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Circle Woods Restoration



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RECREATION Page 7 Recreation Manager Profile



Takoma Park News

March 2023

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

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A Statement from Mayor Searcy Regarding the Resignation of Jamal Fox

Effective February 13, 2023, City Manager Jamal Fox resigned from his position as the City Manager with the City of Takoma Park. Fox was hired in 2021 for a specific and critical time of transition for the City of Takoma Park. Fox stated, "it has been a privilege to work alongside the professional and dedicated staff, community members, Council, and Senior Leadership Team."

The City Council thanks Mr. Fox for his service to the City and wishes him the best in his future endeavors. Acting Deputy City Managers Rosalind Grigsby and Greg Clark will continue to share the duties of Deputy City Manager until an Interim City Manager is announced.



Look for this lcon throughout this issue

> See page 10 Ver página 10 *ገ*ጽ 10ን ይመልከቱ

takomaparkmd.gov

Check our website frequently for updates

City Releases Sustainability Report

By Sean Gossard

Takoma Park released its Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report at the end of January, which showed a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 27% from 2005 to 2020.

"The report reflects very positive results from our efforts to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions, however, you can't look at these numbers without recognizing the impact of the pandemic, particularly in the transportation sector," Takoma Park Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite said at a City Council meeting in January. "You see this reflected areawide, country-wide, and globally. We're likely to see some increase in the sectors as the country emerges from the pandemic, but there may be long-lasting structural changes brought about by what we have been through as well".

Overall, 42% of the city's emissions come from buildings-both residential and commercial-and 48% of emissions come from transportation, the report found. The report was prepared by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG), which compiles data for all the surrounding jurisdictions using a standard format, so that the outcome can be compared across the Maryland, Virginia



and D.C. areas.

The City's stated goal, based on the Council-adopted Climate Emergency Response Framework, is to achieve net zero emissions by 2035. Montgomery County's goal is a 100% reduction of ghg emissions by 2035.

"Over the past several years the City has provided grants and incentives to help property owners make the shift to cleaner energy," Braithwaite said. "The results of those efforts are reflected in the lower

emissions report. Another significant factor associated with the reduced emissions is the improvements in our area to cleaner sources of electricity."

Most recently, the city made available \$500,000 through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help multi-family buildings electrify their energy source and implement energy efficiency measures.

"There were 20 buildings that received grants," Braithwaite said. "Part of the re-

SUSTAINABILITY D Page 11

Communication Key for Honzak

By Sean Gossard

For Cara Honzak, one of Takoma Park's newest Councilmembers, communication is going to be key in one of her goals to get the residents of Ward 5 more engaged with the city government.

"Increasing connectivity and communication across the ward is a huge challenge," she says. "It's something I'm committed to making headway on. But it's not easy to crack. I worked hard to go door to door during the campaign but one of the biggest problems is that we have almost no tenant or neighborhood associations across the ward. That makes us extremely different from other wards and makes it harder to serve the community." Honzak, who grew up in Houston, Texas, has lived in Takoma Park for the past 20 years, raising her three children with her husband. She says it was her husband-an immigrant from the Czech Republic who was living in Takoma Park when they first met-who first introduced her to what has become her home of the past two decades.



turally diverse places that I've been on the planet. There are people from so many different countries and among those groups there are some who don't speak English enough to comfortably engage in our city government. Enabling more of our Ward 5 residents to comfortably engage with our City government is something I hope to change."

A lot of her concern came while campaigning in Ward 5 and going door to door

"He told me he was allowed to vote in Takoma Park when he first moved here, which is one of the incredible things about the city," she says. "It's one of the reasons I moved to Takoma Park. It's one of the wonderful pieces of America that held the val-

Councilmember Cara Honzak

ues I hold dear: a strong sense of activism and engagement."

It's that strong sense of engagement she hopes to continue to foster while representing the incredibly diverse Ward 5.

"I speak several languages, including Spanish," she says. "Part of my campaign promise was doing my best to support people of all different linguistic groups. Ward 5 is probably one of the most culto speak to her constituents directly.

"We are the poorest ward economically," she says. "And all these things make it really tough to connect with people. I wanted to go door to door to get to know the residents. I asked them their top priorities that they wished could be fixed. I made a list of those and that's going to be center of mind over the next few years."

She said that now seemed like the right time to run for office to make a change in the community she's called home for so many years.

"This wasn't what I initially planned to do," she says. "But some neighbors reached out to see if I had considered running. I felt that the time was right in my own personal and professional life to give my whole professional skill set to the neigh-

HONZAK 🗌 Page 11

PRE-SORT STANDARD U.S. POSTAGE PAID TAKOMA PARK, MD PERMIT NO. 4422

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

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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

Wednesday, March 1, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
Wednesday, March 8, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
Wednesday, March 15, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
Wednesday, March 22, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
Wednesday, March 22, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.
Wednesday, March 22, City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.

