

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, December 6: City Council Meeting with District 20 Delegation, Joint Priorities Meeting, 6:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, December 13: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium

The City Council will be on recess for the rest of the year after the December 13 meeting.

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 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 on Zoom. Some are holding hybrid meetings (part in-person/part Zoom)

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 5, 2023, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Tuesday, December 5, 7:30 p.m. (virtual/remote)

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 12, 6:30 p.m. (virtual/remotel)

POLICE CHIEF’S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, December 18, 7:00 p.m.
(hybrid: in-person and virtual/remote)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m. (virtual/remote)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND CERTIFIED COMMITTEE

Monday, December 4, 7:00 p.m.
(Public Works Conference Room)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Thursday, December 14, 4-5 p.m.
(hybrid: in-person and virtual/remote)
Thursday, December 21, 4-5 p.m.
(hybrid: in-person and virtual/remote)

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.

October 18, 2023

- Resolution Adopting the FY 2023 Budget Schedule

Apply to Serve on City Boards and Committees Now—Appointments to Be Made in January

The City Council is accepting applications to fill midyear vacancies on boards and committees. Residents with all different types of experience and knowledge are welcome to apply. 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

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

To apply, go to takomaparkmd.gov and search for “boards and committees.” Application deadline: January 10, 2024.

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 Seamens**: 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.



Mayor Talisha Searcy



Shana Fulcher



Cindy Dyballa



Randy Gibson



Terry Seamens



Cara Honzak



Jason Small

The Hishmeh Family Celebrates 50 Years of Feeding Takoma Park

HISHMEH ☐ Page 11

City Distributes \$1.46 Million In ARPA Funds

Ward 1—81
Ward 2—89
Ward 3—206
Ward 4—542
Ward 5—303
Ward 6—188

Editor's note

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Metropolitan Branch Trail to Get an Upgrade

UPGRADE ☐ Page 4

The Metropolitan Branch Trail (MBT) is a “rail trail,” running between Union Station in D.C. and the transit center in Silver Spring. The MBT passes through Takoma Park alongside the WMATA and CSX tracks.

Hey TkPk... it's time to switch to electric!

Electrify MC helps single-family residents transition from fossil fuels (oil, gas, and propane) in their homes. **Here's how it works:**

- ➔ Scan the QR & **Apply NOW!**
- ➔ Schedule an energy audit.
- ➔ Get direct guidance and installation from contractor Elysian Energy.
- ➔ Receive hundreds or thousands \$\$\$ in direct incentives and rebates on electric appliances!



(Scan here)



Questions? Contact Dory Estrada, Sustainability Manager- destrada@takomaparkmd.gov | (301) 891-7623

UPGRADE

■ From page 3

The city manages a nearly half-mile section of the MBT, which will eventually extend eight miles, end-to-end, between Silver Spring and Union Station in D.C. The trail roughly follows the Metropolitan Branch Line of the B&O Railroad, now used by Metro, Amtrak, and commuter trains and freight rail carriers. The City's portion of the trail will intersect with new sections that connect to the Fort Totten Metro in D.C. and to the Silver Spring Transit Center. Both are currently under development and are expected to begin construction between now and summer 2025.

The next steps for the Takoma Park project include the finalization of the funding agreement with the state. Upon selection of a contractor, additional rounds of community engagement will be initiated to refine the preliminary designs and advance the project toward semifinal designs, which begin to cement the components of the project and begin necessary analyses, such as a tree inventory, stormwater management assessments, and inventories of impacts on utilities.

To learn more about the project, and follow along with its progress, visit bit.ly/takomaparkmbt.

VOTING

■ From page 1

vote. And I was like, *Aha, we need to do that. We need to get more young people involved* because if you look at the people who do vote in Takoma Park, it's [mostly] very old people. Sixteen is [an age] when neuroscientists say that the human brain is developed to a point where it's really good at making slow cognitive decisions. So part of the rationale is that this is a great set of people to engage in a thoughtful process around voting."

"Sixteen-year-olds are old enough to assume a job and thus, have taxes come out of their paycheck, so it's a pretty originating kind of argument of taxation without representation," says Andrew Wilkes, the citizens chief policy and advocacy officer at VOTE16USA. "If you're old enough to participate economically, you're old enough to participate politically and cast a ballot on the issues of your choice."

"The objections or concerns that are sometimes raised are that 16- and 17-year-olds are not ready or mature enough to vote or that their vote will be a necessary replication of what their parents or mentors in their life necessarily think. And the research doesn't bear either of those things out. We have seen that 16-year-olds, particularly in Takoma Park, show quite a bit of readiness relative to their older counterparts in terms of being ready and energized and coming out to the ballot box."

In fact, registered 16- and 17-year-old voters have outperformed all registered voters in each municipal election from November 2013 onward, with 63% of them voting in 2022, compared to 49% of all registered voters.

"From a research perspective, this is a really interesting thing to study," says Mike Hamner, the director of the Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement at the University of Maryland. "Takoma Park is particularly instructive because of the way that young people were involved from the start. It really was the young people coming together with the wider community and making this happen. It doesn't work as well in places where it's just top down and there hasn't been an initial engagement and then support."

"But at the end of the day, it's about voting rights in efficacy and capacity and the way that the government does or doesn't work for the people," says Hamner.

Male also sees younger voting as a way to set a pattern of engaging in civic life.

"When I started digging into Scotland and Austria, what they had found was that people who were given the chance to vote at 16 are far more likely to keep voting. In other words, it's habit-forming to vote at 16, when they're at home still living in the community they grew up in. It's a great time to tap them as voters as opposed to 18, when everyone is just on the brink of college or leaving home."

In the decade since Ben Miller cast his first vote, national politics have shifted to such an extent that some Takoma Park residents wonder about the future of the democratic process in the United States. Miller expresses his own discouragement. But he maintains his belief in the voting process, especially at the local level.

"I think voting when you're 16 is a good way to teach young people about the process, about how to vote," he says. "A lot of the young generation does not have too much faith in the partisan system. What is particularly exciting about voting in Takoma Park is that there's so much more ability to effect change, to apply social pressure, and to organize."

Takoma Park's next municipal election will be in November 2024. Any resident who is 16 or older on election day and has registered is eligible to vote. Registration is available on the city website: takomaparkmd.gov.



