

Important Dates

Holiday Closings

City offices and facilities are closed on the following dates:

Veterans Day: Friday and Saturday, November 10-11

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

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

Holiday Half Day

Friday, December 22

City offices and facilities close at 1 p.m.

Christmas: Monday, Dec. 25

No Monday trash pick-up.

New Year: Monday, Jan. 1

No Monday trash pick-up.

Community Events

TPPD Blood Drive

Saturday, December 2, 11:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Municipal Building, 7500 Maple Ave.

25th Annual Alternative Gift Fair

Saturday, December 2, noon–4 p.m.

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church 310 Tulip Ave..

Pajamarama Holiday Market

Sunday, December 3, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Participating Mainstreet Takoma businesses. See mainstreettakoma.org.

Takoma Park Gift Market

Friday, December 8, 5–9 p.m.

201 Ethan Allen Ave.

Takoma Cocoa Crawl

Saturday, December 16, 1–4 p.m.

Participating Mainstreet Takoma businesses. See mainstreettakoma.org.

Mayor & Council

7500 Maple Ave.

Takoma Park, MD 20912

Aあ

Renovated Apartment Complex Promises Affordable Housing Alongside the Creek

By Eric Bond

On the bright morning of October 19, County Executive Marc Elrich, wielding a giant pair of scissors, cut a ribbon strung between two brick columns in the courtyard of the new Colonnade at the Creek. Formerly known as Hillwood Manor, Colonnade at the Creek is situated on Myrtle Ave., alongside New Hampshire Ave. Located less than one mile from Takoma-Langley Crossroads, the property sits adjacent to Sligo Creek Trail, which connects to the Capital Crescent Trail, providing pedestrian and bike access throughout Takoma Park, Silver Spring, and Washington, D.C. Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP), a Silver Spring-based nonprofit, acquired the property in 2016. The property consists of 96 units of 1-, 2-, 3- and 4-bedroom apartments in brick-framed, three-story buildings. All of the apartments have been designated for residents making less than 60 percent of area median income (AMI). Takoma Park contributed \$250,000 to the \$38 million renovation. Other investment partners include the Montgomery

HOUSING □ Page 7



Photo by Eric Bond
Montgomery Housing Partnership President Robert Goldman, Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich, Takoma Park Mayor Talisha Searcy, and new Colonnade at the Creek resident Dora Kellogg celebrate the opening of the renovated property.

Aあ

Pocket Forest Designated as a Pollinator Arboretum

By Eric Bond

If you're not looking for it, you just might miss the tiny forest at the corner of Philadelphia and Holly Aves., between the Takoma Park municipal building and Takoma Park Elementary School. Designated the Stuart Armstrong Memorial Garden in 1974 in honor of a noted Takoma Park horticulturalist, the acre-and-a-half park is a hidden natural treasure, which Takoma Park Elementary School has used over the years for environmental education. Now, with the boost of a \$10,00 grant from Pepco, Takoma Park's Vegetation Maintenance Supervisor Anna Mische John plans to transform the space into Pollinator Arboretum, with additional educational opportunities for schoolchildren as well as for adults. "In recent years the decline of native pollinators has gotten the attention of the general public," says Mische John. "Sites designed as *monarch oasis* and *pollinator gardens* are frequently sought after by private landowners, schools, and public entities to help support declining populations. Often, the image that comes to mind is one of a sunny location with brightly colored flowers. Such actions are laudable, but they are not the only way to help pollinators." In short, taller, woodier plants also have



Photo by Eric Bond

a role to play.

"The truth is trees are a fabulous resource for pollinators," says Mische John. "What oaks tend to be really beneficial for are the leaves. Caterpillars feed on the leaves. Then birds love to pick off the caterpillars and eat them and feed them to their young. So trees support pollinators as well as birds. That's just part of how the system goes. And in the heat of the summer, there will be insects that are up in the tree canopy feeding on the phloem from the leaves and excreting *honeydew* for the pollinators. "Conifers are another tree resource that people never think of as being a resource for pollinators," continues Mische John, "but the resin that's produced is actually often used in building their nesting sites. These are called *non-floral resource* and are important to pollinator health."

POCKET FOREST □ Page 7

On the DOCKET

CITY COUNCIL

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly City Council agenda and committee calendar update by e-mail can sign up by sending an email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

The public may comment at regular meetings of the City Council in person or via Zoom. To comment over Zoom, 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, November 1—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, November 8—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Monday, November 15—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Monday, November 20—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, November 29—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium

Closed Session/Administrative Notice Disclaimer

From time-to-time, circumstances may require the City Council to meet in closed session or administrative session to protect city interests and the interests of others. As such, the Council reserves the right to meet in administrative session or closed session as needed. The Council, through staff, will make every effort to provide as much advance notice as possible of any administrative session or closed session. The City Council also reserves the right to adjourn an open meeting and proceed with an administrative session or closed session, with or without notice, pursuant to Maryland Code, § 3-104 of the General Provisions Article or Maryland Code, § 3-305 of the General Provisions Article and any other applicable provisions of the Open Meetings Act.

CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, November 9, 7:30 p.m. (virtual)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 8, 7 p.m. (virtual)

ETHICS COMMISSION

Tuesday, November 7, 6:30 p.m. (virtual)

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 21, 6:30 p.m. (virtual)

POLICE CHIEF’S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, November 20, 7:00 p.m. (hybrid: in-person and virtual)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 16, 7:00 p.m. (virtual)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND CERTIFIED COMMITTEE

Monday, November 13, 7:00 p.m. (hybrid: in-person and virtual)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Thursday, November 9, 4 p.m. (hybrid: in-person and 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.

CouncilAction

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

September 27, 2023

- **Ordinance 2023-22** approving renewal of the Police Department Contract with Axon Enterprises for In-Car Cameras (Voting no: Councilmember Small)

October 11, 2023

- **Resolution 2023-34** Approving the Temporary Closure of Anne Street for a Hispanic Heritage Event on October 22

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.

- Arts and Humanities Committee
- Board of Elections
- Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

- Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Ethics Commission
- Grants Review Committee
- Recreation and Community Engagement Committee
- Sustainable Maryland Committee
- Tree Commission

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

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.

Update on the City Manager Search Process

The Mayor and City Council Plan to Bring on the New Manager in Early 2024

Takoma Park is in the process of recruiting a new city manager. The previous city manager, Jamal Fox, resigned effective February 13 of this year. Residents can find the job description for the city manager position at govhrusa.com/job/takoma-park-md-city-manager/.

GovHR USA, a government recruiting organization, and the Takoma Park City Council have agreed upon an updated timeline and recruitment process for a new city manager:

- October 4–November 8: Outreach effort to recruit candidates.

- November 15: Deadline for resumes.
- November 15–24: Consultant narrows field to 8-10 candidates for further consideration.
- Week of November 27: Consultant meets with mayor and council to select candidates to be interviewed.
- Week of December 4: Semi-final interviews and selection of candidates to recommend as finalists.
- Week of December 11: Final interview process, consisting of department head interviews, tour of the community,

possible reception with stakeholders, and interview by the mayor and council.

- Week of December 18: Contract is negotiated and agreed to with the next city manager.
- January– February: New city manager commences employment.

The recruiter has established an email address for comments from residents throughout the process: TakomaParkCityManager@govhrusa.com

The deadline for applications is Wednesday, November 15, 2023.

