

City Offices & Facilities Closed

Sunday, Feb. 19 - Monday, Feb. 20

President's Day Holiday

13th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day

Sunday, Feb. 12

Community Police Academy Deadline

Friday, Feb. 17

Essentials Drive for Animal Shelters

Tuesday, Jan. 3, through Friday, March 3

Takoma Park Direct Cash Assistance

Funds are still available for eligible individuals to apply for the Takoma Park Direct Cash Assistance program! Learn more: https://bit.ly/TKPK_CashAssistance

Look for this Icon throughout this issue

See page 10

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takomaparkmd.gov

Check our website frequently for updates.

Mayor Searcy “Focused on Making the World a Better Place”

By Sean Gossard


When deciding to run for the city’s top office last year, Takoma Park’s new mayor Talisha Searcy thought heavily about how the city was being represented.

“I’m asked a lot about what made me run for mayor,” she says. “For me, it was a matter of representation and making sure our city leadership represents the diversity of our community. As a leader, as a woman, and as an African-American, I wanted to serve as that example.”

Searcy, who is originally from Atlanta, Ga., and moved to Takoma Park in 2013, won her first term as mayor in November, replacing outgoing mayor Kate Stewart who was elected to the Montgomery County Council.

She moved to Takoma Park, she says, for its sense of community and served as the President of the New Hampshire Gardens Community Association from 2015 to 2017 while also working at the Department of Health and Human Services. Searcy served as the councilmember for Ward 6 from 2017 to 2022.

She says her experience growing up as the daughter of a single mother helped her



Talisha Searcy

world a better place.”

While deciding to run for mayor, she also thought about how the next council would consist of more new councilmembers than incumbents. In November, four new councilmembers—Shana Fulcher (Ward 1), Randy Gibson (Ward 3), Cara Honzak (Ward 5) and Jason Small (Ward 6)—were elected to represent the city’s six wards.

“We have so many new people on the council now and I wanted to provide a sense of continuity for them,” she says. “I think that the new council is really eager and that’s wonderful. The fact that we have so much energy and passion and are really focused on achieving the goals of the city is really important.”

She says she’s already spoken with members about what the top priorities for the city will be in the upcoming years.

“There’s been a strong emphasis on equality,” she says. “We want to keep in mind the entire city and not just sections. It’s not necessarily what we want to focus on, but what we have to focus on.”

Searcy says the first few months as mayor have been exciting, if not incredibly chal-

SEARCY □ Page 11

Seamens Brings Years of Experience to City Council


By Sean Gossard

For Councilmember Terry Seamens—Takoma Park’s longest serving member on the city council—there’s always more work to be done.

Seamens, who was first elected to serve Ward 4 in 1999, began his public service career at the suggestion of wife Joyce and her father.

“I didn’t start out with a real interest, but they encouraged me to join the neighborhood city organization,” he says. “As we did this community work with the neighborhood association, I learned more about what was going on in the community and city government and some of my friends and neighbors told me I should get on the city council to make changes. People felt like there were issues to deal with. I was a somewhat reluctant participant.”

Seamens, who first moved to the city in 1983, says he’s seen plenty of change over the years



Terry Seamens

that has reflected Takoma Park’s more progressive leanings, especially when it came to the police department.

“One of the biggest issues the community had when I joined in 1999, was that the police department didn’t fit the progressive character of Takoma Park,” he says. “That was something that, unfortunately, took a few more years than the two-year term. But, I’m very excited to see the development of the police department to be


Councilmember Gibson Sets Focus on Economy, Environment

By Sean Gossard

For one of Takoma Park’s newest Councilmembers, Randy Gibson says economics and the environment go hand-in-hand in making the city a better place to live for all residents.

Gibson, who was elected to represent Ward 3 in November, began his professional career in the Peace Corps, before moving on to work at a number of non-profit and government agencies that focused on social and economic justice issues.

“Justice and service were values instilled in my youth by both my parents in terms of service,” he says. “Because of my faith background within an Historic Peace Church, faith and justice are incredibly important to me and set a path for me that established who I am.”



Randy Gibson

Gibson says there are a few things he wants to focus on during his time on the Takoma Park Council, including the environment and the budget.

“We have ecosystems that are worth protection and we need to focus on how we can value them,” he says. “One term I’ve come across is ecosystem services that de-

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GIBSON □ Page 11

7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Mayor & Council

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On the DOCKET

Official City Government Meetings

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly 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, registration by 5 p.m. on the meeting date is required

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- Monday, January 30**, City Council Special Meeting (Council Priorities Retreat), 6:30 p.m. in the Azalea Room.
- Wednesday, February 1**, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
- Wednesday, February 8**, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
- Wednesday, February 15**, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
- Wednesday, February 22**, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
- Wednesday, March 1**, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.

CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Check the calendar on the City website for the most up to date information, including links to access meetings and agendas. Visit www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on “Events and Meetings.” City boards and committees will be meeting on Zoom during the winter of 2023.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, February 9, 7:30 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 16, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

ETHICS COMMISSION

Tuesday, February 28, 6:45 p.m.
Hybrid - Zoom and CC Council Conference Room

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 7, 6:30 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 14, 7:15 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

POLICE CHIEF’S ADVISORY BOARD

Date and time TBA

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 16, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Monday, February 6th, 7-8:30 pm.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

TREE COMMISSION

Wednesday, February 8, 7 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Thursday, February 2, 4 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)
Thursday, February 16, 4 p.m.
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)
Thursday, March 2, 4 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

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.

Notice of Public Hearing Traffic Calming (Speed Bump) on Second Avenue Wednesday, February 22 – 7:30 p.m. Community Center Auditorium

Residents of Second Avenue have petitioned to have a speed bump installed on Second Avenue between Cockerille Avenue and Allegheny Avenue.

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the proposed traffic calming at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22, 2023. Interested residents are encouraged to attend the meeting and sign up to speak or testify via Zoom. To testify remotely, you must register on Zoom before 5 p.m. on the day of the hearing. (The Zoom link will be published later this month on the agenda page of the City website.)

Written comments may also be sent to the City Clerk (clerk@takomaparkmd.gov). All written comments will be added to the hearing record.

Contact clerk@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7267 for additional information about the hearing.

Attest:
Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk



Editor's note

English:

Look for this icon next to newsletter articles that you can read online in other languages using the translation feature on the City of Takoma Park's website. After clicking on the link for the article, look in the upper right hand corner of the web page next to the navigation bar, and select the language you want using the drop-down box.

French:

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que vous pouvez lire en ligne dans d'autres langues à l'aide de la fonction de traduction disponible sur le site Web de la ville de Takoma Park. Après avoir cliqué sur le lien de l'article, regardez dans le coin supérieur droit de la page Web à côté de la barre de navigation, puis sélectionnez la langue souhaitée à l'aide du menu déroulant.

Spanish:

Busque este ícono junto a los artículos del boletín que puede leer en línea en otros idiomas usando la función de traducción en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park. Después de hacer clic en el enlace del artículo, busque en la esquina superior derecha de la página web junto a la barra de navegación y seleccione el idioma que desee con el cuadro desplegable.

Amharic:

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Two Vacancies on the Police Employees' Retirement Plan Committee (Police Pension Board)

The Takoma Park Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee has two openings for Takoma Park residents. The Committee consists of seven members: City Manager; Finance Director; Police Chief; Representative of UFCW Local 400; Representative of Police Supervisory Employees; and, two Takoma Park residents. Committee members have fiduciary responsibility for the pension plan.

The Committee meets two to four times per year, during business hours, to review plan investments, meet with the plan actuary to receive the annual actuarial valuation, and review recommended amendments to the plan. Other duties of the Board are described in Chapter 4.24 of the Takoma Park Code. Applicants should be familiar with pension plans. Contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 or Clerk@takomaparkmd.gov for additional information or to apply.



Takoma Park News

Send submissions to:
Acting Editor: Sean Gossard • TPNewsEditor@takomaparkmd.gov
Questions: Donna Wright Communications Manager
donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov
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.



Get in touch! City Department Phone Numbers



City Information	301-891-7100
City Clerk.....	301-891-7267
Communications.....	301-891-7236
Finance	301-891-7212
Housing & Community Development.....	301-891-7119

Library	301-891-7259
Neighborhood Services	301-891-7113
Police	301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
Public Works.....	301-891-7633
Recreation/Facilities Rental	301-891-7290

Building COMMUNITY

Adventist Medical Group Dedicates New Office in Takoma Park

Story by Shanna Muschik, Director,
PR/Marketing, Non-Acute Services,
Adventist HealthCare

Adventist HealthCare dedicated its newest Adventist Medical Group Primary Care office in Takoma Park on Wednesday, Jan. 11. The dedication, which was attended by city government officials and Adventist HealthCare leadership, featured remarks and a ribbon cutting. The event highlighted the continued partnership between the City of Takoma Park and Adventist HealthCare.