NEED SUPPORT TO MAKE YOUR HOME ENERGY EFFICIENT?

Assistance is available now at no cost to qualified city residents.

APPLY NOW!



Through grant support, city partners **Building Change** and **EDGE Energy** deliver home electrification and efficiency services to qualified low- and moderate-income Maryland residents. Qualifying homes may also be eligible to have rooftop solar installed at no cost!

Make your home more comfortable and efficient while reducing utility bills. Scan the QR code to learn more & apply!



The ARTS

Silent Film Speaks Through Live Score by Local Pianist

The Sounds of Silents
with Peter Tavalin

Friday, December 8, 7:30 pm
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Pianist and composer Peter Tavalin will bring an iconic silent film to life with a score improvised and performed live during a free film screening of the classic silent film *Steamboat Bill, Jr.*

In the 1928 comedy starring Buster Keaton, two college students return to the South after attending college in Boston and fall in love despite both of their fathers' objections. The couple's romance goes awry with pratfalls, floods, a tornado, and other slapstick adventures. The film includes Keaton's most famous and dangerous stunt when the entire two-ton façade of a house crashes to the ground around him while he stands in the precise location of an open second-story window.

Local resident Peter Tavalin has improvised live scores for more than 25 silent films during the past 30 years and has performed at film festivals, First Night celebrations, universities, and public schools across the country. Trained at the Berklee College of Music, he plays a synthesizer to create a modern sensibility that conveys the sounds of an entire orchestra.

"The synthesizer provides a big palette of sounds," he said. "Simple, sweet strings with a flute for one scene, brass blaring for another with cymbals crashing when the action on the screen gets more frantic."

Steamboat Bill, Jr. has been referenced in many movies that followed, beginning with Walt Disney's *Steamboat Willie*, which was released six months later and debuted Mickey Mouse.

"Before sound in films, the actors relied on body language to tell the story, and the music was always live in theaters and integral to the film's success," Tavalin said. "Since I'm improvising, I can play the same movie over and over again and it still feels fresh to me."

In 1980, a friend and theater owner in Brattleboro, Vermont asked Tavalin to improvise a live score for the 1926 Buster Keaton film *The General*.

"Two minutes into watching the movie, I was hooked," he said. "I already knew what I could add to the experience



Silent no more. Peter Tavalin will be providing a musical backdrop to a classic Buster Keaton movie on December 8.

because I grew up learning jazz so I'm comfortable with improvisation."

Tavalin said he only has to watch a film twice before he can improvise a score. The best compliment he has received is when an audience member forgets he is playing live and thinks the score was composed for the film.

Tavalin first learned about music for silent films from his father who accompanied the original film releases on his violin at a theater in New York City. "What I like about the silent era is the accessibility of the films," he said. "The comedies are for everyone, regardless of spoken language."

Tavalin also teaches piano and plays in the High Standards jazz group. You can learn more about him at petertavalin.com. He and his wife moved to Takoma Park in 2021 to be closer to their daughter and her family.

"Takoma Park has a great sense of community and the City's *Takoma Park Arts* series offers a great level of support for local performers and artists," he said. "After performing at other venues from New England to Florida, I'm excited to debut this performance here in Takoma Park."

More *Takoma Park Arts* Events in 2024

Please join us for more upcoming events in the *Takoma Park Arts* series at the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave. The series is organized by the City's Arts and Humanities Division. You can sign up for our weekly e-newsletter to receive more info at takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

Jan. 19 at 7:30 pm
iMusical Improv Performance

iMusical merges the unpredictable playfulness of comedic improvisation with the emotional power of musical theater. A cast of singer-improvisers instantly creates a compelling new show with each performance, comprised of completely improvised scenes, lyrics, and music inspired by a single audience suggestion.



Friday, Feb. 9
Franglais: Chanson, Jazz and Swing

Musicians and husband-and-wife duo Ben Wood and Eve Seltzer take us on a musical journey across the world with

their mesmerizing blend of jazz and gypsy swing. They are joined by other talented musicians, usually a soloist and a bassist.

Friday, Feb. 23
***Soul of Langston* One-Man Play by Daron Stewart**

Soul of Langston sketches the life of American playwright, poet and civil rights activist Langston Hughes. Hughes went on from being a "busboy and poet" to become "Harlem's Wonder," who helped establish the Civil Rights movement through the Harlem Renaissance. Daron Stewart takes the bittersweet wit and wisdom of Langston's poetry, fused with jazz and blues, and translates it into an inspiring story of resilience and persistence in a dynamic one-man play.



Takoma Park News

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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).

Winter class registration opens for TP residents at noon on 12/15 online —and in person a week earlier on 12/8 for those with a current scholarship.

TOT

DANCE

Combo Tot

Fun and energizing class for your little ones. This is the introductory foundational class consisting of rhythmic movements into basic tumbling and various styles of dance. Jam packed with games and toys your little ones won't even realize they are learning to dance.

Takoma Park Community Center (Dance Studio)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 16 and up
10-week session
Sundays , 12:15 pm–1:00 p.m.
January 7–February 25
Resident: \$125 / non-resident: \$125

YOUTH

CAMPS & EXTENDED CARE

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, 2023. Beforecare and aftercare available for an additional fee.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 5–12
Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
December 26–December 29
Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170
Beforecare: 7–9 a.m.
Aftercare: 4–6 p.m.
Resident: \$45 / non-resident: \$55



Fundamentally Sound Basketball Spring Break Camp

Fundamentally Sound Basketball Camp will focus on the skills needed to elevate your performance. By the end of the camp you will understand the fundamentals of the game and how to apply them in game situations. Prior basketball experience is not required, just a good attitude! Participants should bring a non-perishable lunch and water bottle. Additional paperwork required prior to the start of camp. Beforecare and aftercare available for an additional fee. Instructor: Greg Harris

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 6–12
1-week session
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
March 25–March 29
Resident: \$45 / non-resident: \$55

Beforecare: 7–9 a.m.
Aftercare: 4–6 p.m.
Resident: \$45 / non-resident: \$55

Fun Days

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

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades K–5
Monday, January 29
Wednesday, April 10
Monday, April 22
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Resident: \$55 / non-resident: \$65