Building COMMUNITY

Meet Takoma Park's Sustainability Manager

By Sean Gossard

For Takoma Park's new sustainability manager, Dorothy "Dory" Estrada, over time, even the smallest environmentally friendly measures can make the biggest differences.

After earning her undergraduate degree in Environmental Science and graduate degree in Germany in integrated urbanism and sustainable design, Estrada worked in economic and community development in Hyattsville before coming to Takoma Park, which she says is a perfect fit.

"It's great, I truly feel at home here," she says. "The staff are wonderful and it's clear to me already in this short time how diverse it is and how much a leader it is in progressive policy regarding sustainability. The city is forward moving in addressing climate change and actually committing to goals. The level of organization in that regard is impressive."

She views the role of sustainability manager as a collaborative one that needs to foster partnerships.

"The role is focused a lot on energy, but we have other wonderful programs as well," she says. "We have Tree Takoma, a wonderful free resource for people who want to plant trees on private properties. There's a lot of work going on with [Vegetation Maintenance Supervisor] Anna Mische John's restoration programs around



Dorothy "Dory" Estrada

the city. From our side, what I'm excited about is that our COG [Council of Governments] is pushing more for solar deployment. We want to get more creative. We have some fairly dense tree canopy, which means that some places don't work with solar, so we may need to look at parking lots and other places."

Estrada, who began her role as sustainability manager in September, immediately

set her eyes to the future of sustainability in Takoma Park.

"We have a couple things on the docket," she says. "The city is a partner with the county with Electrify MC, a program for residents in single-family homes who are looking to electrify and replace carbon-producing sources."

Estrada says the city is also hoping to launch a multi-family electric grants program early next year with an eye toward equity. There's also a goal of transforming the city's fleet of vehicles away from carbon-producers and toward electricity.

Estrada also says new city buildings—including the library—will be constructed under Maryland's Building Energy Performance Standards, a new policy that sets performance standards for new construction in the state over 25,000 square feet.

"It's great because while energy reporting isn't the most attractive thing for residents, if you can't measure it you can't manage it," she says. "We're working to make the new library as sustainable as possible."

Estrada says a willingness to work across departments in government is needed to improve sustainability in the city.

"Interdepartmental collaboration is necessary to achieve common objectives," she says. "This is the perfect opportunity to collaborate and solve multiple problems at once. I value collaboration and inclusivity

in this work and believe it's what makes sustainability possible. We don't need to drag our feet in implementing these ideas."

She also says working with citizens in Takoma Park will play a big part in fostering an environmentally friendly community.

"I'm excited we have so many active environmental- and sustainability-focused civic groups in Takoma Park," she says. "I'll be happy to collaborate with them to see how we can support each other in achieving common sustainability objectives."

Estrada stresses getting the community and residents involved in increasing Takoma Park's sustainability. That includes everything from planting trees and installing solar panels to using available resources to see what's available to residents.

"There's a wonderful tool called the Inflation Reduction Act calculator [rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator] that helps people understand what funding is applicable to them," says Estrada. "You can put in your income and ZIP code to see what grants are available, like installing a new heat pump or buying an electric vehicle. These small changes make a big difference over time."

For more on Takoma Park sustainability and what grants are available to you, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/sustainability.

Where to Watch and Listen to City TV



City TV coverage of the Takoma Park Children's Business Fair in May is available on Youtube.

Are you looking for the latest news from the Takoma Park city government? Watch City TV online or in high definition on RCN channel 1060, Comcast's Municipal Broadcast Network 997; or in standard definition on channels 13 (RCN Comcast) and 28 (Verizon). Also, find City TV on YouTube and Facebook.

For a look at real open government, watch City Council meetings, public forums and special local events on City TV. ¡Tenemos programación en Español! ¡Visítenos! Somos Takoma y El Barrio También Canta ahora en TeleCiudad.



Recommendations this month: "13th Anniversary Benefit Corporations in Maryland" and "Meet the Author! Stephan Pastis."

Make sure to listen to "The We Are Takoma Show/Somos Takoma" on WQOW 94.3 FM every Wednesday from noon to 1 p.m. "The We Are Takoma Show/Somos Takoma"

is a bilingual radio show with information about city services and other important information about our city.

Takoma Park City TV is an award-winning government access channel operated by the City of Takoma Park.



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 icono 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:

የታላቅ ጉልበትን ይህን አዲስ ደረጃ ላይ የዚህ መጽሔት አርእስት ራስዎ ማግኘት ይቻላል። በዚህ መጽሔት ውስጥ ያሉትን ጥያቄዎች በመመረቅ ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል። ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታላቅ ጉልበት ውስጥ ያሉትን ጥያቄዎች ማግኘት ይቻላል። በዚህ መጽሔት ውስጥ ያሉትን ጥያቄዎች በመመረቅ ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል። ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታላቅ ጉልበት ውስጥ ያሉትን ጥያቄዎች ማግኘት ይቻላል።

Be Safe and Be Seen

Pedestrian and Bike Safety Tips for Autumn

By Kaysi Ann Webley
Special Projects Coordinator

As the warm days of summer turn into the cool, colorful days of autumn, it's essential to adapt to the changing conditions to ensure the safety of pedestrians and cyclists. With shorter daylight hours and unpredictable weather, being visible and exercising caution is the key to enjoying the autumn season while staying safe. Here are some valuable tips to keep

you and your loved ones secure during November.

Embrace the Power of Reflective Gear

With the sun setting earlier in the evening, the use of reflective clothing and accessories becomes more important. Consider investing in reflective vests, jackets, or even reflective tape that you

TIPS □ Page 11

Maple Avenue Connectivity Project Update

The Maple Avenue Connectivity Project presents a vision in which walking to school, biking to Sligo Creek, or catching the bus feels easy, comfortable, convenient, and safe. Since Maple Avenue is one of the most diverse and central corridors in the city, this project aims to strengthen transportation connections on Maple Avenue, especially for pedestrians, bike riders, and transit users.

August and September were busy months for the Maple Avenue Connectivity project team. The city's planning division launched an ambitious community outreach plan to gather input to help update the first draft of a design, listening to more than 210 community members during eight pop-up events. In addition, flyers were handed out at six community events, planning staff held a focus group, and residents provided feedback through an online survey.

The outreach adds to feedback collected in 2020–2021 during an earlier phase of this project. To supplement voices under-represented in the first phase of this project, this series of outreach events focused on connecting with residents in multi-family buildings on Maple Avenue, youth voices, and the public school community by bring-



Photo by Sam Kittner

A bird's eye view of the Eastern section of Maple Avenue. This vital thoroughfare is being reimagined to make it more comfortable and safe for pedestrian, bike, and transit users.

ing our pop-ups to existing community events and gatherings. Staff heard a wide range of concerns and ideas from people who live, work, and use Maple Avenue every day.

Additionally, City staff conducted an on-street and off-street parking inventory on Maple Avenue that will be used to analyze the impacts of any changes to parking proposed in the draft design.

What's next?

In November, the project consultant team will sift through all of the gathered information and transform feedback into a high-level design that maps out the general direction of the project. Those preliminary designs will be shared this winter with a series of community stakeholder focus groups and the City Council, and they will be put through Montgomery County's mandatory

review process to check alignment with County priorities and practices. In spring 2024, the city's planning division will develop and share a semifinal design.

Check the city newsletter and website for updates and opportunities to provide further feedback as the future of Maple Avenue comes into sharper focus.

Leaf It to the City

By Daryl Braithwaite,
Public Works Director

This year's vacuum leaf collection program will take place between November 13 and December 15. Every household will receive a leaf collection notice in the mail, and there is more information on the city's website, takomaparkmd.gov.