The ceremony featured opening remarks from Robert Jepson, Chief Operating Officer at Adventist HealthCare White Oak Medical Center. Richard Samuel, MD, primary care physician with Adventist Medical Group, highlighted the services at the office and his close connection to the City of Takoma Park. Mayor Searcy, Talisha Searcy, also recognized the importance of access to medical services in the community, and the close relationship Adventist HealthCare continues to have with the city. Following the brief remarks, a ribbon cutting commenced with members of the city council, Mayor Searcy, and



Mayor Searcy and Councilmembers Fulcher, Seamens, and Honzak joined Adventist HealthCare's Richard Samuel, MD, and staff for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new primary care office in Takoma Park.

Adventist HealthCare leadership and office personnel.

Adventist Medical Group Primary Care

in Takoma Park is located at 7610 Carroll Ave., Suite 410. The office provides safe in-person care with the opportunity for same

and next day appointments. Services include annual physicals, geriatric wellness exams, vaccinations, care for chronic conditions, immigration exams and telehealth. This office also offers translation services upon request.

Seeing patients in Takoma Park is Richard Samuel, MD. Prior to joining Adventist Medical Group, Dr. Samuel worked at various urgent care centers in both Maryland and Virginia. He received his medical degree from Christian Medical College and completed his residency in Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, Episcopal Hospital. Dr. Samuel is a caring and compassionate physician who enjoys building relationships with his patients. He is also fluent in both Hindi and Tamil.

Adventist Medical Group has seven primary care offices throughout Montgomery and Prince Georges counties. In addition to primary care, they also offer a broad range of medical specialties including general surgery, urology, endocrinology, cardiology and others. To schedule an appointment, call 301-891-5079 or visit AdventistMedicalGroup.com.



New Window Regulations Now in Effect

Last month, new regulations were enacted that allows tenants to request window guards be installed in their apartment at no cost. A tenant can request a window guard for any window if it meets the following criteria:

- It is not a ground floor or basement window
- The window does not contain an air-conditioning unit that is bolted to the window with gaps of less than 4 inches
- The window can be opened greater than 4 inches
- The window is not a means for escape in the case of fire or another emergency

When you request a window guard, the landlord has 14 days to install the guard. A guard can be any combination of bars or window stoppers as long as it can securely ensure that an opening of greater than 4 inches is not possible. You can find out more by going online to <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/rental-housing-programs/window-guard-regulations/>. The Housing Division is also available to answer any questions or assist. You can reach the Division through phone



by calling 301-891-7222 or by emailing housing@takomaparkmd.gov.



HCD Announces RFP for Connectivity Project

The City of Takoma Park invites qualified consulting firms to submit responses ("Proposals") to this Request for Proposals to develop two deliverables: 1) the final (100%) technical designs that enhance the safety and comfort of bicycle, pedestrian and transit users on Maple Avenue, from the Washington, DC border to Sligo Creek Parkway, and 2) a feasibility study for improved bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure on or along the Maple Avenue bridge over Sligo Creek. In addition, the selected consulting firm will work with City staff to develop a data-driven and equity-infused community engagement strategy to inform the process.

The Maple Avenue Connectivity Project reimagines Maple Ave as a roadway that creates a safe, comfortable, and inviting environment for the many pedestrians, bicycle riders, and transit riders that use it. The full design process should center on racial equity, environmental sustainability, and cutting-edge best practices in roadway design.

Maple Avenue is one of the largest City-maintained roads in Takoma Park. The Maple Avenue Connectivity Project

includes most of the roadway, extending from the Washington, DC border to Sligo Creek. The corridor includes a tremendous diversity of uses and community members, too. Maple Ave hosts the densest multi-family housing in the City and houses one of the most diverse populations of Black and Latine residents and senior residents. The street also passes an elementary school, a daycare, a Community Center, a public library, a police station, and a large church. It crosses two transportation agency jurisdictions (MD State Highway Administration and Maryland-National Capital Parks & Planning Commission) and supports three Ride On bus lines and two Capital Bikeshare stations. It also forms an artery connecting residents and visitors to the recreational opportunities of Sligo Creek Park and the commercial opportunities of Old Takoma.

For more information about the project and the RFP, visit the Bids & Contracts page at <https://takomaparkmd.gov/services/bids-contracts/>. Proposals are due by 11:59 pm on Wednesday, February 15, 2023.



Community Quality of Life Grants go toward funding for Arts and Humanities programs, projects, events, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs, projects, and events.

Community Quality of Life Grant Applications Are Open Now

The Community Quality of Life Grant application opened last month and will remain open until Thursday, March 9, 2023. This American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funded program provides financial support for specific programs, projects, and events that improve the quality of life for City residents by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences. Eligible projects include Arts and Humanities programs, projects, events, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs, projects, and

events. Past grants have included: science and math clubs, robotics clubs, computer programming classes, concert and film series, public art, maker spaces, technology-based internships, and apprenticeship programs. Funding is available to 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and 501(c)(6) business associations. For additional information about the grant and application, visit <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/grant-programs/community-grants/>.

Combating English Ivy

Story by Anna Mische John

The short, dark, damp weather we have been experiencing might be making your itch to get outside and garden even more intense. But what to do in January? Look for English Ivy! English Ivy (*Hedera helix*) is sometimes planted as an ornamental groundcover but escapes cultivation and wreaks havoc on our woodlands and trees. On the ground, English Ivy forms a dense mat that smothers native vegetation and creates an ideal breeding ground for mosquitos. It then creeps along until it reaches a tree trunk, then up it goes. English Ivy can grow to the top of our tall trees, smothering their leaves and undermines their strength making them more likely to drop limbs or topple over. It isn't until the English Ivy achieves vertical growth that it flowers and sets fruit-which birds eat and spread this invasive weed even further. You can help! Residents, staff, and volunteers have been working to free trees from English Ivy but more help is needed on private properties. Take a look around your neighborhood, if you see a lush stand of green in otherwise bare trees, it could be a snag of English Ivy calling to you.

- Step 1) get approval from the property owner
- Step 2) using hand pruners sever the vine at the base of the tree
- Step 3) Cut all vines AGAIN several inches up creating a "window" to prevent the vine from growing back together (yes, it does that!). Vines can grow to be several



inches thick and may need a small hand saw and the "window" to be gently pried away. Do not otherwise pull vines off the trees as it can damage the bark.

Step 4) vines will slowly turn brown and die. Monitor for regrowth.

Questions? Gardens@TakomaParkMD.gov.



Subsidio de Calidad de Vida Comunitaria

Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Comunitario
Ciudad de Takoma Park

Las solicitudes abren del 16 de enero de 2023 al 9 de marzo de 2023

El Subsidio de Calidad de Vida Comunitaria brinda fondos para programas, proyectos y eventos específicos que mejoran la calidad de vida de los residentes de la Ciudad al proporcionar un mayor acceso y oportunidades para la participación en las artes y ciencias.

Requisitos de elegibilidad del programa

- Programas, proyectos y programas centrados en las artes y las humanidades, y eventos y programas, proyectos y eventos de ciencia, tecnología, ingeniería y matemáticas (STEM).
- La Ciudad está alentando solicitudes para programas que conectan las artes y las ciencias con habilidades que promueven la preparación laboral para los residentes de Takoma Park con ingresos bajos y moderados.
- Las subvenciones pagan desde un mínimo de \$5,000 hasta un máximo de \$10,000 y deben tener una contrapartida dólar por dólar.

Las subvenciones anteriores han incluido: clubes de ciencias y matemáticas, clubes de robótica, clases de programación de computadoras, series de conciertos y películas, arte público, espacios para creadores, pasantías basadas en tecnología y programas de aprendizaje.

Para obtener más información sobre los requisitos de elegibilidad y para presentar una solicitud, visite takomaparkmd.gov/grants y siga el enlace de 'Community Quality of Life'.

Ciudad de Takoma Park | 7500 Maple Ave | Takoma Park, MD 20912 | Teléfono: 301-891-7100

COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE GRANT

Department of Housing and Community Development
CITY OF TAKOMA PARK

Applications open January 16, 2023 - March 9, 2023

The Community Quality of Life Grant provides funding for specific programs, projects, and events that improve the quality of life for City residents by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences.

Key Program Eligibility Requirements

- Arts and Humanities-focused programs, projects, and events and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs, projects and events.
- The City is encouraging applications for programming that connects arts and sciences with skills that promote job-readiness for low-and-moderate-income Takoma Park residents.
- Grants range from a minimum of \$5,000 to a maximum of \$10,000 and must have a dollar-for-dollar match.

Past grants have included: science and math clubs, robotics clubs, computer programming classes, concert and film series, public art, maker spaces, technology-based internship and apprenticeship programs.