DANCE

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.
January 6–February 10
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 and spatial awareness, and learn choreography. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center (Auditorium)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 5–12
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
January 6–February 10
Resident: \$85 / non-resident: \$95

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-served. 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 21st. 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. - **FULL**
9–10 year division: 2–4 p.m. - **FULL**
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 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 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-2 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

DANCE

Afterschool Hip Hop Dance @ TPMS

Hip Hop incorporates aspects of modern dance, tap, and swing, integrating music and complex movements to form artistry. Come and learn the fundamentals of hip hop dance by learning fun routines! Teens will also have the opportunity to explore other types of dance such as stepping. Instructor: Kokoe Abas
Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Rd.
Grades 6–8
8-week session
Wednesdays, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
January 17–March 6
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Teen Money Management

Teen Money Management is all about learning fundamental financial skills to be prosperous in life! By learning the concepts listed below and putting them into practice, participants will be much better prepared when they begin building their own credit history and managing their own money. Concepts include long-term savings, credit, opening a bank account, debt and budgeting. Instructor: Tyronda Boone

Virtual
Grades 6–12
8-week session
Mondays, 6–7 p.m.
January 22–March 11
Free

Teen Playwrights

Are you interested in theater and/or Broadway? Have you ever wondered how such a beautiful, large production such as Lion King, Romeo and Juliet, or Hamilton are made? Journey into playwriting to learn all about how these productions come to life. Students will be led by a professional theater artist through an interactive playwriting process, including but not limited to developing conflict, creating characters, revision, and production. Classes are facilitated by Young Playwrights Theater, Inc.

Takoma Park Community Center (Hydrangea Room)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
8-week session
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4–5:30 p.m.
January 30–March 21
Free

2023 Summer Youth Employment Youth Interest Meeting

Do you know a young person looking for summer employment? The City of Takoma Park has partnered with local businesses and non-profit organizations to provide meaningful job opportunities for teens! The program welcomes teens ages 16-21 (MUST be 16 by June 1, 2024). Participants must also be Takoma Park residents. Registration and attendance is required in order to participate in the Summer Youth Employment Program; sign up via ActiveNet. For more information, contact Haven Rhodd at 301-891-7284 or HavenR@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Community Center (Azalea Room)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 16–21
Wednesday, February 21
6:30–8:30 p.m.
Free

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

RECREATION

RECREATION

■ From page 6

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
MCPS School Days
Monday-Friday, 3–6 p.m.
Free

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.
January 16–February 29
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.
January 27–March 2
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70
Drop-in: \$12

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
Hefner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.
January 17, February 21, March 20
\$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.
January 9-March 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.
January 9–March 12
\$6

SPORTS



Pickleball Open Play

Join other new players for pickleball practice and play in the Gymnasium. This activity is geared toward beginners. No registration required, but a free Rec Center membership is needed.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Thursdays, 12–2 p.m.
January 11–March 14
Free with membership



Meet the New Youth Council

by Haven Rhodd
Youth Council Adult Advisor

Let's give a warm welcome to our new Takoma Park Youth Council, who range from grade 7 to 12 and represent all six wards of the city. The youth council was recently restructured under the Recreation Department, and the City Council appointed this year's cohort: Ava Bedaque (Ward 2), Nuhamin Michael (Ward 2), Maeve Monahan (Ward 3), Nathaniel DeRoche (Ward 3), Anand Ginsburg-Shukla (Ward 3), Safiya Sorenson (Ward 3), Leul Wondwosen (Ward 4), Leah Kirschner (Ward 5), and Kalib Bond (Ward 6). Two more seats are available, which may be filled later.

The purpose of the youth council is to give the youth of Takoma Park the opportunity to learn about and appreciate local government. It also provides a chance for the municipal government to better understand the needs and wishes of local youth. The youth council plans and implements social, educational, cultural and recreational activities for the youth. It also works with the mayor, city council, city departments, and service organizations to provide service and leadership opportunities for the youth of the city and instill positive self-worth.

"The thing I like best about living in Takoma Park is the effort the Takoma Park city government has put in to encourage youth engagement in the government



Pictured left to right: Nuhamin Michael (Ward 2), Nathaniel DeRoche (Ward 3), Haven Rhodd (adult advisor), and Leul Wondwosen (Ward 4). Not pictured: Ava Bedaque (Ward 2), Maeve Monahan (Ward 3), Anand Ginsburg-Shukla (Ward 3), Safiya Sorenson (Ward 3), Leah Kirschner (Ward 5), and Kalib Bond (Ward 6). Look for updates about the Youth Council throughout 2024.

and the community," says Youth Councilmember Leah Kirschner. "Policies and programs such as setting the voting age to 16, this Youth Advisory Council, and offering programs such as a Summer Youth Employment Program are great efforts to help prepare people my age for adulthood. These are all great ways for young people to learn how they can make a difference

in their community and the impact they can have at a young age."

"One idea I have for making positive change for young people in the city is having an approval process for art that residents want to make on their sidewalk outside their house or working together in public spaces to make art," says Maeve Monahan. "I think these types of pro-

grams add to the city's beauty and culture, which are two things that are important to having a close community. I think with a process in place we could help make more projects happen, which would add to our community spirit"

Nathaniel DeRoche also has an interest in public spaces, including "making our streets safer, advocating for protected bike lanes, as well as new, denser, more walkable and accessible development."

Anand Ginsburg-Shukla suggests "holding more festivals/events that represent and emphasize the diversity of the city—especially that target the city's youth—could be a great way to make positive change and build a strong community."

"I love that everyone in this community is so kind and supportive," says Kalib Bond.

"One of the best things about living in Takoma Park is the diversity and strong sense of community," adds Nuhamin Michael. "The bond between residents creates a supportive environment and close-knit community."

The youth council has already held a Thanksgiving food drive and is currently holding a winter clothing drive. They are planning other community events and activities for the spring.

The Takoma Park Youth Council can be contacted at tkpkpouthcouncil@takomaparkmd.gov.



LIBRARY

Library and Computer Center Hours

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

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

December holidays

The library and computer center will be closed from Friday, December 22 through Monday, December 26, and again on December 31 and January 1.