Loose leaves raked to the curb are collected via vacuum trucks. These leaves are taken to the Public Works yard where they are ground into small pieces. This leaf mulch is then available for residents through self-pick-up or delivery for a fee.

While the city does provide leaf collection, we strongly encourage residents to consider alternatives, including mulching or composting all or most of the leaves and keeping them in their yards. Information on the best ways to do this are on the right. Leaves can also be bagged in paper bags and collected throughout the year in the Monday yard waste collection.

This year's collection will divide the city into five zones with one leaf collection crew per zone. Most streets receive collection randomly throughout the collection period as crews pass through their zones. The program will cover every street at least twice during the collection period and usually more often.

Collection routes with assigned collection dates

There are five streets that receive collection on scheduled dates due to heavy traffic. These include Carroll (7000 to 7800 block), Ethan Allen, and Philadelphia Aves., which will receive collection on Saturday, Nov. 18 and Monday, Dec 11. Piney Branch Rd. and Flower Ave. (7900 to 8600 blocks) will receive collection on Friday, Nov. 17 and Saturday, Dec. 9.

Important Guidelines for leaf collection:

- Place leaves into a pile just behind the curb
- Do not rake leaves into the street as the leaves can create traffic hazards
- Do not include branches, brush, vines,

Leaf It to Nature

Fun Fact: Did you know that leaves contain 50% to 80% of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during a season?

Residents should consider more environmentally beneficial alternatives for managing some or all of their fallen leaves. There is significant environmental benefit to keeping leaves and their nutrients on the yard and gardens.

Leaf litter, particularly when mulched or shredded into smaller bits, helps improve soil quality and water retention by providing food for beneficial microorganisms, which in turn improves soil, tree, and other plant health. Mulch also suppresses weeds.

Fallen leaves provide habitat for wildlife that nourish our urban ecosystem, creating hiding and hunting places for toads, birds, salamanders, and beneficial insects. Trees in particular benefit from having a ring of mulch around them.

In addition, keeping leaves on your property helps reduce the City's carbon footprint by reducing the use of our diesel- and gasoline-powered collection equipment. Residents have several options for managing leaves:

- Allow leaves to gather under trees, bushes, and other planted areas to decompose over time. Mulch rings can be made by piling leaves under the tree. A depth of 3 to 6 inches is ideal for a mulch layer around trees, while leaving a space of several inches between the mulch pile and the tree trunk to avoid trapping water that could cause rot. The leaf mulch ring should extend as far out from the tree as possible. A depth of 2 to 3 inches of mulched leaves is recommended for flower beds.
- Rake leaves into piles in an area of the



property where they can compost in place to be used in the future around the yard. Leaves can be mixed with grass and other organic matter like food waste in a compost bin. Leaves can also be bagged and left to decompose in place for use in the spring.

- Leaves can be shredded by running over them with a lawnmower. See some tips below.

Mow, mow, mow your leaves!

Fall lawn care doesn't have to include the tedious job of raking leaves. You can turn your leaves into lawn food by mowing them. To reduce carbon emissions, it's best to use an electric or battery-powered mower.

You will want the leaves to be dry—do not try to mow piles of wet leaves. If your mower has a bag or chute for a discharge outlet, close it up if you are able, so the leaves get chopped up more finely. A light covering of leaves on the lawn can be mowed over and left in place. This technique is most effective with a mulching mower.

If you have a heavier layer of leaves, run the mower over the leaves several times to chop them into small pieces.

Then, lightly rake the chopped leaves into a small pile, and mow that pile a few more times. These shredded leaf pieces can be raked around the lawn. You don't want the leaf bits to smother the grass—raking them after they are chopped will help the grass blades stand up and the leaf pieces to fall to the soil.

You can also carry the mulched leaves to garden beds, around trees or other areas of the yard where you can store to enable it to decompose further.

Mulch, mulch, mulch your trees

Now is the time to add a layer of mulch around your trees. In the winter, mulch insulates the roots and provides nutrients. It helps the soil retain moisture, too. Even large and old trees benefit from adding a ring of mulch. Mulch should not touch your tree. Apply mulch to a ring around the tree trunk. Remember the Rule of 3:

- The mulch ring should extend 3 feet from the trunk.
- The mulch should start 3 inches from the trunk so that no mulch touches the tree.
- The mulch should be 3 inches deep (but not more).

Leaf Collection Hotline

The Leaf Collection Hotline will be available at 301 891-7626 for residents to report when their leaf pile is at the curb.

The ARTS

Film Screenings Explore Politics, History, and Clashing Cultures

Three upcoming film screenings at the Takoma Park Community Center will transport viewers from the steppes of Mongolia to the front lines of American politics to the world of silent films brought to life with a live score by a local composer.

The free screenings are part of the *Takoma Park Arts* series organized by the City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Division. The series includes many free events at the Takoma Park Community Center, including film screenings, art exhibitions, concerts, theater, and dance performances. Go to takomaparkmd.gov/arts and sign up for our e-newsletter to get more info about all of our upcoming events.

"We're excited about the depth and range of these films and sharing them with a local audience," Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said. "The screenings are free for everyone, and no tickets or reservations are required."

***Nomad Meets the City* documentary Thursday, November 2 at 7:30 pm**

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. The pressures of distance and separation take a toll as he is torn between life in the city and his home and family in a small countryside town.

Tumurbaatar's wife, Tungaa, is a doctor in the countryside who maintains her roots and helps tend the family herd. Her husband's visits home reveal fault lines in their marriage and their cultural identities. They both speak romantically about retiring as true nomads, but she sees what he does not: his nomadic roots are already lost to the city. In spite of it all, they cling fast to dreams for their children to lead lives they cannot.

Half of Mongolia's population now lives in the capital city, marking a significant societal shift. The transformation from traditional to modern, and rural to urban, is a shared story of the human race. Film direc-



The First Step

tor Anji Sauv  Clubb will lead a Q&A with the audience after the screening.

***The First Step* documentary Thursday, November 16 at 7:30 pm**

In a divided America, progressive activist and political commentator Van Jones works across party lines on landmark criminal justice reform and a more humane response to the addiction crisis. Facing fierce opposition from both political parties in a climate where bipartisanship has become a dirty word, Jones and his team enlist the support of formerly incarcerated individuals, faith leaders, grassroots activists, and cultural figures in an attempt to pass legislation that would fix some broken aspects of the justice system and bring thousands of incarcerated people home early.

This award-winning documentary reveals an intimate portrait of an activist's isolation and internal struggles and the commitment of people in both political parties who are drawn into a historic fight for freedom and justice. The film, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival, has been shown at more than 40 film festivals across the country.

Film director Brandon Kramer will lead a Q&A with the audience after the screening.

***The Sounds of Silents* with Peter Tavalin Friday, December 8 at 7:30 pm**

Pianist and composer Peter Tavalin will bring an iconic silent film to life with a score improvised and performed live dur-

ing a screening of the classic Buster Keaton film *Steamboat Bill, Jr.*

In the silent film, two college students return to the South after a year of study at a northern Ivy League school. Praterfalls, floods, a tornado, and romance gone awry lead to their slapstick adventures. The film includes the most famous movie stunt of the era when an entire house is dropped to the ground, crashing around Keaton.