For more information on eligibility requirements and to apply visit takomaparkmd.gov/grants and follow the link for Community Quality of Life.

City of Takoma Park | 7500 Maple Avenue | Takoma Park, MD 20912 | Phone: 301-891-7100

The ARTS

Cirque du Cambodia Film Follows Circus Performers Across the World

Free Film Screening
Friday, Feb. 10 at 7:30 pm
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue

From Cambodia to Canada, the *Cirque du Cambodia* documentary follows two Cambodian teenagers on their inspiring journey to run away and join the circus.

Filmed over eight years, filmmaker Joel Gershon captured the amazing talents and ongoing challenges for two Cambodian teenagers who travel from the rice fields and dusty roads of their rural village to the other side of the world to train at the prestigious National Circus School of Montreal in Canada. Their ultimate dream is to perform with the prestigious Cirque du Soleil, whose headquarters is located across the street from the school.

The two teenagers began their circus training in their village in Cambodia at a school for the arts called *Phare Ponleu Selpak*, which translates to “brightness of the arts.” The school runs a “social circus” program where at-risk and marginalized youth learn circus skills, such as juggling, tightrope walking, and trapeze, and perform in shows for locals and tourists.

During a trip to Cambodia, Gershon was captivated by a circus performance at *Phare* and spent the next decade filming and editing this documentary, following the story through four countries on a shoestring budget.



Cirque du Cambodia Film Screening

The two young circus performers arrived in Montreal with almost no money or the ability to speak French or English, but they hope to make it to the big time by performing under Cirque du Soleil’s big top. The documentary won audience awards at two

film festivals and a jury prize at the 2021 Circus International Film Festival.

Gershon lives in Washington, D.C., and has taught at the American University School of Communication. He previously spent 12 years in Bangkok working as a

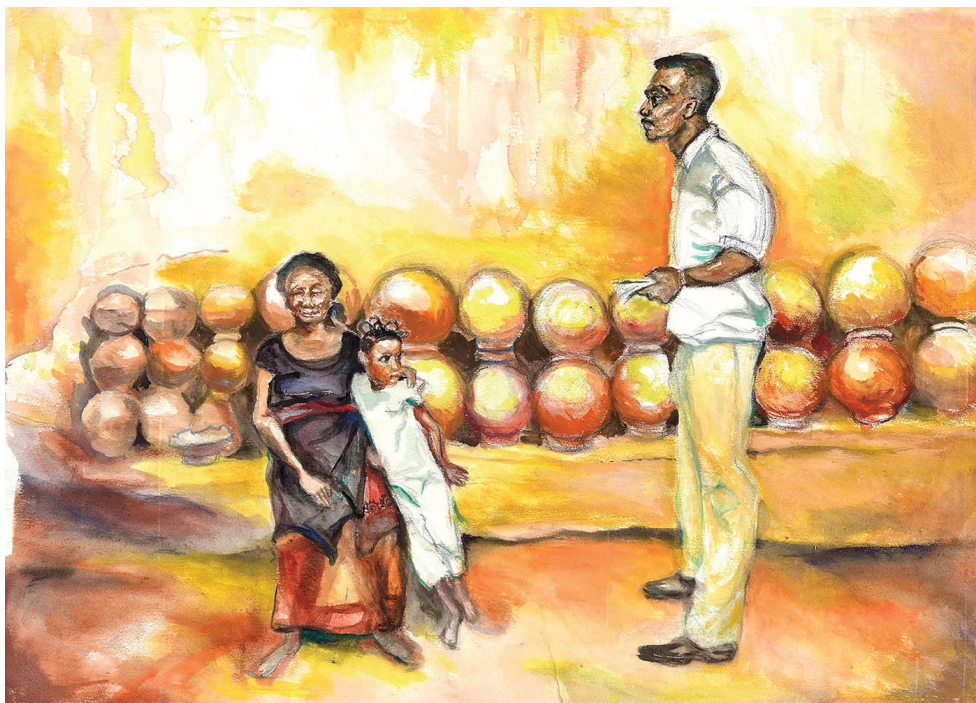
TV correspondent, copywriter, and college professor teaching film and media studies. You can learn more about him and his work at joelgershon.com.

One Day My Soul Just Opened Up Art Exhibition

Four Black female artists shared their diverse range of artwork exploring the spiritual world views of African heritage in a new exhibition titled *One Day My Soul Just Opened Up: African-American Women and the Black Sacred Cosmos*.

The exhibition, which will be on view until March 15 at the Takoma Park Community Center, features artists Debra Jean Ambush, Nikki Brooks, Joan M.E. Gaither, and Anike Robinson.

Ambush worked with the other artists to develop the theme of the exhibition. “The exhibition addresses a distinct variety of viewpoints regarding the notion of a Black



Debra Ambush, Ghanaian Son

Sacred Cosmos, a time-honored reverential space in which the realm of ancestors and the divine inspire resilience and memory among their descendants,” she said.

Through the mediums of printmaking, painting, and mixed media, Ambush creates figurative and landscape work that expresses family narratives about her experiences and travels across the world.

Brooks creates installations and assemblage infused with digital and audio elements, paintings, sculpted text, and collage. Her work focuses on social activism and encourages viewers to explore the interconnected forms of writing, storytelling,

and shared dialogue.

Gaither is a native Baltimorean who helped integrate local schools and businesses during the Civil Rights Movement. In more than 300 quilts, she uses meaningful fabrics, traditional patterns, collaged text, and images to tell narrative personal stories and collective histories.

Robinson delves deeply into Black cultures and histories across time and geographies to engage in conversations about home, memory, ritual, representation, and gender.



Healing Power of Poetry Reading

Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 pm
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue

In the *Healing Power of Poetry* reading, four local poets will share their work exploring how poetry can provide healing, both on the personal level and across the world.

The featured poets include Katherine J. Williams, Melanie Figg, Yvette Neisser, and Neha Misra.

This poetry reading is part of the *Takoma Park Arts* series organized by the City’s Arts and Humanities Division. The series includes free art exhibitions, film screenings, poetry readings, concerts, theater, and dance performances at the Takoma Park Community Center. Please go to takomaparkmd.gov/arts for more info and to sign up for our e-newsletter.



Nikki Brooks, Abolitionist

RECREATION

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

TOTS

DANCE

Combo Tot Dance
Fun and energizing class for your little ones. This is the introductory foundational class consisting of rhythmic movements, into basic tumbling and various styles of dance. Jam packed with games and toys your little ones your little ones won't even realize they are learning to dance. Instructor: Dance Solutions
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
3-6 years
Sundays, 12:15-1 p.m.
Through March 19
Resident: \$125 / Non-resident: \$145

YOUTH

CAMP

Spring Break Camp: All Around the World
Come experience different cultures of the world with Takoma Park Recreation! Join us as we go 'All Around the World' for a week, taking time to learn and experience different cultures of the world. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. 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. Before & After Care are available to add on. Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
6-12 years
1 Week Session
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
April 3-April 7
Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$170

DANCE



Ballet
This 45-minute class focuses on the basics of ballet but highlights advanced concepts including history, stage production, performance etiquette and choreography. Students will explore the history of ballet and practice combinations from various ballet choreographers. Instructor: Charonne Butler
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
5-11 years
Saturdays, 12:30-1:15 p.m.
Through February 18
Resident: \$65 / Non-resident: \$75

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 technique, practice temporal awareness, spatial awareness and learn choreography. Instructor: Charonne Butler
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
5-11 years
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Through February 18
Resident: \$65 / Non-resident: \$75

EXTENDED CARE

Fun Days
Fun Days are offered on specific days when Montgomery County Public Schools are not in session. The program is designed to provide recreational activities and trips for children enrolled in elementary school. Must bring a lunch, snacks and labeled water bottle. Trips are subject to change. Registration is required. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of the program.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades: K-5
Fridays, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
March 31: Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden
April 21: Botanical Gardens
Resident: \$55 / Non-resident: \$65 per date0

TEENS

CAMPS

STEM Forward! – Teen Camp
Hurray for Spring Break! Looking for enriching ways to have fun during the break? Come out to our STEM themed camp where youth will enjoy recreational activities such as outdoor play, sports games, crafts, and more as well as hands on STEM activities in areas such as such as rubber band propelled vehicles, projectile motion challenges, aerospace design challenges, and programming robots to complete tasks. Youth will need to bring a bagged lunch and water bottle, there are no heating capabilities on-site. Paperwork is required prior to the first day of camp. Facilitated by Get Into STEM, Inc.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades: 6-12
1 Week Session
9 a.m.– 4 p.m.
April 3-7
Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$170

FITNESS

Teen Fitness
No matter your fitness level, this class is designed to work with you. Join us for a high energy workout. Your trainer will assist you in meeting your fitness goals. Bring a water bottle, towel, yoga mat and a positive attitude. Instructor: Greg Harris
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
11-17 years
Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Through February 22
Resident: \$30 / Non-resident: \$40