To protect our most vulnerable patrons and staff, the library 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

Please note the holiday closings for different 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.

New Program! Language Exchange!
¡Intercambio de Idiomas!

Spanish and English conversation group Thursday evenings

English speakers will help people



learning English and, in exchange, speakers of Spanish will help people learn their language in a small, friendly, accepting group.

Esperamos que hablantes nativos de inglés ayuden a otros a aprender inglés y, a cambio, hablantes nativos de español ayuden a otros a aprender su idioma, en un grupo pequeño, amigable y receptivo.

No formal classes, just casual conversation. Lots of mistakes expected and encouraged. In person at the library's interim location. All levels, language beginners are welcome. Beginning Thursday, December 7, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Registration is encouraged, and you can drop in whenever you wish.

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 it does allow us to contact you if necessary. No program on December 25 or January 1.

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, we have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, we dance, and we 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 December 5, with our dear friend Mr. Gabe! Jumpstart With the Arts is made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. No program on December 26 or

January 2.

Canta Juego: Spanish Circle Time every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. ¡Canciones y juegos en español! Join the fun at our weekly Spanish Circle Time, led by Señora Geiza. In this 30-minute program, kids and adults can sing songs and do rhymes and movement exercises in Spanish. Sponsored by Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. In person at the interim library location, 7505 New Hampshire Ave. No program on December 28 or January 4.

Chess for Kids. Sundays at 11 a.m. Join us on Sundays for Chess for Kids. Caregivers and kids are invited to play. Bring a chessboard and pieces if you like, but we have plenty. Players of all levels are welcome. This is scheduled before the library opens, so registration is important. Note that in December, there will be no chess on December 24 and December 31.

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

Kids' Art. Holidays are here! Make a holiday card craft with us on Sunday, December 10 at 2 p.m.

Sketch Club. After school art! Thursdays from 4 p.m. to 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. No Sketch Club on December 28 or January 4.

Solstice Celebration on Thursday, December 21, 6:30 p.m.—see the article for all the details!

WinterQuest begins! Monday, December 18, A Knitting Adventure! WinterQuest is our annual reading adventure, with a gameboard and characters of your choosing. You read at your own pace and follow a storyline. This winter, join all your friends in knitting together a yarn, finding adventures on a shoestring, needing your nearest and dearest to read more books!

Library Solstice Celebration

by Anne LeVeque

Come to the annual Solstice Celebration! On Thursday, December 21, we'll be having our Solstice Celebration in the library starting at 6:30 p.m. There will be refreshments like hot cider, cookies, lemonade, and more. Enjoy storytelling, interactive step dancing, dancing from the Rock Creek Morris Women, kids' crafts, and more.

The library chooses to celebrate the Winter Solstice as an astronomical and cultural event, one of the four cardinal solar moments in the Earth's orbit around the sun, the others being the Spring Equinox, the Summer Solstice, and the Autumnal Equinox. Many cultures around the world celebrate these days with a variety of festivals.

In the northern hemisphere, at the winter solstice, most of these festivities are centered around light: the lack of natural light, the gratitude we have for artificial light—whether it be candles, oil lamps, or LED bulbs—and the eventual return of longer days. At the moment of solstice (10:27 p.m. EST on December 21 this year), the northern



Celebrate the longest night of the year and the return to light at the library, with the Rock Creek Morris Women.

hemisphere has the greatest amount of darkness (while our friends in Australia and New Zealand have their longest day!), with the area north of the Arctic Circle plunged into complete darkness.

Those cultures indigenous to these far northern regions have some of the most striking traditions. The Inuit peo-

ple celebrate with a feast and gifts, and a ceremonial "blowing out" of lights and rekindling from a new fire. The Sámi people of Finland similarly celebrate Beavi, the Sámi goddess of the sun and reindeer, who brings the light back to the world in her antlers. They also have feasts and games to mark this turning point in time. The Scandinavian countries call the winter festival 'Yule' or 'Jul'—a term which has been used in the English-speaking world as a synonym for Christmas, but originally refers to the seasonal celebration.

At the library, our traditional Morris dancers will perform dances from ancient celebrations of the solstice, as well as more modern ones. This year, the Rock Creek Morris Women will also bring along a troupe of step dancers—the Just In Time step team—to showcase some exciting dances and encourage audience participation.

We'll also have a light-themed craft for the children to make. Our storyteller will share tales of the far north—beware of the great bear Otso! It will be an evening of fun and merriment, so mark your calendars today!

Director's column

Slowing Down for Winter

by Jessica Jones

The days are shorter now, and there is a lot of literal darkness. The temperature is hopefully staying below 70°F, and the only people wearing shorts are from the Midwest. Seasonal Affective Disorder is likely kicking in for many readers.

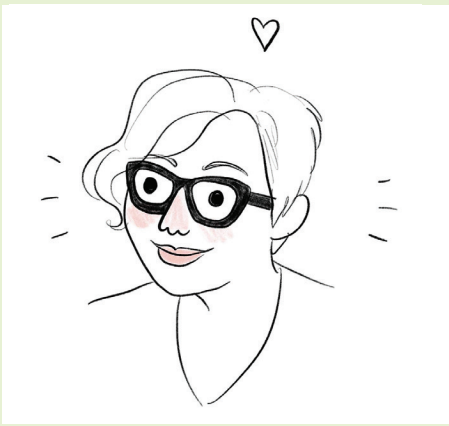
Gather ye broad spectrum lightboxes while ye may.

Winter isn't all bad, though. In a world that never seems to stop demanding our urgent attention, winter is a natural time to slow down. Other animals sleep through this whole season, and I won't lie, a three-month nap sounds pretty great right now.

I'm taking this opportunity to recommend some titles, series, and collection areas to enjoy as you slow down a bit this December.

Nourishing yourself with cooking and food: We have to care for ourselves in literal ways before we can ask our brains and bodies to do much of anything else. Now that it's cool enough to turn on the oven, or cook something low and slow on a burner, maybe it's time to try a new recipe, or even discover a whole new cuisine. I love cookbooks, and we have several newer ones in the collection that merit your time and efforts!

Tenderheart: A Cookbook About Vegetables



tables and Unbreakable Family Bonds, by Hetty Lui McKinnon, is a beautiful book full of fantastic vegetable-forward recipes that are grounded in family lore.