Wednesday, April 5 (Passover begins). The City Council will not meet.

Monday, April 10, City Council Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium. **Wednesday, April 12,** 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." Most City boards and committees continue to meet on Zoom.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 28, 7:00 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

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

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 16, 7 p.m. (Hybrid In-Person and Remote/Virtual)

ETHICS COMMISSION

Tuesday, March 21, 6:45 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

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

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, March 14, 7:30 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting) **POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD** Date and time TBA (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

POLICE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE

Date and time TBA (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE Monday, March 6, 7 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Thursday, March 2, 4 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting) Thursday, March 16, 4 p.m. (Remote/Virtual Meeting) Thursday, March 30, 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.

FY 2024 BUDGET SCHEDULE

All meetings will take place in the Auditorium

Monday, April 10 - City Council Special Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Presentation of City Manager's Recommended FY 2024 Budget

Wednesday, April 12 – City

Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Public Hearing on the City Manager's Recommended FY 2024 Budget

Monday, April 17 – City Council Budget Work Session, 7:30 p.m. Budget Work Session: Operations Budget

Monday, April 24 – City Council Budget Work Session, 7:30 p.m. Budget Work Session: Capital Budget and ARPA Budget

Wednesday, April 26 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Public Hearing: FY 2024 Tax Rate (Constant Yield Tax Rate Public Hearing)

Public Hearing: FY 2024 Budget

Monday, May 1 – City Council Budget Work Session, 7:30 p.m. Budget Work Session: Budget Reconciliation

Wednesday, May 10 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Voting Session: Adoption of the Tax Rate and Budget (first reading)

Wednesday, May 17 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Voting Session: Adoption of the Tax Rate and Budget (first reading)

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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Send submissions to:

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

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.

CouncilAction

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

JANUARY 25, 2023

• **Resolution 2023-1** authorized staff to submit a legislative bond initiative (grant) application to supplement the Library Construction Project. The amount requested is \$2 million.

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	
City Clerk	
Communications	
Finance	
Housing & Community Development	
Library	
Neighborhood Services	
Police	.301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
Public Works	
Recreation/Facilities Rental	

Building COMMUNITY



Takoma Park received a grant from PEPCO to perform environmental improvements in the Circle Woods property.

Circle Woods Restoration Project Coming

Takoma Park is excited to have been the recipient of a grant from PEPCO to perform environmental improvements in the Circle Woods property.

Circle Woods is located in Ward 2 with pedestrian entrances in the 6600 block of Cockerille Avenue and 6700 Poplar Avenue. The property was acquired by the city in 1995 with the goal of preserving the floodplain from development.

Over the years, various stages of work have been done to improve the site including to stabilize the streambanks and improve stormwater management. This site is noted as a significant resource to our residents and environment, as a naturalized floodplain forest and short ent on the site that pose a threat to this natural resource. As stewards of this property, the city intends to remove invasive species followed by replanting with locally native plants. The ultimate goal is to increase the diversity and abundance of native plants and improve the aesthetic, recreation, and ecosystem value of the site.

The grant funds will be used to facilitate removal of non-native invasive species, revegetation with locally native herbaceous and woody plants, and add informational signage about the environmental value of the site.

Opportunities for the community to be involved this spring will include site inventory and weed pull.

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La Ciudad de Takoma Park **Programa de Asistencia Directa en Efectivo** ¿Fuiste afectado por el COVID-19? Puedes solictar por apoyo financiero de una sola vez.

grass prairie.

Unfortunately, there are a number of non-native invasive weed species pres-

If you are interested in being involved, contact Anna Mische John at Gardens@TakomaParkMD.gov

Disposable Plastic and the History of American Throwaway Culture

The City's Code Enforcement team invites community members to listen to Susan Strasser's presentation, Disposable Plastic and the History of American Throwaway Culture, on Monday, March 6, 2023, at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. Los hogares elegibles de bajos ingresos que se fueron afectados negativamente por COVID-19 pueden recibir asistencia en efectivo directa de una solo vez de \$1,000 a través del Programa de Asistencia en Efectivo Directo de Takoma Park.

Los criterios generales de elegibilidad para el Programa de Asistencia Directa en Efectivo incluyen:

- El ingreso familiar debe ser menos de \$50,000.
- Debe estar ubicado dentro de los límites de Takoma Park, Maryland (la dirección no puede ser un apartado de correos ni una dirección que sea un centro de envío como su ubicación física).