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

2022 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, 2023). Participants must also be Takoma Park residents. Registration and attendance is required in order to participate in the Summer Youth Employment Program; sign up today at: <https://bit.ly/tkpkSYEPInfo>. For more information, contact Haven Rhodd at 301-891-7284 or HavenR@takomaparkmd.gov.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
16-21 years
Friday, February 24
6:30-8:30 p.m.
Free

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. Class start date has been moved to Monday, February 6.
Virtual
Grades 6-12
Mondays, 6-7 p.m.
February 6-March 27
Free



Mind Over Matter: Stress Relief for Teens
Teens are experiencing more stress than ever. But they can learn the tools to release it! In this course participants will learn to recognize and tame stress and strong emotions, cultivate calm and happiness, focus on the present moment with kindness, relax their bodies, and improve their focus. This virtual class will include some movement, discussion and sitting practices.
Virtual
Grades 6-12
Wednesdays, 5-5:30 p.m.
February 8-March 29
Free



DRAMA/THEATER

Dungeons & Dragons
They creep through the twilight, quiet as shadows muttering a language long forgotten, a language only spoken by ghosts. Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role-playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group "survive."
Instructor: Dave Burbank
Takoma Park Community Center
Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
8-18 years
Fridays, 4-5 p.m.
Session 2: February 3-February 24
Session 3: March 3-March 31
Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70



Takoma Park's Got Talent!
Can you sing, dance, recite poetry, or perform magic? Whatever your talent, we want you to participate! If so, come, have fun, and show your community your talent! Each Tuesday, teens will have the opportunity to practice with a talent coach and refine your skills. Youth will also receive assistance in putting together their performances, including props and accessories needed. Meetings are as follows:
Rehearsals - Tuesdays through February 28
Dress Rehearsal - March 7
Date of Show: Friday, March 10 at 7 p.m. in the Takoma Park Auditorium (7500 Maple Ave)
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Ave
Grades 6-12
Tuesdays, 4-5:30 p.m.
Rehearsals through February 28
Show: March 10
Free



TRIP

Teen Trip – Autobahn
The Teen program will be going to Autobahn in Jessup, MD to have fun while school is out! Autobahn is an indoor speedway with a variety of activities that teens can participate in, including go-karting and other games. Come out and have a good time!! Participants will meet in the Teen Lounge (Takoma Park Community Center - 7500 Maple Ave) at 12 p.m. The bus will be departing at 12:30 p.m. Space is limited so register today!
Grades: 6-12
1 Day Trip
Friday, 12-5 p.m.
March 3
Resident: \$10 / Non-resident: \$20

ADULT

ART

Crafting Polymer Jewelry Workshop
Learn to design and create one of a kind earring, brooches & necklaces to match your wardrobe and personal style using the amazing versatility and color palettes offered by polymer clay. Instructor: Sharyn Neuwirth
Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
18 & up
Saturday, 12:30-5:30 p.m.
February 11
Resident: \$140 / Non-resident: \$160

Drawing
The practice of drawing can be both relaxing and enriching. Participants in this class will draw with a variety of materials. Students will be supported by weekly lessons with demos involving proportion and perspective, on-going feedback and critique. Creative cropping, expressive mark making, exploration into limited value or color key and other techniques will be discussed. Personal creativity will be encouraged. Come join the fun and comradery of drawing together and develop a practice that will enhance your life. Beginning to advanced students welcome. Paper and drawing materials will be available for the \$20 materials fee due on the first day of class. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman
Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
18 & up
Thursdays, 6:30-9 p.m.
March 9-April 20
Resident: \$230 / Non-resident: \$260
Materials Fee: \$20

Encaustic Collage & Printmaking Workshop
Intro to Encaustic offers instruction in the many applications of encaustic in art: as a painting medium, a collage adhesive, and as a pigment for encausting monoprining with a Roland Hotbox. Students will explore layering opaque and translucent papers with wax as abase for over-painting with oil and encaustic, the creation of altered papers with ink and watercolor, which combine with wax and encaustic paint, resulting in beautiful painterly prints, and the many ways you can enhance your current practice with the addition of encaustic paint. Various absorbent surfaces such as board, canvas, printmaking and watercolor will be on hand

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

RECREATION

RECREATION

■ From page 6

to explore. All materials will be provided for the \$70 materials fee, including all substrates, medium, brushes and paint. A letter of optional materials to bring will be sent out after you register.
Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
18 & up
Saturday & Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
February 25 & February 26
Resident: \$280 / Non-resident: \$310
Materials Fee: \$70

FITNESS

THE FITNESS ROOM IS OPEN!

Mon/Wed/Fri: 2:30-8:30 p.m.
Tues/Thurs: 12-8:30 p.m. (12-2 for 55+ only)
Sat: 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Memberships

Adult (6 months) Res: \$85 / Non-res: \$95
Adult (1 year) Res: \$120 / Non-res: \$140
Seniors 55+: FREE



Boot camp

A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 & up
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Session 1: through February 23
Resident: \$105 / Non-resident: \$125
Session 2: March 7-March 30
Resident: \$70 / Non-resident: \$80
Drop-in: \$10

Guts & Butts

The special focus of this class is your lower body with emphasis on your core and posture. This class will strengthen and tone your core muscles, working on the back, buttocks and thighs. By combining elements of Pilates, strength training, balance work, resistance bands, and with the stability ball this class is sure to get those abdominal muscles and gluts firmed up and well-toned. Perfect for those students looking to shed pounds, tone, firm and strengthen the body from top to bottom, particularly at the core. Come ready to sweat and burn in all the right places. Instructor: Adrienne Buist
Virtual
16 & up
Wednesdays, 6-6:45 p.m.
Through March 15
Resident: \$30 / Non-resident: \$40



Iyengar Yoga for Beginners

This class will introduce you to Yoga as taught by the Iyengar Method. This method opens up the practice of yoga for everyone. The use of props and a step by step approach teaches alignment and brings strength and flexibility. The basic postures are introduced and awareness is created in the whole body. As awareness of every part of the body is felt, energy is generated and the breath is engaged. The aim is to bring into alignment the different parts of the body to associate the breath and mind and release tension and stress. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri
This class will be offered on a hybrid basis. You can attend the class in-person or via Zoom.com on the same day at the same time.
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
18 & up
Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m.
Through March 29
Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$170
Drop in: \$15



Ker De Zuri DanXercise Class (Afro Beat Dance Class)

A contemporary Afro Dance company specializing in African dancing. Zuri Sana'a DanXercise's mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuri Sana'a DanXercise combines hip hop, salsa, dancehall, contemporary and African dance moves within our choreography to create a memorable workout experience. Our

moves are feasible and suitable for all ages. Participants will be able to shred calories and learn fun choreography all in one class. Instructor: Khady N'Diaye
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 & up
Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.
Through March 30
Resident: \$80 / Non-resident: \$90

Zumba

Zumba is a fitness program that combines Latin and international music with dance moves. Zumba routines incorporate interval training, alternating fast and slow rhythms to help improve cardiovascular fitness. No equipment needed for this class. Instructor: Dance Solutions
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 & up
Saturdays, 10:15-11:15 a.m.
Through March 25
Resident: \$100 / Non-Resident: \$110
Drop-In: \$15

55+

ART

Art & Crafts with Alice

Brighten the Winter days and get creative. The class meets twice a month to learn a new skill and create different projects. We will cover a variety of quick art and craft projects. Have fun and learn a new skill in each class such as decorating vases, painting ceramic tiles, creating table decorations and a holiday project. Enjoy the supportive and relaxed atmosphere. Instructor: Alice Sims
Takoma Park Community Center
Lilac Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 & up
4 Session Dates
Mondays, 10-11 a.m.
February 13, February 27,
March 13 & March 27
\$6

DANCE

Line Dance

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary. Register for one Line Dance class only, not both. Choose the class that fits your schedule. Instructor: Barbara Brown
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 & up
Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Through March 14
Wednesdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Through March 15
\$6

Zumba Gold

Active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity. The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Register for one in-person Zumba Gold class only. Choose the class that fits your schedule. Instructor: Yesika Flores
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
55 & up
Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Through March 15
Fridays, 10-11 a.m. (virtual & in person options)
Through March 17
\$6

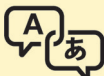


DROP-IN

Bingo

Come try your luck and win a prize! This is drop-in, no registration required. Host: Paula Lisowski
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Lilac Room
55 & up
Tuesdays, 12-2 p.m.
February 28 & March 28
Free

RECREATION □ Page 11



Let's Get Creative with Takoma Park Recreation: Arts, Crafts and more!