Pasta is one of the foods I find synonymous with comfort, and I recommend *Pasta Grannies* by Vicki Bennison for carb-loading (because who am I to argue with the James Beard award committee?).

I Am from Here, by Vishwesh Bhatt, combines Southern food (another comfort classic) with Indian and Gujarati cuisine, and it is lovely.

Eric Kim's *Korean American: Food that Tastes Like Home* focuses on the kinds of foods that Kim's Korean family enjoys at home, and these recipes are delicious and approachable. Bonus: If you search for Eric Kim on YouTube, you can watch him cook a lot of these dishes.

Indulgent stories: Long, dark evenings

are synonymous with epic storytelling to me. This is the season for sprawling fantasy series with maps on the inside covers, historical novels with immersive settings, and intricate mystery series written by folks who have even longer nights than we do up around the North and Baltic Seas. Here are a few I've enjoyed.

As fun as new releases are, I want to plug some of the classics here. The granddaddy of them all, Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, Robert Jordan's *The Wheel of Time* series, even *A Song of Ice and Fire*, the series that starts with *A Game of Thrones* (as long as you don't mind that Martin will never finish the series because he keeps getting distracted by side projects).

What's more cozy than a classic whodunit? Agatha Christie is here for you. If you love fantasy and sci-fi stories of the creepy variety, Jeff Vander Meer is your guy, and *Annihilation* and *Borne* are bizarre in the best way. If you ever end up reading John Connolly's Charlie Parker series, which just gets weirder as it keeps going (more than 20 books in now), please come talk to me about how much you love Angel and Louis.

Rediscovering hobbies: Hustle culture

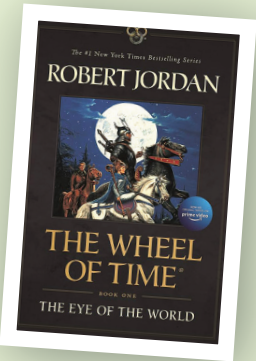
has not been great for hobbies, and many column inches have been written the last few years on how Millennials, in particular, are losing hobbies. Now is a great time to dive deeply into your niche interests and rediscover what you love about them. We don't have to be productive every minute of our day! Do something just because you enjoy it.

Current and aspiring knitters and crocheters, we have so many books for you, both on the shelves and online! Freeding (one of our ebook subscriptions) has a ton of titles for needle and textile work to get you started and keep you interested and engaged.

If you want to bring some calming nature into your home, we have books like *Japanese Ikebana for Every Season* by Rie Imai and *Bonsai* by Harry Tomlinson.

We also have a lot of books about birding, because we have a lot of staff who bird—who doesn't love checking things off of lists? Hello, sweet dopamine.

As the Longest Night approaches, I hope you will remember your resident experts in indoor entertainment here at the library. It's an El Niño year, which means our chances for snow are better than they have been in a while—don't let a snow day find you without a good book!



Verónica's Corner / El Rincón de Verónica

12 Reasons to Celebrate 2023

Hello, Takoma Park!
As 2023 comes to an end, I want to share the successes the Children & Young Adult Services Team had this year.

We coordinated new programs, embarked on new collection development initiatives, took the library outside its four walls, and attended professional development opportunities.

Read on to discover, in no particular order, 12 reasons to celebrate!

1. **We settled into our temporary home!** We are so happy to be serving Ward 6 neighbors more closely while our permanent space is being renovated.
2. **Kati got the Civil Servant Azalea Award from Takoma Foundation.** Kati co-facilitates *Neighborhood Circle Time*, does tailored storytimes for local daycares and preschools, coordinates our Sunday programs,

and supports the development of the children's collections in English and French.

3. **Bintou Sangare**, Montgomery Blair High School senior, **was the first Young Adult Librarian-in-Training**, as part of the City of Takoma Park Summer Youth Employment Program. In this role, she contributed to initiatives serving teens.
4. **Dave is hosting afterschool programs—Alternative Games and Sketch Club—at Takoma Park Middle School** for the second school year in a row.
5. **Verónica inaugurated El Cuento: Lotería and Storytime in Spanish** thanks to the support of **nine volunteer-facilitators**.
6. **We created new programs: Chess for Kids** (with monthly instruction from

12 REASONS □ Page 11

12 razones para celebrar el 2023

¡Hola, Takoma Park!

Ahora que 2023 llega a su fin, quiero compartir los éxitos que tuvo el Equipo de Servicios para Niños y Jóvenes este año.

Coordinamos nuevos programas, comenzamos nuevas iniciativas para desarrollar nuestras colecciones, llevamos la biblioteca fuera de sus cuatro paredes y asistimos a oportunidades de desarrollo profesional.

¡Sigue leyendo para descubrir—sin un orden en particular—12 razones para celebrar!

1. **¡Nos instalamos en nuestro hogar temporero!** Estamos muy felices de servir más de cerca a los vecinos del Distrito 6 mientras renuevan nuestro espacio permanente.
2. **Kati recibió el premio Civil Servant Azalea Award de Takoma Foundation.** Kati co-facilita *Neighborhood Circle Time*, organiza hora de cuentos para guarderías y preescolares locales, coordina nuestros programas de domingo y

apoya el desarrollo de las colecciones infantiles en inglés y francés.

3. **Bintou Sangare**, estudiante de último año de Montgomery Blair High School, **fue la primera Young Adult Librarian-in-Training**, como parte del Programa de Empleo Juvenil de Verano de la Ciudad de Takoma Park. En este rol, contribuyó a iniciativas que sirven a los adolescentes.
4. **Dave facilita programas extracurriculares—Alternative Games y Sketch Club—en Takoma Park Middle School** por segundo año escolar consecutivo.
5. **Verónica inauguró El Cuento: Lotería y cuentos en español** gracias al apoyo de **nueve voluntarios-facilitadores**.
6. **Creamos nuevos programas: Chess for Kids** (con instrucción mensual de Emmet Parks*), *Jumpstart with the Arts World Around Music** (en asociación

12 RAZONES □ Page 11

Listen to this!

by Anne LeVeque

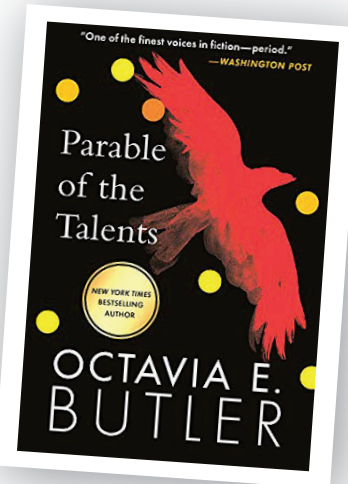
Wait Wait ... Don't Tell Me! With Peter Sagal, Bill Kurtis, an ever changing panel, and celebrity guests.