Takoma Park resident Peter Tavalin has improvised live scores for 17 silent films and performed at film festivals, First Night celebrations, universities, and public schools. Trained at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, he plays a synthesizer to create a modern sensibility and changing moods for these classic films. You can learn more about him at peteravalin.com.



Nomad Meets the City



Peter Tavalin, The Sounds of Silents



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.

RECREATION

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

YOUTH



Ballet & Stretch

This 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.
November 4–December 9
Resident: \$85 / non-resident: \$95

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, 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.
November 4–December 9
Resident: \$85 / non-resident: \$95

CAMP

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 available for an additional fee.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades: K–5, minimum 6 years old
Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
December 26–December 29 (No Camp 12/25)
Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170
Before Care: 7–9 a.m.
After Care: 4–6 p.m.
Resident: \$45 / non-resident: \$55

SPORTS

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 serve. Parents



are encouraged to volunteer as coaches. Eight-game season. 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.
8-game Season
Games on Sundays
January 21–March 10
7–8 year division, 12–2 p.m.
9–10 year division, 2–4 p.m.
11–12 year 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/week) vary throughout the week at various local schools. Games are held on Saturdays, times vary. Specific details regarding each league will be available on: takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/sports/winter-basketball-league/

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

Team Assignments: K-2nd Grade 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
8-week Season
Practices: weekday evenings
Games: Saturdays, January 20–March 9
Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110

TEEN

DROP-IN

Teen Lounge

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 (Teen Lounge)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
On school days, Montgomery County Public Schools
Monday-Friday, 3–6 p.m.
Free

EVENTS

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 out to hang with friends and have a good time!

Takoma Park Community Center (Teen Lounge)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
Friday, 4–6 p.m.
November 17
Free



Old School vs. New School Basketball Game

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. 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!

Piney Branch Elementary School (Gymnasium)
7510 Maple Ave.
Grades 8–12 & Adults
Friday, 6–8 p.m.
December 1
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 (Outdoor Basketball Court)

7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4–5 p.m.
Through November 28 (No class 11/21)
Free

TRIPS

Teen Winter Break Trip: Snowtubing

Join the Teen Program for a day of snowtubing fun at Liberty Mountain Resort (78 Country Club Trail, Fairfield, PA 17320) in Carroll Valley, Pennsylvania! Teens will be able to enjoy various tubing courses throughout the park for a few hours. Please dress warmly and water-resistant outer layers are strongly encouraged. Must bring a bagged lunch 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 (meet in Teen Lounge)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
Wednesday, 12–5 p.m.
December 27
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

ADULT

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. Drop-ins are welcomed. Instructor: Jeremy Sherron

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.
Through December 19
Resident: \$105 / non-resident: \$125
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.
Through December 9
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70
Drop-in: \$12

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

RECREATION

RECREATION

■ From page 6

SPORTS



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

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
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
Mondays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
September 18–November 6
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

55+ ACTIVITIES

ART

Art and Crafts with Alice

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

Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.
November 15 and December 13
\$6

FITNESS



Rhythmic Drumming

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Activity Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Tuesdays, 1:15–2:15 p.m.
Through December 12
\$6

Yoga for 55 plus

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Tuesdays, 12–1 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
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Thursdays, 12–2 p.m.
Through December 14
Free with membership

POCKET FOREST

■ From page 1

Currently, the site provides refuge for many mature trees, along with some azaleas from the original planting of the garden. But there are also a lot of common invasive vines, such as honeysuckle, porcelain berry, and English Ivy, which hinder woodland biodiversity as well as accessibility for human visitors. Then there's the herd of deer who have taken up residence in the park.

To revive the pocket forest as a pollinator arboretum, Mische John plans to add 30 canopy-sized trees, focusing on oaks and other tree with nuts. Then she will add back some mid- and low-layer plants that have been decimated by invasive plants and the deer. And she is developing two storyboards with educational content as well as arboretum-style tree labels for the permanent woody residents.

"I feel like, in general, if people can name something, they can appreciate it in a different way," says Mische John. "I have fond memories of walking around looking at tree labels, and my hope is in displaying the diversity of oaks and tree nuts, someone will consider planting one of those trees."

However, before any planting can be done, the invasives must be removed, which Mische John plans to supervise this winter with the help of a contractor, city staff, and volunteers. Then comes the fun part: planting!

"Takoma Park is very much associated with trees," says Mische John. "With this project the City of Takoma Park hopes to increase the habitat value for our native pollinators and raise awareness that trees and woodlands play a vital role in supporting pollinator populations by transforming the Stuart Armstrong Garden into the Stuart Armstrong Pollinator Arboretum."

If you would like to volunteer or if you have questions, contact Anna Mische John at gardens@takomaparkmd.gov.

HOUSING

■ From page 1

County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, State of Maryland Community Development Administration, Bellwether Enterprise, JP Morgan Chase, Freddie Mac, Enterprise Community Partners, NeighborWorks America, and National Housing Trust.

In introducing Elrich, MHP president Robert Goldman said that the County Executive might perform a jig in honor of the renovation of the property, where Elrich had fought for years on behalf of tenants when he was on the Takoma Park City Council and Hillwood Manor was plagued with housing code violations.

"I cannot dance a jig," said Elrich, "but I was really pleased that we worked in partnership to expand affordable housing in the county. Our job is to help the people with no choices to give their real choices and real opportunities live in decent affordable housing and opportunity."

Takoma Park Mayor Talisha Searcy, formerly the city councilmember for Ward 6, where Colonnade at the Creek is situated, said that renovated apartment complex helps meet the City's commitment to af-

fordable housing.

"This is a day of celebration," said Searcy. "I've been working alongside MHP for a number of years on this project, and so to have a project like this that addresses so many of the housing goals is tremendous. To provide housing units to people who are 60% or lower of AMI is critically important to ensuring that current and future residents of Takoma Park have safe, affordable places to live.

"For me, personally, growing up with a single mom, we sometimes had to move around a lot because we couldn't afford, sometimes, increases in rent," said Searcy, "so making sure that there's housing opportunities is a passion that I have and making sure that people can live with dignity and respect, despite the amount of money they have."

Dora Kellogg is moving to Colonnade at the Creek from Edinburgh House on Maple Ave., also a MHP property. She said that she is looking forward to hearing the sound of running water from Sligo Creek. "A safe, affordable home contributes to wellbeing," she said.

"We are thrilled at the completion of this project as it fulfills our mission to expand access to quality affordable housing,

especially along transit lines," said Goldman. "Our residents are at the heart of our work, and the new community center provides opportunities for programming and partnerships that will support youth and families."

MHP and construction partner Bozzuto spent more than a year renovating Colonnade at the Creek. In addition to renovating or replacing all major building systems, including plumbing, roofing, windows, insulation, kitchens, baths, and fixtures, MHP and Bozzuto also added larger units by utilizing underused basement space. The complex now meets the latest building standards and requirements due to its use of more efficient and modern materials.

Takoma Park's Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan, adopted in 2019, calls for preserving affordable housing in Takoma Park, including in revitalized areas; producing more housing across the income spectrum and in neighborhoods across the city; and protecting renters and homeowners from discrimination and displacement and protecting the environment from destruction.

Belle Ziegler Field to Be Closed Through March for Restoration

The City of Takoma Park is restoring the turf on Belle Ziegler field. The work will include aeration, field grading, addition of topsoil, and seeding. The field will be fenced off with temporary fencing and closed through mid-March so the turf can recover. This project is being undertaken by the City's Vegetation Maintenance Division and will be assisted by NZI Construction.

