerk@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7214.

MINOR MASTER PLAN From page 1

MMPA, and a link to Resolution 2023-33.

After Mayor Searcy spoke at the September 14 hearing, residents provided their feedback, identifying potential issues and commenting on specific aspects of the plan. Some commenters stated concerns regarding such topics as scale, affordable housing, racial equity, and environmental impacts. Others expressed their approval of the goals of the plan and/or identified details of the plan that they favored. Residents also asked for greater clarity about how some aspects of the plan would be implemented. The hearing lasted approximately three hours and can be viewed on the City of Takoma Park's YouTube page.

Montgomery Planning Board work ses-

sions are scheduled to begin October 19 to incorporate public comments and review and revise the draft plan. The City Council has the opportunity to provide additional feedback to the Planning Board. The Takoma Park City Council may review the Planning Board changes and provide resolutions to the Planning Board as part of its review and approval process and to the County Council when it undertakes its review. The community may continue to provide feedback on the draft plan to the Montgomery County Council during its public review process. The County Council has final approval of the plan.

You can find more information about the proposed Minor Master Plan Amendment at takomaparkmd.gov and montgomeryplanning.org. Search for "Takoma Park Minor Master Plan." Updates will appear on the City website and in the Newsletter.

CURVING LINES ■ From page 5

the Art Institute of Chicago. He lived in San Francisco and Chicago before returning to D.C., with a studio in Takoma Park.

"Street art, discarded paintings, and decorative paper all play a significant part in my paintings," Moran said. "I often mix up elements from all three sources at random, translating the results into painting, collage, or both. This process sets me forth on a journey that is both mysterious and exhilarating."

G. Jackson Tanner has a unique approach and technique for creating paintings. He uses thousands

of dots in a wide range of colors that is different from pointillism. His use of multiple color layers is expressionistic and allows the use of recycled paint layers sometimes referred to as "paint skins."

"Though it appears similar to pointillism, my personal experience with mass-production printing is more closely linked to my new method of application," Tanner said. "This artwork was produced by hand without any automated processes. I create every transition of color by building multiple chromatic layers in overlapping color fields that create a tactile surface texture."

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

People's Book Club

7014-A Westmoreland Ave. First Fridays, 10 – 11 a.m.

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

Takoma Spark Open Mic

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

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

Correspond with Incarcerated Artists

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

Join The Justice Arts Coalition in gathering bi-monthly to respond to recently received art and mail from incarcerated artists in JAC's network. All materials, directions for the letters, and music will be provided. Pre-registration encouraged. Reach out to ava@ thejusticeartscoalition.org with any questions. food system in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. All federal nutrition benefits (SNAP, WIC, Senior/WIC FMNP) are accepted and matched dollar for dollar with Crossroads' Fresh Checks — this season, up to \$50 each week.

Takoma Park 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.

"Curving Lines" Art Opening Reception

Thursday, Oct. 5, 7:30 - 9 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave.

Arcing lines, merging colors, and abstract imaginings will fill the walls of the Takoma Park Community Center in the new Curving Lines art exhibition. A free opening reception will be held on Oct. 5 with the featured artists, including Gerardo Camargo, Kay Layne, Craig Moran, and G. Jackson Tanner. The City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith curated the exhibition as part of the Takoma Park Arts series.

Rural Dog Rescue–Adoption Drive

Sunday, Oct. 8, 1 – 5 p.m. Big Bad Woof, 6960 Maple St. NW Takoma, D.C.

Forever true to "the Underdog," Rural Dog Rescue is dedicated to saving the lives of high risk dogs in economically challenged, high-kill shelters in rural areas—dogs that are often overlooked for adoption or rescue. Adoption saves two lives—the adopted pet and the one who takes their place in the shelter.

Anna H. Wang Concert Series

The Sphinx Virtuosi Saturday, October 21, 8 p.m. Takoma Park Seventh-Day Adventist Church 6951 Carroll Ave.

Sphinx Virtuosi is a dynamic and inspiring professional self-conducted chamber orchestra and serves as the flagship performing entity of the Sphinx Organization – the leading social justice non-profit dedicated to transforming lives through the power of diversity in the arts. This event is co-presented with Coalition for African Americans in the Performing Arts. Information and tickets at ahwconcerts.org.

October Is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Contribute to Emergency Care Packages

In partnership with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, Takoma Park Police are collecting care packages and/or items to be donated to meet the immediate, critical needs of a victim of domestic violence and/or their children. Emergency care packages provide brand new toiletries and personal care items for each survivor of domestic violence and their children who walk through the doors of the Family Justice Center to receive services. Brand new stuffed animals, games, toys, and books are also provided to every child who goes to the Family Justice Center. Please note that items donated should be new and unopened, if applicable.

Items needed:

For babies and toddlers (newborn–3)	For kids and adults (4 and older)
diapers and pull-ups (all sizes)	stuffed animals, games, or toys
baby wipes	school supplies
baby shampoo (no tears)	soap (bar or body wash)
lvory soap	shampoo and conditioner
hairbrush for infants	lotions
baby blankets	combs/brushes
stuffed animals	make-up
onesies and Pajamas	feminine products
non-scented lotion	boys and men grooming products
diaper rash salve	Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
children's toothpaste	small compact mirror
toothbrushes	books
school supplies	coloring book and crayons
children's books	winter coats and accessories
coloring book and crayons	
winter coats and accessories	

Care Package Ideas

- **Kits for men/teen boys:** men's grooming products, toiletry items, and comb/brush
- Kits for women/teen girls: feminine products, toiletry items, and comb/brush
- Make-up kits: small compact mirror, make-up, and comb/ brush
- Kits for kids: toiletry items, stuffed animal, book, comb/ brush, coloring book and crayons
- **Kits for babies:** baby wipes, toiletry items for babies, stuffed animal, children's book, baby blanket, onesie, and hairbrush for infants
- **Kits for toddlers:** toiletry items for young children, stuffed animal, book, coloring book and crayons, and comb/brush
- School supplies kits: backpack and school supplies (notebooks, pens, pencils, coloring pencils, markers, lined loose leaf paper, binders, ruler, calculator, pen/pencil bag, etc.)
- Winter kits: coat, hat, scarf, gloves, pack of tissues, and Chapstick

Drop off supplies between Monday, October 2 and Friday, November 3, at the City of Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Ave. (first floor lobby). For questions, please email cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Jazz

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

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

Crossroads Farmers Market

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

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

Westmoreland Market

Sunday, Oct. 22 and Nov. 12, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Parking lot in front of People's Book

Come meet local artists in a vibrant marketplace, hosted in the parking lot in front of People's Book. Find a holiday gift or shop for yourself. This is an inperson event with free admittance.

Monster Bash

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

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.