Yes, it's a radio show from NPR and WBEZ-Chicago, but it's also found on the podcast platform of your choice. I find that I am never able to hear this show in its entirety, since most of my radio listening is in the car, so I love that I can listen anytime. WWDTM is a weekly news quiz show, with listeners calling in to guess which panelist's news story isn't made up or to complete Bill Kurtis's limericks. I love the 'Not My Job' feature, where they ask a celebrity guest questions completely outside their area of expertise (they asked Weird Al Yankovic about Weird Al...abama). While it's topical and covers the news of the day, it's still fun to listen to older broadcasts.



Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library News

Check ftpml.org for all the latest on the Friends' book groups and information on joining the Friends and supporting the library's programs and events. In January, Friends Book Group will delve into Afrofuturism with *The Parable of the Talents* by Octavia Butler. For details, email ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com, and look for up-to-date information in the Takoma Park Insider.



At Your SERVICE

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 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.

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

GET READY FOR COLD WEATHER

Help Provide Shelter from the Cold

If you need or see someone who needs shelter, call the Community Crisis Center, 240-777-4000; Shelter Services, 240-777-3289; the Takoma Park Police non-emergency number, 301-270-1100; or the Montgomery County Police non-emergency number, 301-279-8000.



Donate Winter Clothes

Do you have coats, gloves, or scarves that you don't need anymore? Donate them!

The Takoma Park Police Department, in partnership with Adventist Church, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, and others, is collecting clean, gently

used warm coats in any size from infant to adult. The coats will be donated to people in need. We will also accept clean, gently used gloves/mittens and scarves.

A large box will be in the lobby of the Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Ave. through Friday, December 29. If you have questions, please contact Cathy Plevy at cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov.

Stay Safe While You Keep Warm

More home fires are started by heating equipment than any other cause. Portable and electric heaters are the most dangerous. But it is possible to be warm and safe this winter by following these tips on space heaters:

- Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn—including furniture, people, pets, and curtains.
- There should always be an adult in the room when a space heater is on.
- Turn off the space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Never use space heaters to dry clothing or blankets.

Carbon Monoxide (CO) Poisoning Precautions

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is known as “the silent killer.” You cannot see it, smell it, or taste it. CO claims the lives of nearly 300 people in their homes each year, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). CO is a deadly gas that is produced by fuel-burning heating equipment, such as furnaces, wood stoves, fireplaces, and kerosene heaters. Follow these guidelines to help keep your family safer:

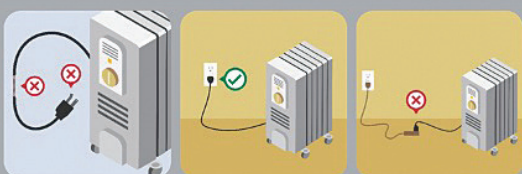
- Install at least one CO alarm near sleeping areas.
- Have a trained professional inspect, clean, and tune-up your home's central heating system and repair leaks or other problems. Fireplaces and woodstoves should also be inspected each year and cleaned or repaired as needed.
- Keep gas appliances properly adjusted and serviced.
- Never use an oven or range to heat your home.
- Never use a gas or charcoal grill inside

POLICE ☐ Page 11

Place space heaters on a solid, flat surface. Keep them at least three feet from things that can burn.



Check your space heater for cracked or damaged cords and plugs. Plug space heaters directly into wall outlets, don't use an extension cord or power strip.



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department
tpvfd.org



Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich speaks at the dedication, alongside Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department President Elmer Hamm.

Engine 702 Races the Streets with the Spirit of Chief Jimmy Jarboe

On Sunday, October 22, Engine 702 was dedicated to the memory of Chief James “Jimmy” Jarboe. The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department placed a special emblem next to the door that reads, “In memory of Chief James ‘Jimmy’ Jarboe,” with “65 years of dedicated service” underneath.

Chief Jarboe passed away in September 2022 at the age of 84. He was born and raised in Takoma Park, Maryland, and graduated from Montgomery Blair High School. He joined the fire department in 1956 and held every rank from



Chief Jimmy Jarboe's wife, Barbara, and son, James Jarboe Jr., pose in front of the fire engine dedicated to Takoma Park's popular chief.

FIREHOUSE REPORT ☐ Page 11

Safety Gifts

by Claudine Schweber
Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair

Yes, we are almost in 2024. Wishing you and your family/friends a healthy, happy new year and a wonderful holiday season. Here are several resources to help you move into the new year with pleasure and safety. These safety gifts from the Takoma Park Police department are free and good all year!

Vacant house check program: If you are away 4-30 days, contact the Takoma Park Police who will do a daily house check to make sure no one has tampered with windows, doors, set a ladder against an outside wall, etc. If someone is picking up your mail or newspapers, let the Police department know. Contact the Takoma Park Police in advance 301-270-1100.

Watch your car program: Want to as-

sure that your car is only used by those you authorize, and is not on the road between 1 a.m.–5 a.m.? You can register the car with the Takoma Park Police Department. You will receive a sticker to post on the rear windshield. If the car is away from your home between 1 a.m.–5 p.m., police (statewide) can stop the car and verify that the driver is the owner or authorized. Again, contact the Takoma Park Police: 301-270-1100.

Care for residents who are alone or have special needs with the CARE program: Registered residents call the department each day between noon and 5 pm. If they don't call, they will be called by the police. If there is no answer, a patrol officer will be sent to check on their welfare. Find out more on the city website: takomaparkmd.gov.