Winter 2023 is full of opportunities for residents of all ages to get creative. Classes and workshops may take place daytime and evening on different days of the week and some on weekends, so you can choose the activity that's the best fit for you and your family. Tots ages 3-5 can enjoy the ABC's of Art on Saturday afternoons. Youth ages 5-12 have a variety of ceramics classes: Clay for Kids, Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday afternoons with artist/instructor Caroline Mackinnon. Teens ages 13-17 will have fun leaning to draw using a variety of media on Tuesday afternoons with artist/instructor Katie Del Kaufman. Adults ages 16+ can select from three ceramics offerings: Clay in the Studio on Wednesday afternoons; Hand Building & Sculpture on Monday mornings; and wheel Throwing on Tuesday evenings. Try your hand at collage on Tuesday mornings; participate in a Saturday afternoon Crafting Polymer Jewelry workshop; enjoy the Drawing class



session on Thursday evenings; join the popular 2-day (Saturday & Sunday) Encaustic Collage and Printmaking work-

shop; and finally engage in Painting Exploration, a six-week session on Fridays mornings. Last but not least, adults ages

55+ can enjoy a fabulous Arts & Crafts series of Monday morning workshops, each class will be a different art or craft but February 13th will be a Valentine's special craft. These workshops are taught by artist/instructor Alice Sims who has been teaching a variety of painting, ceramics and crafts classes for all ages for the Recreation Department for 20 years!
For class descriptions, dates, times and cost for any of these and other activities, go to the Takoma Park Recreation website: takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation
To register for classes, click on ActiveNet. Don't forget about our Scholarship program providing city residents who qualify an opportunity to apply for a lesser fee than the published amounts. For more information and to apply click on "Recreation Scholarships".
As always, you are welcome to contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290 for information.



LIBRARY



Library and Computer Center hours are:

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

Holiday Closings:

The Library and Computer Center will be closed on February 19th and 20th in observance of Presidents Day.

Important Information

- **Our new address** is 7505 New Hampshire Avenue. There is plenty of parking as well as public transportation.
- **To protect** our most vulnerable patrons and staff, the Library strongly encourages everyone to continue to wear a mask while in the library, even though masks are optional in City facilities now.
- **Books-to-Go** is continuing, and **Books-to-You** (delivery for Takoma Park residents only) is starting back up. Email librarytakomapark@gmail.com to order. Please note: if you are picking up a Books-to-Go order, please call the library's main number, 301-891-7259.

Regular Programs

Neighborhood Circle Time

has moved to Tuesdays! Join Ms. Kati and/or Ms. Verónica every Tuesday at 10:30 am for Circle Time indoors in our new temporary library. We sing songs, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, and do many dancing and movement exercises. We read a book in the middle of the program. We have partnered with Carpe Diem Arts to bring Jumpstart to the Library once a month! This month they will join us on February 7th. If your child has a birthday coming up, please email Ms. Kati at kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov with the age and day, and we will celebrate!

Canta Juego: Spanish Circle time every Thursday at 10:30 am via Zoom! Join the fun at our weekly Zoom Spanish Circle Time, led by Señora Geiza. In this 30-minute program, kids and adults can sing songs and do rhymes and movement exercises in Spanish. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us/j/7349136285>. Click on "Join a Meeting." Then put in this Meeting ID: 959-5178-5847 and Meeting Password: 793725. Sponsored by Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.



The coloring holiday gingerbread house was so popular in the Children's area that we decided to get a coloring rocket ship!

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

Lego Club - Come in and play with legos! Sunday, February 5th from 1 to 3pm.

SKETCH CLUB is back! Join Dave on Thursdays at 4:00 PM for Sketch Club, either in-person at 7505 New Hampshire Ave. or online on Zoom. A mostly unstructured, self-guided 'class'. Kids who like to draw can hang out and work on whatever they feel like drawing. Tips and tricks can be shared as well as drawing prompts for those who 'don't know what to draw'. Kids who feel like sharing can let their work be displayed on the document camera, and observers can offer their thoughts and inspirations based on the work that is being done. This is not a class on how to draw, but a workshop on why to draw and how to not stop drawing and never worry about if something is 'good' or 'bad' so long as you are learning. In person at the new Takoma Park Maryland Library location, and on Zoom, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7349136285>

WinterQuest reading program is live! On a cold and windy winter day, you step out to walk around. No snow today, but heaps of leaves are piled all around. The sun is sulking and barely peeks over the horizon today. But the leaves are frisky. You find yourself caught in a leafnado, a twister of wind that wraps your scarf around you and stuffs leaves into your hood. Come to the front

desk to pick up a gameboard and story for the wintry version of our summer reading quest. A self-guided game, to move your character through the adventure you read a different kind of book for each challenge on the board. No pressure, just a fun way to encourage folks to read different sorts of books from our collection. The program will run through the middle of March, so there's plenty of time.

No Yoga Storytime in February.

Special Events

The Library will be participating in the Mid-Winter Play Day!

Sunday, February 12th, 1 to 4pm in the Takoma Park Community Center and Piney Branch Elementary School's All-Purpose Room. Look for Dave Burbank doing a pop-up Sketch Club and Kati Nolfi doing pop-up crafts.

Meet the Author: Kelly Yang will join us to present her upcoming book *Finally Seen!* Please note that masking will be required at this event. Tuesday, February 28, at 6:00 PM In-Person in the Community Center Auditorium. Kelly Yang is the New York Times bestselling author of *Front Desk* (winner of the 2019 Asian Pacific American Award for Children's Literature), *Parachutes*, *Three Keys*, *Room to Dream*, *New From Here*, and *Finally Seen*. *Front Desk* also won the Parents' Choice Gold Medal, was the 2019 Global Read Aloud, and has earned numerous other honors including being named a best book of the year by Amazon, The Washington Post, Kirkus Reviews, School Library Journal, Publishers Weekly, and NPR.

Looking Ahead

Meet the Author: Dennis

Desmond, local author, will be presenting his new book *Eddie & the Vegetarian Vampire*, on Saturday, April 1st, at 2:00 PM. In-Person at the Library's Temporary Location at 7505 New Hampshire Avenue.

Día de los niños / Día de los libros Join Takoma Park Maryland Library for its second *Día* celebration. There will be stories, music, and other surprises! Saturday, April 29, from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. In-Person, outdoors at Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave) Rain Plan: Indoors at the Library's Temporary Location..



Takoma Park
Maryland
Library

Meet the Author!

Tuesday, February 28 | 6:00 PM

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium



KELLY YANG
Children's Author



Free event. Book sale and signing to follow!
Mask wearing required.

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library News

by Tim Rahn

The Friends Book Group will discuss Ursula K. Le Guin's *Lavinia* on March 9th at 7:30 pm in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center.

Like other Le Guin novels *Lavinia* tells of the events and actions of characters in a speculative world. Unlike her other novels, however, *Lavinia* speculates about the actions and events of a character drawn from Western mythology.

In this case, it's the Princess Lavinia from Vergil's epic poem, *The Aeneid*. Although she never says a word in Vergil's poem Lavinia becomes the catalyst for the war that leads Vergil's hero Aeneas to the founding of Rome.

Lavinia begins as the young Lavinia watches Aeneas and the Trojan fleet enter the Tiber River. Although the arrival of the Trojans begins peacefully, soon a war over who will marry Lavinia—Aeneas or the Rutulian Turnus—begins. Le Guin's *Lavinia* narrates her story from court intrigue through battles to the first days of Rome.

"Le Guin is famous for creating alternative worlds and she approaches Lavinia's world, from which Western civilization took its course, as unique and strange as any fantasy," said a reviewer in *Publisher's Weekly*. "It's a novel that deserves to be ranked with Robert Graves's *I, Claudius*."

Released in 2008, *Lavinia* was the last novel Le Guin published in her lifetime. *Kirkus Review* claimed that *Lavinia* was "arguably her best novel, and an altogether worthy companion volume to one of the Western world's greatest stories."

Le Guin won numerous awards for her stories and novels including the Hugo, Nebula, and Locus awards. She died in 2018.

Copies of *Lavinia* can be borrowed from the library.

If you are interested in joining the discussion and you do not receive Friends Book Group announcements, write to ftpmbookgroup@gmail.com for details on joining.

Listen to this!

by Anne LeVeque

The Assignment with Audie Cornish

This is a fairly new addition to the vast number of podcasts out there, having begun in November, 2022. Former 'All Things Considered' host and current Takoma Park resident Audie Cornish has moved to CNN, and in this podcast she takes a deeper dive into hot button issues. Cornish talks to people outside the usual 'bubbles' to gain insight into these news stories. More than once I've shouted in my head, "OMG! Why is she even talking to them??" But that is exactly the approach we need if we are to heal the divisions in this country. We all need greater understanding of others' opinions. Found on CNN.com or wherever you get your podcasts.