If you have any questions, please contact the City's Vegetation Maintenance Supervisor Anna Mische John at gardens@takomaparkmd.gov.

nance Supervisor Anna Mische John at gardens@takomaparkmd.gov.

Youth Battles Experience. Who Will Win?

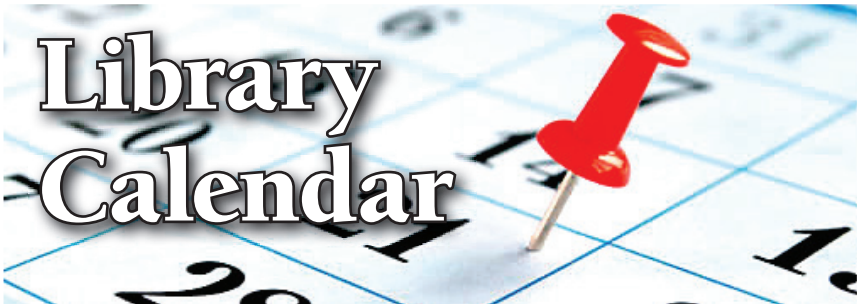
Prepare for an epic battle of Old School versus New School on December 1. The Teen Program will be hosting a basketball game with 10 adults against 10 teens to determine who owns the court. The winning team is awarded a trip to a Washington Wizards basketball game. This epic battle takes place at Piney Branch Elementary School, 75110 Maple Ave. on December 1, 6–8 p.m.

Teens (Grades 8-12) and adults are wanted! If you would like to participate as a player and submit your team, please register on ActiveNet. **Players must be registered by Wednesday, November 10th, no exceptions!**

No registration is required to attend the event as a spectator. Come out and have fun watching the game, participating in the 3-point contest, listening to music from a live DJ, and sampling the food. And don't miss the raffle—you might win a prize.



LIBRARY



Library and Computer Center Hours

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

November holidays: The library and computer center will be closed on November 10 and 11 in observance of Veterans’ Day. We will also be closed from November 23 through November 26 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Our address is 7505 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 205. There is plenty of parking as well as public transportation, not to mention free WiFi.

To protect our most vulnerable patrons and staff, we encourage 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.



Meet the Author! Molly Dresner will join us for a special Neighborhood Circle Time on November 14 at 10:30 a.m. in the interim library, presenting her board book *You’re So Nice, Baby: Teaching Positive Affirmations to Children*. The book will be available for purchase, but a purchase is not necessary to participate in the

program. Library programs are always free and open to the public.

Crochet and Cozies (adult program). Join us at 10:30 on 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.

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, 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 November 7, when we will welcome Blue Sky Puppets. Jumpstart with the Arts is made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

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. Registration is important.

LEGO Club. Come in and play with LEGOs! Sunday, November 5, 1–3 p.m.

Kids’ Art. Leaves are falling and autumn is here! Make a craft with us on Sunday, November 12 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 it is not required.

Coming soon: look for information about our solstice celebration on December 21; WinterQuest, beginning Monday, December 18; more author event; and lots more!

Listen to this!

by Jessica Jones

Stuff You Missed in History Class, with Tracy V. Wilson and Holly Frey. Fellow history nerds take note: Stuff You Missed



in History Class is all the good parts of an engaging history lecture without a participation grade or final exam at the end. If you are interested in history that emphasizes perspectives often missed by a standard public school curriculum, this podcast will fill you in. Episodes range between 15 and 45 minutes long, which is great if you want to time something for a commute, preparing dinner, or a workout. The two-part episode on Sojourner Truth is a stand-out. Available on all podcast platforms.

PODCAST



REVIEW

Friends News

Friends Book Sale

On Saturday, October 21, the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) had a great book sale, bringing in \$1,133. Leftover books are available for free for a limited time; just come by the Library’s interim location and pick through what’s left.

The Friends provide amazing support for the Library, funding programs and events, including Jump Start with the Arts, Summer-Quest and WinterQuest, Canta Juego, our annual Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros event, our annual solstice celebration, and more. They also sponsor two book groups, the Big Book Club (currently on hiatus) and the Friends Book Group. For more information and to join the Friends, go to ftpml.org.

Friends Book Group

In November, the Friends Book Group will be reading and discussing *Christmas Stories* by Charles Dickens, an anthology of five stories (almost novellas, really) including *A Christmas Carol*. Dickens’ Victorian aesthetic has influenced how Christmas is celebrated both in the UK and the United States. The group will meet on November 9, at 7 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center. All are welcome.

The Friends Book Group selection for January will be Octavia Butler’s *Parable of the Talents*, an eerily prescient Afrofuturist novel. The discussion will be held on January 11. For more information, email ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com.

—Anne LeVeque



A young reader looks for her new favorite book at the FTPML Book Sale. Photo by Maurice Belanger

Hats for Winter Warmth

The Crochet and Knitting group that meets in the Library every Monday morning at 10:30 has been crafting winter hats for Small Things Matter and Tommy’s Pantry, two local nonprofit organizations which provide aid to those in need. So far, over 75 hats have been made by these industrious crafters. The hats are for both children and adults, many are very colorful while others are more sedate. You don’t have to attend the Crochet group to donate hats—just bring new, or newly crafted hats to the Library. The group always welcomes new members, though.

—Anne LeVeque



Photos by Anne LeVeque

Director's column

Musical Storytellers Tell Their Own Stories

by Jessica Jones

The summer weather has finally (finallyyyyyy!!!) abated, and chilly mornings are here to stay for a while (I love fall and winter so much). I've been listening to a lot of music with the windows open (Texas summers legit almost killed me, y'all; I'm so happy to be here now). And, when I say "listen," I mean really trying to be present and listen intentionally, and not just use it as background noise.

Stories are the best. I love a narrative. Even when a song doesn't have a storyline, I'll often think about the lived experience of the artist or artists in the track and wonder what makes them tick. Musicians have some of the best and wildest stories out there, and many of them are also beautiful writers. Here are some highlights from the musician memoirs and biographies in our collections:

Patti Smith's *Just Kids* won the National Book Award in 2010 and is still a beautiful and engaging book. *Just Kids* is the story of her relationship with artist Robert Mapplethorpe, which she promised him she would write at his deathbed. That is not to say that it is a grim read; it is a story of a close and enduring relationship that spanned decades and artistic careers, taking them both from "just kids" to



legends in their respective fields.

Lil Wayne's *Gone 'Til November: A Journal of Rikers Island* chronicles the rap artist's eight months spent at Rikers Island in 2010 after he was convicted of possession of a firearm. The book is designed to look like a journal, and indeed it is written as one, beginning on day one of his sentence. Now, because this is Lil Wayne writing in his own voice, there are swears (lots), but they don't take away from the stark and honest portrayal of his time at Rikers.

Dave Grohl is not a hometown artist, but he is pretty close; Grohl's memoir *The Storyteller* starts off with him growing up in Springfield, Virginia. He speaks fondly of growing up in the DMV and its local music scene before joining Nirvana as their drummer in 1990, shortly

before the band achieved explosive popularity with the release of the album *Nevermind* the following year. This is a fun read for many reasons, not the least of which is the sheer number of recognizable names in it. Dave Grohl is friends with everyone, or at least that's the impression when sharing stories like Paul McCartney giving his daughter Violet her first piano lesson. He also, at one point, broke his leg at a Foo Fighters concert, went to the hospital to have it set, and then returned to finish the show.