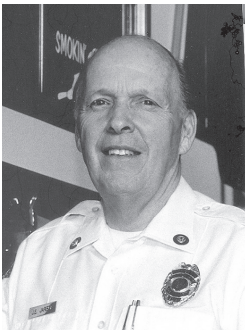
FIREHOUSE
From page 10

private first class to chief. After retiring in 2008, Chief Jarboe remained active as a volunteer.

“He was always a legend and a fixture in Takoma Park,” said former Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart.

Chief Jarboe was a regular at community events, giving safety demonstrations and handing out plastic firehats to young people. Chief Jarboe was also a life member and officer with the Takoma Park Lions Club, where he coordinated the club’s participation in the annual Halloween parade, Thanksgiving Day meals for families, and the Toys for Tots program.

Engine 702 is replacing an older engine that will no longer be in service. The new truck was blessed with “holy water” from



Chief Jimmy Jarboe

the truck it will be replacing. “That’s how we protect our own,” a spokesperson for the county’s fire department said of the blessing.

Firefighters and Police Unite for Takoma Kids

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the Takoma Park Police Department are once again holding a toy drive for local children. Donations are appreciated in the form of new and unwrapped toys or gift cards. (If you are donating a gift card, please drop it off at the police administrative window in an envelope addressed to Lt. Cynthia Williams: Toy Drive).

- Toys and gift cards can be dropped off at:
• Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, 7201 Carroll Ave.
• Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Ave.

REMINDER: We can only accept NEW, unopened toys. Please do not drop off used toys.

The toy drive will run until December 20. Check social media and the City of Takoma Park website for a form for a local child to receive a toy.



Santa Claus Is Coming to Town ... on a Fire Truck

We’re delighted to announce that Santa has made room very close to Christmas to tour Takoma Park with his TPVFD elves. Please visit TPVFD’s Facebook page for updates on date/times and routes.

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 next to the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Food Co-op. Sale hours will be posted after opening.

Consider Volunteering at the 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—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.



POLICE
From page 10

- your home or in a closed garage.
• Portable electric generators must be used outside only. Never use them indoors, in a garage, or in any confined area that can allow CO to collect. Follow usage directions closely.

Protect Your Pets

- Winter is a time we should pay close attention to the safety of our pets. Here are some tips:
• If your pet goes outdoors, be aware of the temperature. Pets can get frostbite very easily on the ears, tail, and paws.
• When walking your dog, check the paws to make sure that ice is not building up between the toes and that salt from the

- road is not irritating the skin.
• If your dog is a swimmer, keep it on a leash around open water or unstable ice. Hypothermia can set in quickly and the dog may be unable to get out of the water.
• Before you start your car, you should honk the horn to make sure that a cat has not decided to nap in a warm spot under the hood of the vehicle, or underneath the vehicle.
• If you have left your holiday decorations up after Christmas, keep ornaments out of reach of your pets. Remember that poinsettias, holly, mistletoe, and other plants can be toxic if ingested.

Sandwiches with Santa

Be on the lookout for information for our lunch with Santa event in December!

HISHMEH
From page 3

from Ramallah, Palestine, Fuad and Nihad opened the Elektrik Maid, a diner on Carroll Avenue, in 1973 (Mark’s Kitchen later occupied that space). Then they opened a bakery next door, which became Middle Eastern Bakery, the first bakery in the D.C. region to sell fresh, homemade pita bread. In 1980, the Hishmeh Brothers transformed the bakery into the Middle

East Market, with specialty grocery items. Then, in 2001, the market expanded into a family-style restaurant called Middle East Cuisine.

In 2008, the entrepreneurial spirit passed to sons Chris and Nidal, who opened the Olive Lounge under the guidance of Fuad and Nihad. Along with an assortment of beers, the Olive Lounge continues the tradition of serving delicious Palestinian dishes, using a unique blend of spice, marinades, and family recipes.

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

12 RAZONES
From page 9

- con Carpe Diem Arts) y Tableros (facilitado por adolescentes voluntarios), mientras que el popular Cantajuego: Spanish Circle Time* (con la Señora Geiza) regresó en persona. Todo lo que tenga una estrella* cuenta con el apoyo financiero de los Friends of the TPML.
7. ¡Este año presentamos a 11 autores! Varios nos visitaron gracias a nuestra colaboración con Politics & Prose Bookstore.
8. Conseguimos más de 700 libros nuevos en español para niños, adolescentes y adultos gracias a una beca de la Asociación de Bibliotecas de los Estados Unidos.
9. Verónica viajó a la Feria Internacional del Libro en Guadalajara, México, la feria de libros iberoamericana más importante del mundo. Allí adquirió títulos nuevos y únicos en español y lenguas indígenas de América para todas las edades.

- 10. Cada miembro del equipo participó en oportunidades de desarrollo profesional que nos ayudarán a brindarles un mejor servicio a todos. Los temas incluyeron: investigación y visualización de datos para bibliotecas, diseño gráfico, cuentos sensoriales, mediación de conflictos, así como administración.
11. Una beca de Maryland State Arts Council financió completamente Yard Dramas en Crossroads Farmers Market. Esta es una de varias iniciativas de alcance a la comunidad.
12. Cubrimos dos tercios (2/3) de Takoma Park en esfuerzos de alcance a la comunidad. Viajamos por toda la ciudad—a los Distritos 1, 4, 5 y 6—para facilitar programas y compartir información de nuestros servicios bibliotecarios. Y, actualmente, estamos trabajando en una Estrategia de Alcance a la Comunidad para el 2024 equitativa y sostenible. (Agradecemos a Anne, Jessica y Phil por ser parte de estos esfuerzos).

12 REASONS
From page 9

- Emmet Parks*), Jumpstart with the Arts World Around Music* (in partnership with Carpe Diem Arts), and Tableros (facilitated by teen volunteers), while the popular Cantajuego: Spanish Circle Time* (with Señora Geiza) returned in person. Everything with a star* is financially supported by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.
7. We hosted 11 authors this year! Several visited us thanks to our partnership with Politics & Prose Bookstore.
8. We have over 700 new books in Spanish for children, teens, and adults thanks to a grant from the American Library Association.
9. Verónica traveled to the Feria Internacional del Libro in Guadalajara, Mexico, the most important Ibero-American book fair in the world. There, she acquired new and unique titles in Spanish and indigenous languages of the Americas for all ages.