PODCAST



REVIEW

Children & Young Adult Services 2022 in Numbers



Libros para el mes de febrero, por Verónica Rivera-Negrón

En Estados Unidos, febrero es el Mes de la Historia y Herencia Afro, así como el del Amor y la Amistad. ¡Y en la biblioteca, tenemos libros en español perfectos p

Para los adultos que gustan de la ficción histórica, les remiendo *Indómita* por Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa. Mientras que los niños pueden leer *La peineta colorada*, escrito por Fernando Picó e ilustrado por María Antonia Ordóñez. Ambos libros están basados en el Puerto Rico del siglo XIX, y cuentan las historias de mujeres esclavizadas que, con fortaleza, escapan de sus condiciones inhumanas.

Buenos Espíritus, de la autora afro-dominicana, Camille Gomera-Tavarez, es una colección de cuentos juveniles sobre la diáspora dominicana. A través de 11 historias, se exploran temas como el machismo, la salud mental, la familia y la identidad.

La medalla mágica de Juana Agripina de Yolanda Arroyo Pizarro es una corta obra de teatro sobre el racismo y el bullying en la escuela. Sería particularmente útil para salones de clase de español avanzado en el que quieran discutir estos temas complejos.

También tenemos una variedad de libros que tratan sobre el amor propio, cuyos personajes principales son niñas negras. *Amor de pelo*, por Matthew A. Cherry e ilustrado por Vashti Harrison, y *Agustina tiene una corona*, por Edris Mayol-Llanos, celebran las cabelleras naturales, rizadas y afro. En el libro de Mayol-Llanos, ¡la protagonista usa las matemáti-

cas y un calendario para medir cuánto ha crecido su cabello a través del tiempo!

En *Pitu le baila al mar*, por Gama Valle e ilustrado por Yamel Figueroa, vemos a una niña de “curvas curvasas” que se ama tal cual es y se expresa a través del baile. Este libro es aún mejor porque incluye un audio libro, así que puede ser utilizado por lectores de varios niveles.

Algunos de nuestros libros tratan el amor de familia, como lo es *Pepita Sarmiento* de Gracia Iglesias e ilustrado por David Sierra Listón. Este cuento es sobre una niña que cada vez que sale se la lleva el viento. Su familia, con miedo a perderla, toma medidas para que se mantenga en tierra firme. Pero con el tiempo aprenden que cuando uno ama, debe poder dejar ir.

Para lectores jóvenes avanzados que quieran leer una historia graciosa sobre el primer amor, recomiendo *María está enamorada* por Brigitte Smadja e ilustrado por Jotavé.

A los lectores más grandes y maduros, les invito a disfrutar de la versión ilustrada de *Romeo y Julieta* por Mercè López, así como de *El aprendizaje amoroso* por Laëtitia Bourget y Emmanuelle Houdart. Ambos libros tienen un arte espléndido, oscuro y un poco crudo para explorar temas como el amor, la muerte y el matrimonio.

¿Hay algún libro que no veas en esta lista que crees que debemos tener? Sabes que siempre estoy disponible para escuchar tus sugerencias. ¡Feliz lectura!

Children & Youth Services - Looking Back at 2022

by Anne LeVeque

It was just one year ago that we welcomed our newest staff member, Verónica Rivera-Negrón, to the Library as Children & Youth Services Manager. It's been a year filled with many changes, not the least of which was moving the library from Philadelphia Avenue to New Hampshire Avenue. We had to close for two months while we moved, but miraculously, Verónica kept several of the children's programs going throughout the closure, on Zoom or in a public park.

With the preparation for moving, the dismantling of offices, working remotely but also amidst the wreckage of our former library,

and just generally keeping it together in our changing world, it's been a stressful time for the entire staff. Verónica dived right into the library and has brought a new vision to Children & Youth Services.

In January, Verónica wrote up an annual report, documenting the activities, programs, and changes over the past year. You can find the report on the library website at takomapark.info, in the 'News' section. It's amazing to see all that the Children & Youth Services team (Verónica, Kati, and Dave) have accomplished this past year all in one place. You can see some of the highlights in the infographic with this story.

One item from her report that I

want to highlight is the significant expansion of our Spanish-language offerings - both books and programs. The library received a grant of \$20,000 from the American Library Association (ALA) to increase our services in Spanish. 75% of the grant is going toward materials in Spanish for children, young adults, and adults. The remaining 25% will go towards new program development - programs such as the El Cuento program at the Crossroads Farmers Market, Storytime in Spanish, and Care-giver Workshops on reading and literacy offered at Rolling Terrace Elementary School. Come by and check out the new books we have on offer!



Director's column Preserving Memories

by Jessica Jones

As we begin another month of meteorological winter, those with aversions to cold (or those who are just “over it” by the time February rolls around) may be searching for indoor entertainment. I like to think that libraries and librarians excel at this. If you want a break from your television, or the judgment of your TBR pile (TBR = “To Be Read,” since acquiring books and actually reading them are sometimes very different hobbies), this may be a good time to think about how you are preserving memories of your family, your cultures and affiliations, or even just your personal narrative.

Inventory: The first step is taking stock.

What media carries your memories? Are the images, text, sound, and film “born digital” (originally created digitally), or are they analog? What sorts of materials are you working with? Some materials you might encounter are: loose paper, film reels and negatives, photographs, scrapbooks, diaries or other bound volumes, leather, fabric, metal (including staples and paperclips), and adhesives (tape, glue, etc.).

Triage

Before you take the time to do a lot of research, here are some red flags to look out for that can help you prioritize your memory project.

- Paper: Paper with signs of mold or mildew should be stored away from your other cherished documents so that it doesn't spread to unaffected paper while you decide what to do.
- Film: Does your film smell like vinegar? This can indicate that the acetate carrier is breaking down, and it's time to figure out the best way to migrate to a digital format. *Sidenote: Hopefully no one reading this has any silver nitrate film at home. If your film was recorded after 1950, it's almost certainly not silver nitrate, but if you have any doubts, it belongs in the freezer until you can consult with a professional. Silver nitrate film can combust and should be kept very cold.*



ver nitrate film can combust and should be kept very cold.

- Leather: If you are working with a leather-bound volume, check to see if the leather is deteriorating. Rust-colored dust can indicate that the volume has red rot, and it will need care to avoid further damage.
- External hard drives: If you have been backing up images and data on external drives, check the integrity of the drive occasionally. External hard drives, especially older ones that are not solid state drives (SSDs) and have moving parts, can break down after a few years. If your drive is acting finicky, it's time to move it up your project queue so you don't lose anything.

Research and Strategize

Devise a plan that is realistic for your time, space, and budget.

Now that you know what you are working with and have taken measures to stop any further degradation of your materials, it's time to do some research on the best way to proceed. Consider how much time you have to work on this, where you can sort through materials and how much space they will take up to organize, and if/what kind of equipment you want to invest in. Digitization, for instance, can be as expensive as rigging a DSLR image capture contraption, or it can be free if you use a PDF capture app with your phone's camera. Rather than recommending books here, I'm going to suggest some online resources to consult, because there is a ton of great information out there online that's more navigable than flipping through a large text:

- The American Library Association (ALA) has a lot of

good sources for people at all familiarity and skill levels: <https://preservationweek.org/resources/>

- The Dew Point Calculator is a tool used by many preservation technicians to calculate the optimal environment for your materials: <http://www.dpcalc.org/>
- The National Archives also have some basic tools and information available on their site: <https://www.archives.gov/preservation>
- ALA's Association for Library Collections & Technical Services division has a deeper dive on digitization best practices if you are interested, complete with images that illustrate differences in file resolution: <https://www.ala.org/alcts/resources/preserv/minimum-digitization-capture-recommendations>

Implement and Maintain

Preserve/migrate and decide on a maintenance schedule.

Preservation is not a one-and-done, unfortunately. Once you have carried out your strategy and stabilized or migrated your materials, you'll want to check in on them periodically – remember the janky external hard drives? Equipment failures and data degradation can happen without at least some minimal supervision. Set reminders in your paper or on-line calendars to check in on your memories at least once a year.

Oh, and please don't store the memories you love in basements, garages, attics, or even on floors. I have seen sad things happen to amazing materials because a temporary floor location flooded, or an animal got to it more easily.

I'll also take a moment here to promote Historic Takoma, Inc. as a wonderful resource for local history. If you have questions about Takoma Park's historical record – maps, lore, genealogy, etc. – they are fantastic, and their reading room has open hours in a beautiful historic building on Carroll Avenue. For more information about their schedule and how to contact them, their website is here: <https://historictakoma.org/>



City of Takoma Park
Careers

Building Community One Person at aTime



- Join a dedicated, motivated staff
- Serve residents of an engaged, exciting, and diverse community
- Work on progressive, innovative projects that reflect council goals of environmental sustainability and an equitable quality of life
- Enjoy an outstanding benefits package
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takomaparkmd.gov/careers

Winter Preparedness 2023: RU Ready ?