El Programa de Asistencia Directa en Efectivo de Takoma Park está financiado por la Ciudad de Takoma Park y es administrado por FORWARD.



Requisitos de elegibilidad detallados y la solicitud se puede encontrar en https://bit.ly/TKPK_CashAssistance.

Llame al 1-855-582-3973 si necesita ayuda con la solicitud.

Escanear:



Community Shapes the Path Forward for Two New Bikeways_

Alexander Freedman, Acting Planning & Development Manager

Safe, comfortable bike trails and lanes are important to achieving the city's ambitions for safe road ways and proactive efforts to reduce the City's climate footprint. The best bike facilities are also designed to meet the needs of its users, and the best way to find that out is to bring community voices into the planning process early and in meaningful ways.

Last autumn, the City was awarded two technical assistance grants to start design work on two new bikeways:

The **Metropolitan Branch Trail**, which runs along the Red Line Metro tracks between New York Ave and Piney Branch Rd, will get a full design upgrade to bring it up to modern standards for safety and comfort.

The New Ave Bikeway District Connector (Section D) extends the in-design New Ave Bikeway from its current endpoint at Poplar Ave and New Hampshire Ave to the District border at Kansas Ln and Eastern Ave. Starting this March, Takoma Park residents and the larger bike riding community can look forward to a wide range of opportunities to help make the City's new bike route projects a success.

On March 2nd, a virtual community meeting will unveil the first draft designs for both projects (register for the meeting here: https://bit.ly/BikewayVirtualMeeting). The first draft designs were strongly influenced by a December 2022 walk- and ride-through of each route with groups of residents.

Following the virtual meeting, a survey will go live to gather feedback on each proposed design. The survey will remain open until March 26th and can be found both online and on yard signs posted along each project route. All of the feedback gathered will directly inform the draft design before an updated design is shared later in the spring for additional community review.

Find more information about these and other bikeways projects on the City's web page: takomaparkmd.gov. Use the search bar to look up 'New Ave Bikeway' or 'Metropolitan Branch Trail Upgrade.'





Library and Community Center Redevelopment Update

By David Eubanks, Director of Housing and Community Development

In September 2022, the City began preparing for the renovation of the library and community center. Since then, the library has been temporarily relocated to 7505 New Hampshire Ave., solar panels have been removed from the library roof, the library mosaic has been stored, partitions between the library and community center have Center will remain open, and most of the existing City services will continue.

As a result of the construction, parking at the Community Center will be severely limited for both staff and residents. The City has prioritized parking at the Community Center for residents. Below is a map identifying patron parking at the Community Center during construction. Parking restrictions are expected to take effect about a week prior to demolition and last until the project is complete in Fall 2024. City staff will park offsite on various private lots and public streets within walking distance of the Community Center. To limit the number of staff vehicles on any single street, City staff have been assigned specific streets and, in some cases, particular blocks to park. These streets include the 100 and 200 blocks of Grant Ave., the 7500 block of Maple Ave., Lee Ave., Sherman Ave., and Darwin Ave. Staff will be parked on public streets from approximately 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. There will also be several changes along Maple Ave. to accommodate parking during construction. Immediately in front of the Community Center, adjacent to the bridge and Maple Ave Community Center entrance, parking will be restricted to 15 minutes from 7 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. On the adjacent southbound portion of Maple Ave., approximately three parking spaces will be reserved for City-owned administrative vehicles for the duration of construction. To stay up to date, visit: https://bit.ly/ tkpkrenovation



Takoma Park Maryland Library Construction Parking Plan

For the duration of the redevelopment of the library, a majority of the rear parking lot at the Community Center (7500 Maple Ave) will be unavailable. To accommodate visitor parking at the Community Center, City staff will be assigned parking on nearby neighbrohood streets or in designated areas within specific multifamily buildings on Maple Ave. All cars must have Employee Parking Passes displayed.



been erected, interior demolition has been completed, and utilities have been disconnected.

In the coming weeks, prior to the demolition of the library, you may notice less parking availability at the Community Center as contractors periodically visit the site and materials are stored in preparation for the construction of the new building. The impact on parking during this phase of the project, prior to the building demolition, should have a minimal impact on access to the Community Center.

The demolition of the library is pending several final permits and approvals from local permitting authorities, most notably the County's Department of Permitting Services. All permits and approvals are currently submitted and under review. While the timing of the release of the permits and approvals is subject to each permit authority's queue, demolition is expected to begin in late-March or early-April. As the demolition date becomes more certain, notices will be provided to the community at large. Prior to demolition, a construction fence enclosing the entire construction site will be installed; however, the Community

The ARTS

The Bird Calls Phone Grows a New Feather

The Bird Calls Phone is sporting a giant red feather on a new banner to highlight Takoma Park's unique public art project.