- 10. Each team member participated in professional development opportunities that will help us better serve you all. Themes included: evaluation and data visualization for libraries, graphic design, sensory storytime, conflict mediation, as well as management.
11. A grant from the Maryland State Arts Council fully funded Yard Dramas at the Crossroads Farmers Market. This is one of several community outreach initiatives.
12. We covered two thirds (2/3) of Takoma Park in outreach efforts. We traveled across the city—to Wards 1, 4, 5, and 6—to facilitate programs and share information about library services. And we are currently working on an equitable and sustainable Library Outreach Strategy for 2024. (Thanks to Anne, Jessica, and Phil for being part of these efforts.)

Community ACTIVITIES

25th Annual Alternative Gift Fair

Saturday, December 2, noon–4 p.m.

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
310 Tulip Ave.
Online through January 3 at aggw.org
Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington is thrilled to announce the return of its in-person Alternative Gift Fair at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church gymnasium. 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 through January 3 at aggw.org. For information or to volunteer email aggw@gmail.com.

Blood Drive

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

Takoma Park Municipal Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Takoma Park Police and Inova Blood Donor Services are teaming up to host a Takoma Park Community Blood Drive. Donors must be at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and be in good health. Your generosity can make a significant difference in the lives of those in need. For more information, contact Catherine Tunis, tunis.catherine@gmail.com, or Ron Hardy, ronh@takomaparkmd.gov.

Green Way Reading Series

Sunday, December 3, 5–7 p.m.

People's Book
7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

The Green Way Reading Series is a monthly literary event curated by Elizabeth Bryant and Takoma Park's Poet Laureate Taylor Johnson. Alexis De Veaux and Sokari Ekine will be reading at this event. The series centers on emerging and established poets and artists in interdisciplinary, intergenerational and cross-regional dialogues. We want these programs to encourage growing participation and local engagement in the evolving landscape of contemporary poetry. More information at peoplesbooktakoma.com.

Pajamarama Holiday Market

Sunday, December 3, 8 a.m.– 4 p.m.

Participating Mainstreet Takoma businesses
Takoma Park's Roscoe the Rooster crows for 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. For more information, visit mainstreettakoma.org.

Takoma Park Gift Market

Friday, December 8, 5–9 p.m.

201 Ethan Allen Avenue

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. For more information, visit mainstreettakoma.org.

Chanukkah Storytime

December 10, 9:30–10 a.m.

People's Book
7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

Join Ruth Polk, librarian at Temple Sinai, for a Chanukkah-themed read aloud! All are welcome! More information at peoplesbooktakoma.com.

Takoma Cocoa Crawl

Saturday, December 16, 1– 4 p.m.

Various locations

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. For more information, visit mainstreettakoma.org.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

Monday, January 15

The Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is the only federal holiday designated to encourage people to volunteer and give back to their communities. Check the January newsletter and the city website for a list of opportunities.

Winter Solstice Celebration, featuring Rock Creek Morris Women

Thursday, December 21, 6:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Maryland Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave.

Join us on Thursday, December 21 at 6:30 for a Winter Solstice celebration! The Rock Creek Morris Women dancers will begin their performance at 7:00 p.m. We will also have campfire-themed crafts, refreshments, and storytelling from the far north. For more information, visit takomapark.info/library.

Mid-Winter Play Day

Sunday, February 11, 1–4 p.m.

Come out for a day of play. There will be face painting, giant chess, indoor bocce, dress-up, cookie decorations, and much more. Visit letsplayamerica.org for more information.

ONGOING

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.

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 Rob's Open Mics Facebook and YouTube channels. No refreshments on site, but you are welcome to bring in your own food and non-alcoholic beverages (please support our local restaurants!). For updates, follow Rob's Open Mics on Facebook, or visit ilyaimy.com/robsopenmics.

Correspond with Incarcerated Artists

The 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

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

Green Way Reading Series

December 3, 5–7
People's Book
7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

The Green Way Reading Series is a monthly literary event curated by Elizabeth Bryant and Takoma Park's Poet Laureate Taylor Johnson. Alexis De Veaux and Sokari Ekine will be reading on December 3.

Alexis De Veaux is one of a stellar list of American writers highlighted by LIT CITY, a public art initiative of banners bearing their names and images in downtown Buffalo, New York, in recognition of the city's renowned literary legacy. Cofounder of the Center for Poetic Healing, a project of Lyrical Democracies (with Kathy Engel), and of the Flamboyant Ladies Theatre Company (with Gwendolen Hardwick), Alexis De Veaux is a black queer feminist independent scholar. Further information is available on her author website, alexisdeveaux.com.

Sokari Ekine is a Nigerian British queer



Alexis De Veaux



Sokari Ekine

feminist artist and visual scholar who has worked and lived in Africa, Europe, the Caribbean and the United States. An artist of considerable longevity, Sokari's work focuses on decolonization, African spiritual practices, migration, and queer and trans bodies in black diasporas.

The Green Way Reading Series welcomes emerging and established poets and artists in interdisciplinary, intergenerational and cross-regional dialogues. We want these programs to encourage growing participation and local engagement in the evolving landscape of contemporary poetry. More information at peoplesbooktakoma.com.

Let It Snow! But Then Grab a Shovel!

Although we can't say for sure, forecasts for our area are saying there is a good chance for some snow this year. With the potential for snow comes an opportunity for residents and business owners to show what good neighbors they can be.

When it snows, we need to remove snow and ice from sidewalks so neighbors and visitors can travel safely. When sidewalks aren't clear, people have to walk in the street or try to navigate dangerous patches of ice, so please be considerate of neighbors and the community and keep your sidewalks clear.

Would you be willing to help out your neighbor? If your neighbor needs some



assistance clearing off their sidewalk, offer to give them a hand after you finish clearing yours.

The City has regulations regarding snow removal. Residents have until noon on a day snow has fallen and accumulated in the night or until 9 p.m. on the day in which it has accumulated.

Commercial establishments will need to keep their sidewalks

clear between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The full width of your sidewalk must be clear unless full-width clearing is not feasible, in which case at a minimum a continuous three- foot- wide path of the paved sidewalk must be cleared.

Last, to protect our sidewalks and trees, the use of rock salt is strictly prohibited on sidewalks or within 10 feet of trees.