By Claudine Schweber,
Emergency Preparedness
Committee, Takoma Park

Despite our recent weather fluctuations, it's Winter! How well prepared are you to deal with power outages, freezing temperatures, icy roads ,snow, school closings? Can you help elderly relatives, neighbors or



someone who doesn't speak English? Those without internet connections or skills? So, just like the annual medical check-up it's time for an annual Winter Preparedness Check-up (WPC).

Here's the 2023 WPC list: mark your readiness or action deadlines.

Situation	Ready: yes	Ready: No → date to correct
Indoors: if you must shelter in place , you need at least 3 -5 days supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none">water for 3-6 days (about a gallon per day per person)3 days food supplies: non-perishable that doesn't require refrigeration or cookingcan opener: hand operatedLighting: Flashlights, at least one close by; extra working batteries (that fit the flashlight!); lantern***Do NOT use lit candles or hot stoves		
Indoors: communication, contacts Communication: <ul style="list-style-type: none">cell phone charged before the storm or emergency;fully charged charger; landline (some people keep for emergency communication)internet access? Skills?notepad/paper + pen/pencil Contacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">emergency contact list, with identifier (family, neighbor, etc) and easily accessible, with phone/email infoOut of area emergency contacts: name, relationship, contact info; **be sure to tell them they are on your list and that they agreelanguage translator contacts info		
Health Care <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prescription Medication for at last a week, nearby; list of all medsMedical professionals contact info (email and phone)and which specialtypaper copies of health insurance information, medical records, health informationphone/contact info for nearest emergency room, hospitalfamily/friend contact info (see communication)		
Assistance for Elderly, Disabled, non-English Speakers <ul style="list-style-type: none">mobility help for those needing wheel chairs, walkers, special equipment + working equipmentif person is deaf, contact for interpretersif person is non-English speaker, contact for translatorsupport for caregivers*** Takoma Park CARE program: Registered residents who have special needs or are alone, call police dept daily. If no call , Police will follow up in person. Register 301-270-1100; takomaparkmd.gov → Police CareNon-English speakers: make sure to have contact info for available translators		
School information <ul style="list-style-type: none">Obtain and update school emergency numberset up ways to be in contact with childinformation/authorization for someone else to pick up the student— school requirementcontact information for key school personnel		

How did you do? RU ready, prepared for winter 2023 challenges? We still have many weeks of winter, so take action now. Because, as Yogi Berra told us: "it ain't over 'till it's over. "

Contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126. Listen to Bea(trice) Prepared the first Sunday of each month on WOWD-L FM, 94.3 / 1pm, Talk of Takoma Email questions to talk@takoma.com



Passport Services

Passport Services are available by appointment only Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Appointments are required and can be scheduled by calling 301-891-7100. Passport service hours are subject to change without notice. Whenever possible, office closures will be announced on Facebook, Twitter, and the City's website. Please note the following:

- The City of Takoma Park does not process the DS-82 Renewal Application, which is a mail-in only Application.
- All forms must be written clearly with no mark outs, scratch outs, etc.
- Do not sign your forms before you meet with the Passport Agent.
- The City of Takoma Park has no control over passport processing times.

For additional information, visit takomaparkmdgov/services/passports. Questions? Email sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov.

Doc Honors Legendary Coach and Mentor

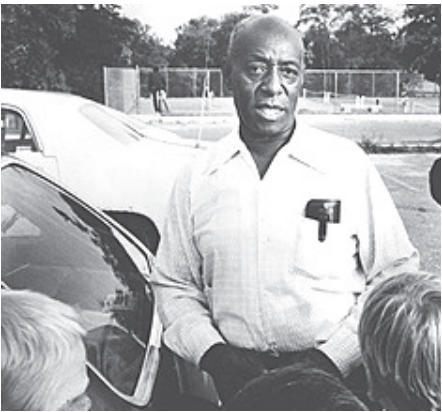
Join Takoma Park’s Recreation Department and Historic Takoma for a screening of *They Called Him “Mister Lee”*—the story of the legendary Lee Jordan.

Community members reflect on the impact and contributions of Lee Jordan—the school custodian who had a huge influence on Takoma Park youth, both Black and white, as mentor and coach, including breaking racial barriers by organizing the first integrated sports programs in Montgomery County and founding the city’s Boys and Girls Club. Lee Jordan’s advocacy directed at improving living conditions for African American residents sheds light on the challenges faced by the Black community during segregation and the decades that followed.

Members of the Black community reflect on the life of Lee Jordan and his impact—as coach, founder of the first integrated sports program in the county, mentor to many youth, and community advocate.

A Q&A with filmmaker Michel Fincham, oral historian Ali Kahn, and oral history interviewees will follow the screening.

The Takoma Park African American Oral History Project launched in 2019. The origin of this initiative was a conversation community member Denny May had with Susan Schreiber after returning from a birthday party honoring longtime African American businessperson Roland Dawes (owner of the Unisex Barbershop on Carroll Ave., b. 1928). The two reflected on the fact that older people who had grown up in Takoma Park’s Black community were still around, and what could be done to learn about their experience and history. May and Schreiber immediately approached their friends and neighbors Ali Kahn,



Lee Jordan

who has a background in oral history, and documentary filmmaker Michael Fincham, and together the four began to sketch out a plan to interview (and film) older community members about their life experiences growing up and living in Takoma Park.

They were able to assemble a team of advisors, beginning with Lee Jordan’s daughter Patricia Matthews, who urged us to attend an annual “homecoming picnic” in June, where we had a chance to meet a number of community elders, as well as Dale Jones, also from the TP Black community. Also Gaynell Catherine, who researches and produces a nationally-distributed Black history calendar, and Dianne Bradley, who hosts a radio program on Takoma Radio WOWD, 94.3.

Under the aegis of Historic Takoma Inc., they were able to secure an initial grant of \$8,000 from the City’s Community Grants Program (now Quality of Life grants) to undertake the oral history process, followed by three additional grants—one from the City, one from Maryland Humanities, and a third from Preservation Maryland. Despite delays due to COVID, they were able to conduct and film oral history interviews with 12 individuals and, in 2021, began the film production phase.



Lee Jordan Field - From Cows to Games, Fireworks & Festivals.

SEARCY

■ From page 1

lenging adjusting to the new role.

“It’s been really good and a great learning experience for me and getting to know all the different issues,” she says. “Establishing a framework for addressing the community’s needs has been a pleasure and a challenge. But we’re just getting started.”

It’s an exciting time for the city, she says. She’s especially excited about the groundbreaking of the new library.

“I feel like we’re on the cusp of many things in the city,” she says. “Things that have been outstanding in our city for the past 10 to 15 years. As mayor, I’m going to be able to bridge that gap. The library project has been debated for many years, so seeing groundbreaking moving forward would be huge for us. We also have plenty of ARPA projects underway, including direct cash assistance.”

One of the biggest issues she says the city faces is outreach to the community and having more residents engage with the city government.

“Engagement is not one-way directional

communication,” she says. “It’s also about creating those opportunities to hear from residents, bi-directional communication. We want to hear from members of our community that we don’t always hear from and that may mean reshaping how we do things like community meetings and where we may have them or what we have on the agenda. People engage when it relates to something they care about. We want to identify what those topics are for our constituents, particularly for immigrant residents, residents of color or renters.”

She says the city is looking at new ways to engage the community and get the word out about different programs, like the ARPA Direct Cash Assistance Program.

“We’ve done a community survey in the past and we found that people don’t rely on our website, but rather listservs or word of mouth or councilmembers to get information,” she says. “Our goal as a city should be that we’re providing accurate information in an easily accessible way and one of those tools should be the website. Hard-to-reach populations aren’t labeled hard-to-reach for no reason, it takes work to reach out and as mayor, I’m committed to doing that work.”

GIBSON

■ From page 1

scribes what nature does for us if we let it. Among other services, our native trees and plants do a good job at sequestering carbon and our soil helps filter water to keep it from eroding our parks and flooding homes.”

Gibson says after retiring he began a few projects on his home to make it more sustainable, including installing solar panels, insulating his attic, and planting native plants in his yard with his daughter.

“The biggest threat that climate change brings to our city is storm water problems—from moldy basements to flooding and the loss of biodiversity,” Gibson says. “I wanted to do more about that in our city and educate ourselves about what we can do. I want to look at watershed strategies in regards to our storm water concerns and what we, as residents of the city, can do in partnership.”

Gibson says he also wants to work on the economic side of things to strengthen the city’s businesses as well as find ways to increase affordability to residents, current and future.