Tanya Tagaq may not have the ubiquitous fame of the likes of Dave Grohl, but the Inuk throat singer's memoir, *Split Tooth*, is a sparse and poignant account of her life growing up north of the Arctic Circle. Her descriptions of the land around Cambridge Bay in Nunavut, Canada, depict a stark beauty that is reflected in Tagaq's own life, where she navigates issues like sexual assault, violence, and alcoholism with spiritual embodiment and allegory.

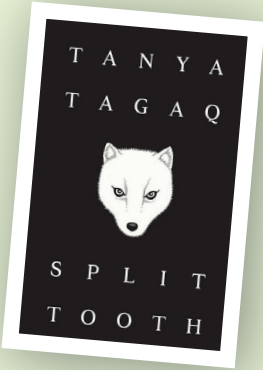
Johnny Cash's memoir, aptly named *Cash*, spans his childhood in Dyess, Arkansas, to his military service in WWII to an incredible musical career. Cash is honest about his struggles and

knowing about them makes songs like his cover of Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nail's song "Hurt" even more heart-rending, but in the best way. If you've never listened to it, or if it's been a while (it holds up, I promise), I recommend checking out the music video on YouTube to get a feel for his story.

I will close with one of my personal favorites. As a student of history myself — after all, history is the biggest, longest, most complicated story out there — I love this quotation from Bruce Springsteen's memoir *Born to Run*: "History was a subject that bored me in middle and high school, but I devoured it now. It seemed to hold some of the essential pieces to the identity questions I was asking. How could I know who I was if I didn't have a clue as to where I'd personally and collectively come from? What

does it mean to be an American is all caught up in what did it mean to be one. Only some combination of those answers could lead you to what it might mean to be an American."

All of these books are available for check out, and many of them can also be found as audiobooks read by the authors on Hoopla. Happy reading/listening!



The Takoma Park Maryland Library has been razed. We can rebuild it: better, stronger, and faster

New Library Construction News

As of press time, demolition had begun on the old library building. The permits are in place and construction begins—by the time you read this it will have already begun! Everyone at the Library is excited to see the progress being made at last. Many city employees and residents are also excited to see the project begin. The word "finally!" was used by pretty much everyone.

"I'm excited to see the project starting,"

said Carlos Iraheta, the city's construction manager. "It's been in the planning phase for eight or nine years, and we're finally at the place where the rubber meets the road."

Much of the rubble and debris will be recycled. The contractors are following LEED guidelines and are sorting things as they remove demolition debris.

—Anne LeVeque



The new Takoma Park Maryland Library is slated to open in 2025 on the site of the old library.

El Rincón de Verónica

Discover books recommended by our librarians! You can find themed displays, posters, and crates around the library, as well as lists online.

¡Descubre libros recomendados por nuestras bibliotecarias! Puedes encontrar mostradores, afiches y cajas temáticas alrededor de la biblioteca, así como listas en línea.



**Takoma Park
Maryland
Library**

DISCOVER BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS!
¡DESCUBRE RECOMENDACIONES DE LIBROS!



**Displays
Mostradores**



**Crates
Cajas**



**Posters
Afiches**



**Online Lists (in catalog)
Listas en línea (en catálogo)**

en español (Adultos)

Cosas de verano

Día de los muertos & Halloween (en español)

Empoderamiento femenino (Juveniles y Adultos)

Feelings Picture Books (Social Emotional Learning)

Full of Fall (Picture books)

Kati's Favorite Funny Books

Mental Health

Las gráficas (Adultos)

Takoma Park Police Department Alerts and Announcements

Give the Gift of Life: Blood Drive on December 2

Takoma Park Police and Inova Blood Donor Services are teaming up to host a Takoma Park Community Blood Drive on Saturday, December 2, 11:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Donors must be at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health.

We are calling upon our community members to come forward and dedicate a part of your Saturday to save lives. Your generosity can make a significant difference in the lives of those in need. To register for the Takoma Park Blood Drive, follow these simple steps:

1. Visit the Takoma Park Blood Drive on the Inova Blood Donor Services website: tinyurl.com/takomablood.
2. Pick an available time slot.
3. Set up your donor profile and submit. You should be officially registered.

We look forward to seeing you on December 2 at the Takoma Park Municipal Center, 7500 Maple Ave.

For more information, contact Catherine Tunis, tunis.catherine@gmail.com, or Ron Hardy, ronh@takomaparkmd.gov.

Keep Fire in Its Place

With fall here, many may want to spend quality time outdoors before winter, but please be mindful that the City of Takoma Park follows all Montgomery County rules regarding open burning and the use of fire pits. Please be sure you are adhering to all county guidelines and using precautions when using a fire pit. Always keep pets and children a safe distance away.

Some recreational burning is allowed under strict conditions. All other open burning without a permit is prohibited in Montgomery County, and fines of \$500 per day may be imposed. Open burning is defined as a fire where any material is burned on the ground or in an open receptacle other than a furnace, incinerator, or other equipment connected to a stack or chimney.

Small recreational fires are only permitted if they are no larger than 3 feet in diameter, in a location free of combustible materials, and attended by an adult with fire-extinguishing equipment under safe conditions (water). Burn only dry, aged, natural wood.

Chimineas and outdoor manufactured fireplaces have become increasingly popular. They should have a non-tipping base, a screen enclosure, and a spark arrestor. And they should be placed on a noncombustible surface at an adequate distance from any nearby structures. Burn only dry, aged, natural wood.

The following items may not be burned in the City of Takoma Park or Montgomery County at any time:

- Household trash
- Tires
- Construction debris
- Asphalt shingles and tar paper



- Leaves, lawn thatch, and garden trimmings
- Green brush and other fresh or dried plant life

For more information on burning guidelines, restrictions, and safety, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/green/air/open-burning.html. To report outdoor air quality violations, call the non-emergency police number: 301-270-1100.

Do not take chances with fire. Ever.

Keep an Eye on that Package!

As we head into the holiday season, it is, unfortunately, an opportune time for burglars and thieves to commit crimes. Typically, there's a jump in packages stolen from homes during the holidays. This is an easy time for thieves because sometimes the person expecting a package doesn't realize their package has been stolen until sometimes weeks after it was supposed to be delivered.

Solutions to the problem include tracking your deliveries online and reporting missing bundles as soon as possible. And of course, try to be home when you're expecting something valuable to arrive. If you can't be there, make arrangements with a neighbor. If you are sending a package, please let those people know that they need to be expecting it.

A lot of times the thefts are not reported to police because those receiving the packages assume there was a problem with the delivery. We encourage anybody who is missing a package after it has been verified through the shipping company to contact police and make a report.

If using a shipping company or service, ask about other measures they offer to ensure delivery. The best way to do it is to require a signature, especially if you are sending a high-value item. Some companies will allow a neighbor to be designated to accept packages if the delivery comes when you are away from home.

And Keep an Eye on that Airbag

The National Insurance Crime Bureau (NICB) estimates roughly 50,000 airbags are stolen each year, resulting in an annual loss of more than \$50 million to owners and insurance companies. Hondas are the most common target of thieves because their airbags can be removed in as little as 30 seconds.

Airbags are easy to steal and hide. Thieves resell the stolen airbags on the black market or on internet websites. Unscrupulous collision repair shops purchase the stolen airbags for between \$50 to \$200 each—which is cheaper than the \$1,000 price tag at a dealership—in order to turn a profit, according to the NICB.

Tips to avoid falling victim to airbag thieves:

Choose a parking spot carefully. Park your car in an area that's well-lit or in a public view. If possible, don't park your vehicle near a large vehicle, which can make

POLICE □ Page 11



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT



TPVFD Open House 2023

Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department's 2023 Open House once again took place on the same day as the Takoma Park Street Festival. Over 300 people visited the station to see firefighter demonstrations, first aid/EMS lessons—and to participate in activities for kids, like pumpkin painting.

FIREHOUSE REPORT □ Page 11

Emergency Resources for Community Members Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing

By Claudine Schweber, Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee

We've been sharing resources for being prepared for a long time: a communication plan with a contact person, a go bag if you need to leave, flashlights and working batteries, and more. This month we focus on resources for members of our community who are living with a disability, and specifically community members who are deaf or hard of hearing.

The Maryland's Department of Disabilities offers a wide range of services related to housing, transportation, technology assistance, and more. For more information, visit mdtransitions.org/maryland-dod or call TTY/Voice: 1-(800) 637-4113.

Here in Takoma Park, the Village of Takoma Park (a community organization) offers members rides to medical appointments, shopping, etc.; weekly calls or contact from a friendly visitor; home repairs for small tasks; technology assistance; and more. Membership is \$25 per year. Find out more: villageoftakomapark.com

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, the Community Emergency Preparedness Information Network (CEPIN) produced Hard of Hearing Emergency Prepared-

ness, a 12 minute video that features sign language, subtext and audio: vimeo.com/user2684469. This video is useful for anyone, not just people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

If there's burglary or other danger, such as a power failure or fire, here in Maryland, you can text 911 rather than placing an audio call. Pepco, enables customers to report outages online via tablet, or smart phone or by downloading a mobile app. Outages can also be reported by TTY/TDD; contact the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 to report an outage. The direct number for reporting an outage is 877-737-2662.

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services offers free visual smoke alarms. Here is information about how to have one installed along with other fire safety information for people who are deaf or hard of hearing: tinyurl.com/y7egtakn

Also, be sure to sign up for Takoma Park's alert system, which provides safety notifications via email, text, voice: takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert/.

For any emergency preparedness questions, contact the Emergency Preparedness Committee: tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov.

POLICE
From page 10

it easy for thieves to avoid being noticed. Always lock your doors and windows and remove any valuables.

Install a Club theft-protection device. There are club devices that are designed with extenders that hook onto the steering wheel. You stretch it across your steering wheel, and it clicks into place; it installs in seconds.

Never buy an airbag online. If your airbag is stolen, get a new one as soon as possible, but don't buy one online. It's extremely risky because you can't know for sure where it came from. Even if it's legitimate, it might not be shipped correctly, which could compromise its quality. The federal government has strict transportation standards for airbags because of the explosive material in them.

Replace deployed airbags at dealerships or certified repair shops. Don't ask a friend to do it and don't get it done at

Follow the Police

Find more information on the Takoma Park Police Department webpage: takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/. Sign up for Takoma Park Police Department alerts: tinyurl.com/tppd-sign-up. Follow the Takoma Park Police Department on social media: @TakomaParkPD on Instagram and X, The City of Takoma Park Police Department on Facebook.

a questionable establishment. Authorities believe that some unscrupulous repair shops may be buyers of stolen airbags. The theory goes like this: Those shops install stolen airbags in vehicles that need replacements after airbags are inflated in an accident. It allows them to turn a profit and potentially file a fraudulent insurance claim.



TIPS
From page 3

can attach to your clothing, backpack, or bicycle. These simple additions can make a significant difference in how easily motorists and fellow pedestrians spot you.

Light the Way

For those evening strolls or bike rides, make sure your lights are in working order. Bicycles should be equipped with a front white light and a rear red light. And consider adding reflectors on the wheels and pedals. Carry a flashlight and remember extra batteries or chargers to avoid being caught off-guard in the dark.

Stick to the Sidewalk and Bike Lanes

When possible, stick to dedicated sidewalks and bike lanes. These designated areas are designed with your safety in mind. Using them not only reduces the risk of accidents but also ensures you have a clearly marked path.

Stay Alert

One of the most important safety tips is to stay attentive. Whether you're walking or cycling, avoid distractions like your phone, loud music, and noise-canceling headphones. Keep your head up, pay attention to your surroundings, and anticipate the actions of drivers and other pedestrians. This will give you precious seconds to react in case of an unexpected situation.

Be Cautious at Crosswalks

When you reach a crosswalk, make sure to follow the rules of the road. Wait for the traffic signal to indicate it's safe to cross. Always make eye contact with drivers, if possible, to ensure they see you.

Keep Your Bike Ready to Ride

If you're cycling in the autumn, be sure to maintain your bike regularly. Check the

brakes, tires, and gears to ensure they're in good working order. A well-maintained bike is safer and more reliable, especially when leaves or debris may be in your path.

Respect the Road

For cyclists and drivers, respecting traffic laws is crucial. Obey traffic signals, signs, right-of-way rules, and yield to pedestrians. A little patience goes a long way in ensuring a safe journey.

Mind the Weather

Autumn brings its fair share of rainy days and foggy mornings. These conditions can reduce visibility for both you and others on the road. For foggy days, use your bike's horn or bell to alert others to your presence. Dress appropriately for the weather: carry an umbrella, dress in layers, and be sure to keep warm and dry.

Drivers Be Vigilant

- Avoid distractions. Just a few seconds looking at your phone or adjusting your radio could delay your reaction to a pedestrian stepping into the road or falling.
- Be extra vigilant in neighborhoods where children are present, especially around and between parked cars.
- Slow down near intersections and crosswalks, yield to pedestrians and cyclists.
- Keep your tires in good condition as adequate tread is needed to steer and brake effectively in wet and slippery conditions. Be prepared to stop at any time.

By following these safety tips, everyone can embrace the beauty of November and autumn while protecting yourself and those around you. Remember, safety should always be a top priority, no matter the season. Enjoy your autumn adventures, share the road and stay safe!

FIREHOUSE REPORT
From page 10

TPVFD Christmas Tree Fundraiser

Please consider supporting the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department by purchasing your Christmas tree during the annual fundraiser. Sales will begin the afternoon of Saturday, December 2 in the City of Takoma Park parking lot by the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Food Co-op. Sale hours will be posted after opening.

Consider Volunteering at Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department

Fire/rescue and emergency medical services 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—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 for details.

Also please visit the Frequently Asked Questions about Volunteering section on our website: tpvfd.org/volunteer.

Turkey Fryer Fire Safety
Frying food puts you at the greatest risk of cooking fires. Before you fry a turkey, review these tips to keep you and your loved ones safe.
Turkey fryers can tip over easily, spilling hot cooking oil over a large area. Make sure your turkey fryer is on a sturdy, level surface and do not move it once it is in use.
Make sure it is at least 10 feet from your home and not under roof eaves.
An overfilled cooking pot will cause cooking oil to spill when the turkey is put in. Test the amount of oil you need by filling your fryer with water. Place the turkey in the pot making sure the water doesn't get too close to the top. Measure the water and use that as a guide for filling the pot with oil.
A partially frozen turkey will cause cooking oil to splatter when you put it in the cooking pot. Make sure your turkey is fully thawed without frost on it before you fry it.
Without thermostat controls, deep fryers can overheat oil to the point of starting a fire. If your turkey fryer does not have a thermostat, use a kitchen thermometer that attaches to the side of the pot. This will help you monitor the temperature of the oil.
The sides of the cooking pot, lid and pot handles can get dangerously hot. Always use protective oven mitts. Keep children and pets at least 3 feet from the turkey fryer.
Consider using an electric or air fryer.