“Another strategy of economic development of the city is to enhance our local business community in a way that’s not destructive to the environment,” he says. “Enhance economic, social and environmental

SEAMENS

■ From page 1

more in line with the progressiveness of the city. Under Chief Antonio DeVaul, the police have become guardians of community safety.”

He says he hopes his experience on the council can help the new members. In November, four new councilmembers were elected to represent the city’s six wards.

“The current council has a lot of new members on it,” he says. “My experience has been that it takes a while to evolve to any new job and the council is no different. My opinion is the council should move more slowly, but make sure we are getting things done.”

Seamens says that this term he wants to focus on community outreach to get more residents involved in local politics.

“It’s been difficult to get people engaged

wellbeing through balanced community economic development.”

One element of that strategy, he says, is to utilize the city’s many civic organizations as partners in the fight for environmental and economic justice.

“Our civic organizations are so critical,” he says. “They’re the third leg of the stool to our city, along with the city government and council. I want to see more of a partnership with civic organizations, especially in the environmental sphere. I know there are groups that want to help the city restore our biodiversity, doing everything from helping to create pollinator gardens to restoring wetlands and removing invasive plants and species.”

For now, he’s looking forward to working with his fellow, first-term council members to guide the city into the future.

“It’s a majority new council, so it’s a whole new ballgame,” Gibson says. “I’m really excited about the really talented group of councilmembers we have and how diverse they are. Collectively we bring a great background and energy to the broad range of issues facing the city.”

This article is part of an ongoing series introducing Takoma Park’s new city council to its residents. Check back next month for interviews with Councilmembers Cara Honzak and Jason Small of Wards 5 and 6, respectively.

with the community,” he says. “My wife and I are going to work on that. I think there’s a lot of room to gain there and progress to gain. That’s the No. 1 goal for this term; to draw Ward 4 neighbors into community awareness and activity. The government doesn’t serve everyone equally across the city, it takes the involvement of community members to get the attention they need.”

Seamens says he still has plenty of goals he’d like to accomplish while on the council.

“It’s been a real learning experience and a very rewarding experience being on the council,” he says. “We’ve made progress but there’s always more work to be done.”

This article is part of an ongoing series introducing Takoma Park’s new city council to its residents. Check back next month for interviews with Councilmembers Cara Honzak and Jason Small of Wards 5 and 6, respectively.

RECREATION

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FITNESS

Enhance Your Fitness

A great total body workout using low-impact aerobic movement and gentle resistance training. This class focuses on increasing strength, balance and flexibility through stretching, breathing, core training and proper posture alignment using standing and seated exercises including warm-up and cool down routines. Instructor: Adriene Buist
Virtual
55 & up
Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m. ***New time***
January 10-March 14
\$6

Qigong

Qigong is meditation via movement, standing and/or seated, that can benefit participants by lowering stress and anxiety, increasing focus and improving balance and flexibility. It combines breathing, gentle movement and meditation to improve good mental, physical and spiritual health. Instructor: Anne Harrison
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Back Activity Room
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 & up
Thursdays, 10-11 a.m.
January 12-March 16
\$6



Rhythmic Drumming

Cardio Fitness Drumming lets the rhythmic beat move you through tapping and drumstick clapping while standing, and/or sitting to exercise your mind and body. No drumming experience required. Instructor: Dance Solutions
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Back Activity Room
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 & up
Tuesdays, 1:15-2:15 p.m.
January 10-March 14
\$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 Avenue
55 & up
Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m.
January 10-March 14
\$6

Community ACTIVITIES

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Every Sunday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
6931 Laurel Ave.

Come out every Sunday behind the shops on Laurel Ave. for a mix of 25 vendors with seasonal produce, pasture-raised meat and eggs, artisan cheese, grains, bread, baked goods, and more. Find breakfast and lunch at the market including empanadas, egg sandwiches, burgers, pastries and more.

Historic Takoma Reading Room

Sundays (first and third)
7328 Carroll Ave.

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

Docs In Progress

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

Takoma Foundation

The Takoma Foundation's newest initiative is called Community Dollars. The Foundation is partnering with a group of young people who live in those wards and who are coming up with project ideas and budgets. It is an intensive process that requires them to work with adult mentors and develop projects that meet needs and priorities. For more, visit takomafoundation.org/stories/about-community-dollars.html.

Takoma Spark Open Mic

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

Hosted by Rob Hinkal of ilyAIMY and sponsored by Institute of Musical Traditions. Signup starts at 6 p.m. Performance slots are two songs or 10 minutes. All musical genres, poetry & all abilities/ages welcome. No amps or drum kits. The evening is also live-streamed on the Rob's Open Mics Facebook and YouTube channels. For updates, follow Rob's Open Mics on Facebook, or visit www.ilyaimy.com/robsopenmics.

13th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2023
Takoma Park Community Center and Piney Branch Elementary School

Come out for a day of play. There will be face painting, giant chess, indoor bocce, double Dutch, Simon Says with Congressman Jamie Raskin, dress-up, cookie decorations and much more. Music by the Takoma Park Community

Band and Silver Spring School of Rock House Band. Visit letsplayamerica.org for more.

Pajama Jammie Jam Poetry Slam hosted by Simply Sherri

Friday, Feb. 24, 9 p.m.
Busboys & Poets, 235 Carroll St NW

Busboys and Poets and Simply Poetic present the Pajama Jammie Jam Poetry Slam! The Pajama Jammie Jam is a love/erotica-themed slam, for everyone from professionals to novices, hosted by Simply Sherri. There's a \$100 cash prize. There will be three themed rounds of poetry: Round 1: Cupid Ain't Sh*t! Round 2: Love is Grand! (Love Poem) Round 3: Freak Me, Baby! (Erotic Round).

"They Called Him 'Mister Lee'" — Film screening and panel discussion

Sunday, Feb. 26, 3:30 – 5 p.m.
Community Center Auditorium

In this recently completed film, older people share what it was like to grow up in Takoma Park during and after segregation, in particular, sharing their experiences and reflections on the impact of Lee Jordan on their lives and the life of the Black community. Produced by Historic Takoma's African American Oral History Project. The project oral historian Ali Kahn, documentary filmmaker Michael Fincham, and oral history interviewees will be on hand for Q&A following the screening. For more information on the African American Oral History Project, go to historictakoma.org.

Takoma Park Police Updates

Protect Your Shed from Shed Burglaries - Tips to Deter Shed Burglaries

Many homeowners do not lock their sheds because they feel there's not anything valuable inside. Other times they think that because a shed is located within a fenced area, it's secure. The fact is an unsecured shed can attract thieves no matter where it's located. Even worse, tools inside could be used to break into your home. Don't take chances with your property and your safety – follow these tips to ensure your shed is properly secured and protected.

Keep your shed maintained. Rotten boards, rotted window frames and loose hardware can't provide adequate protection for the items stored in a shed. Inspect your shed annually and repair any structural problems. If you choose to build a new shed, select products that resist termites and fungal decay.

Keep it locked. This is an obvious prevention tool that, unfortunately, is often forgotten. A locked shed is the first line of defense against theft. Keep your shed locked when not in use. Ensure that you use a strong padlock, and that the hardware surrounding the lock is sturdy and can't be easily pried off.

Cover windows. Burglars will decide if a shed is worth breaking into by looking in the windows to view the contents. If your shed has windows, use privacy-control window film or a glass frosting spray to obscure them. If you prefer to have a view while working in your shed, add blinds or curtains that can be closed when the shed is not in use.

Improve lighting. If your shed is located



Polar Bear Plunge to Benefit Maryland Special Olympics

We plunge on February 3! This year we have teamed up with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department to create one team. Here's how you can support us at the Polar Bear Plunge to Benefit Maryland Special Olympics! Link: support.somd.org/team/470070

Takoma Park Police Accepting Applications for the Community Police Academy

Now Accepting Applications for Takoma Park's 2023 Community Police Academy through February 17! To learn more about the program and/or to apply visit: <https://takomapark-md.gov/government/police/community-policing/community-police-academy/>

Essentials Drive for Montgomery County Animal Shelters

Through Friday, March 3, Takoma Park Police will be collecting new/gently used bath towels, beach towels, bathroom rugs, hand towels, washcloths, blankets, beds, toys and unopened food in an effort to help the Montgomery County Animal Shelters.

Out of Cold Shelter

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

ed in a dimly-lit corner of your yard, this can encourage thieves to make it a target. Install motion sensor lights to deter unwelcome visitors. Sensor lights can also provide adequate lighting should you need to access your shed at night.

Install sensors. If your shed houses expensive items such as vehicles, mowers, bikes and sports gear, you may want to install an alarm. If you do not have a monitored home security system, consider adding a wireless sensor system to your shed. Once a sensor is tripped, your cell phone is immediately sent a notification.

While there is no such thing as a theft-proof shed, with these types of precautions, you can improve shed security and the security of your home as well.