Courtesy U.S Fire Administration

2023 VACUUM LEAF COLLECTION GUIDELINES
November 13 through December 15, 2023
• Rake leaves into a pile inside the curb.
• Do not park car in front of leaf pile.
• Do not place leaves near storm drain inlet.
• Leaf piles are to be collected within two weeks of their appearance at the curb.
• No branches, brush, vines, rocks or debris with leaves! These items can damage equipment & delay collection.
• First three weeks of collection will focus on picking up leaf piles; final two weeks will both pick up the piles and clear the gutter and grass strip of all leaf debris.
• Leaves can be left in paper bags or placed in stiff sided containers for the weekly Monday yard waste collection.
• Please note: Rain or freezing weather can delay collection.
You can notify the City when your leaves are raked to the curb by leaving a message on the Leaf Collection Hotline at (301) 891-7626

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, and pastries.

Historic Takoma Reading Room

First and third Sundays
Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave.

Visitors will have access to reference books on Takoma and Maryland history, the collection of Takoma Voices and City newsletters, historical journals, and more. Historic Takoma is also hosting the Maryland Reference Collection of the Takoma Park Maryland Library during the library's renovation. Historic Takoma volunteers will be available to answer questions about the collections and Historic Takoma. Reading Room hours will be 1–4 p.m. on the first and third Sundays of each month. historictakoma.org.

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, and all abilities/ages welcome. No amps or drum kits. The evening is also live-streamed on the Rob's Open Mics Facebook and YouTube channels. No refreshments on site, but you are welcome to bring in your own food and non-alcoholic beverages (please support our local restaurants!). For updates, follow Rob's Open Mics on Facebook, or visit ilyaimy.com/robsopenmics.

Correspond with Incarcerated Artists

First and third Monday of each month, 6–8 p.m.
7112 Willow Ave.

Join The Justice Arts Coalition in gathering

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

Takoma Jazz

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

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

Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.–2 p.m., through Nov. 22
Anne Street at University Boulevard East
Crossroads Farmers Market offers the season's freshest fruits and vegetables, as well as free-range eggs, honey, locally roasted coffee, healthy snacks, and fresh-cut flowers—all from no more than 50 miles away. The market is cultivating a more inclusive local food system in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. All federal nutrition benefits (SNAP, WIC, Senior/WIC FMNP) are accepted and matched dollar for dollar with Crossroads' Fresh Checks—this season, up to \$50 each week.

People's Book

7014-A Westmorland Ave.

This bookstore's main mission is to provide Takoma Park with a warm and welcoming gathering place to talk and learn about books. The book clubs are free and inclusive; there are no requirements or criteria to join. For information about book club meetings and events email info@peoplesbooktakoma.com

A sampling of coming People's Books events:

Storytime at People's Books - Join the story time each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. Selections are appropriate for all children, from newborns through elementary schoolers. Some bilingual and ASL story-times are scheduled a few times each

season, and sometimes a special musical guest might be there too.

November 10, 7–9 p.m: **Laura Spence-Ash, *Beyond That, the Sea***, a discussion with Marian Crotty.

November 11, 1–2 p.m. **Space Shuttle Stories**. Tom Jones, veteran astronaut, planetary scientist, author, and speaker.

Rural Dog Rescue – Adoption Drive

Sunday, Nov. 12, 1–5 p.m.
The Big Bad Woof, 6960 Maple St. NW, Takoma D.C.

The Big Bad Woof will be hosting a bunch of highly adoptable pooches. Adoption saves two lives—the adopted pet and the one who takes their place in the shelter. With your help more can be saved. 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.

Takoma Collective Westmoreland Market

Sunday, November 12, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

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 in-person event with free admittance. More information at peoplesbooktakoma.com/event/westmoreland-market/2023

Samoa Wilson Trio

Saturday, November 18, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St., NW, Takoma D.C.

Since she was 12 years old, Samoa Wilson has been captivating audiences with a voice the New York Times calls “sweet, effortless, old-timey.” Her vintage jazz trio has been filling ears with material from the golden era of 1920's and 1930's musical treasures; a sound at once more bluesy and more contemporary than expected. More information at imtfolk.org.

25th Annual Alternative Gift Fair

Saturday, December 2, noon - 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church,

310 Tulip Ave.

Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington is thrilled to announce the return of its in-person Alternative Gift Fair. Connect directly with representatives from different locally run, small direct service charities with more than 42 different alternative gifts from which to choose. In addition, you can purchase your alternative gifts online November 19 through January 3 at aggw.org. For information or to volunteer email at aggw.org@gmail.com.

Pajamarama & Holiday Market

Sunday, December 3, 8 a.m.–4 p.m.
Participating Mainstreet Takoma businesses

Takoma Park's Roscoe the Rooster crows early at this annual holiday shopping event. Pajama-wearing shoppers are rewarded with early morning discounts at participating Takoma businesses. Shopping is fueled with coffee, donuts, breakfast sandwiches, and huevos rancheros at local restaurants. Holiday shopping continues into the afternoon at the Pajamarama Holiday Market at the Takoma Theater. Local artists, makers, and collectors set up outdoors with unique, handmade holiday gifts. More information at mainstreettakoma.org.

Takoma Park Gift Market

Friday, December 8, 5–9 p.m.
201 Ethan Allen Ave.

Celebrate the holiday season under the stars and surrounded by holiday lights at the Takoma Park Gift Market, a curated guide to shopping small this holiday season. Enjoy a special evening with a variety of local and handmade gifts, delicious foods, and festive libations.

Takoma Cocoa Crawl

Saturday, December 16, 1–4 p.m.

Enjoy cocoa at area restaurants and cafes during the Takoma Cocoa Crawl. Make one stop or many. Businesses will provide single use mugs or to-go cups. Prices and sizes vary by business. More information at mainstreettakoma.org.

Celebrate 25 Years of Alt Gifts

The Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair will be returning to the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, 310 Tulip Avenue, on December 2, noon–4 p.m. for its 25th anniversary. The annual fair is held in conjunction with Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington.

Over 24 years, the Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair has raised more than \$500,000 for local, direct service charities, with the intention of creating meaningful change in our community and around the world.

At this in-person holiday festival you can celebrate with family and friends as you listen to live music from local musicians, purchase a delicious treat from the bake sale, play to win your favorite Mainstreet Takoma raffle item, or receive a free 15-minute seated massage.

This year the gym will be decked out in silver and gold to honor the silver anniversary and the hope to be going strong for the next 25 years.

At an Alternative Gift Fair, holiday shopping means donating to nonprofits in the

name of your loved ones. Throughout the afternoon, you will be able to speak with the volunteers of 14 participating small nonprofits and learn interesting details about their work.

Sample gifts include a week's worth of fresh, local veggies for a local family or a classroom set of books for readers at the D.C. Jail. This year's gifts are priced from \$10 to \$100. Your charities receive 100% of the donations and those funds are specifically earmarked by the charities for each gift. All gifts are tax-deductible and include a gift description.

The Alt Gift season kicks off on Sunday, November 19, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. outside the Takoma Park Farmers Market at the corner of Carroll and Laurel Aves., right next to Roscoe the Rooster. You will get a sneak peek at this year's shopping list and meet some of our nonprofit volunteers.

The website will be available to purchase alternative gifts November 19–January 1: aggw.org.

For information or to volunteer, contact aggw.org@gmail.com.