Local artist and musician David Schulman reengineered a public pay phone to play bird calls from local birds. By pushing the phone buttons, you also hear local residents sharing facts about the bird species, including the tale of Takoma Park's famous rogue Roscoe the rooster who eluded capture for many years.

A metal bird sculpture by local sculptor Howard Connelly is perched above the Bird Calls Phone outside the Mansa Kundu restaurant at 8000 Flower Avenue at the corner of Erie Avenue. The City's Arts and Humanities Division organized and funded the popular public art project that has garnered widespread media coverage.

"I was in downtown Takoma Park one day when some tourists asked me where to find the Bird Calls Phone," Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said. "It's a fun project that brings nature and technology together in an unexpected way, and it's free. No quarters required!"



How to Exercise and Read Poetry at the Same Time



All you need are a smartphone and your feet or a bike to launch your own sidewalk poetry scavenger hunt in Takoma Park.

An online map at https://bit.ly/3wuxH1F connects seven poems written by local residents that have been stamped in local sidewalks across the city. The map includes icons with photos and text for each poem on a 3.8-mile route that passes popular local destinations, including Sligo Creek Trail, Adventist University, the Takoma Park Community Center, and downtown. People can start their journey at any point along the looping route.

Takoma Park has the only sidewalk poetry

program in the D.C. area, which was inspired by a similar project begun by artist Marcus Young with Public Art Saint Paul in St. Paul, Minn.

A poetry contest was held in 2021 and 10 local children and 10 adults were chosen as the winners. They each received a \$100 prize and a chance to have their poem immortalized in concrete. Seven of the 20 poems have been stamped so far, and more poems will be stamped when sidewalk work resumes this spring.

"The weather is warming up so this is a great time to walk or bike around town to see some sidewalk poetry," Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith said. "Maybe you'll even be inspired to write some poetry of your own."

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 7500 Maple Avenue Dance Studio 3-5 years Sundays, 12:15-1 p.m. April 2-May 21 Resident: \$125 / Non-resident: \$145

SPORTS

Tot Sports

Children are introduced to the fundamentals of sports such as soccer and basketball. The goal of this program is to provide the opportunity for each child to develop motor skills and nurture their growth socially and emotionally through teamwork and good sportsmanship. Instructor: Recreation Staff Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 3-5 years 6 Week Session Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m. April 15-May 20 Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70

YOUTH

CAMP



REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER CAMP IS OPEN!

Fundamentally Sound Basketball Camp This spring break 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 nonperishable lunch and water bottle. Additional paperwork required prior to the start of camp. Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 6-12 years Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. April 3-April 7 Resident: \$220 / Non-resident: \$250

6-12 years Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. April 3-7 Resident: \$150 / Non-residen

Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$170 **Extended Care** Before Care: 7-9 a.m. After Care: 4-6 p.m. Resident: \$45 / Non-resident: \$55 each

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 K-5th grade. Through structured activities, crafts, presenters and trips, there are opportunities for socializing, unwinding, and releasing energy. Participants will meet at the Community Center then take a trip for the day. Must bring a non-perishable lunch, snacks, and labeled water bottle. Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Grades: K-5 Friday, March 31: Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden Friday, April 21: Botanical Garden

Resident: \$55 / Non-resident: \$65 per day

ART

Ceramics - Clay for Kids

In this class, children will receive instruction on how to utilize a variety of techniques (coil, pinch, slab work) to create one-of-a-kind sculptures and vessels out of clay. There is a non-refundable \$30 materials fee (per child) due to the instructor on the first day of class. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Art Studio 7-14 years April-June sessions Choose from: Mon/Wed/Fri 4-5 p.m. Resident: \$200 / Non-resident: \$230 Materials Fee: \$30

SPORTS

Golf

This course is designed for the novice golfer. This class will focus on the fundamentals of the sport including the equipment, some rules, etiquette and the history of the sport. Instructor: Fred Harllee Takoma Park Recreation Center Outdoor Classroom 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 6 & up 5 Week Session Saturdays, 11-11:45 a.m. April 15-May 20 Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70

T-Ball League

June 3-July 22

Resident: \$70 / Non-resident: \$80

TEENS

ART

Ceramics - Drawing & Watercolor

Have fun learning to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, selfportrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Beginning students are welcome. The skills focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School. Materials fee of \$20.00 paid directly to the instructor must be made on the first day of class. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Art Studio 11-15 years March-April Choose: Tues or Thurs 3:30-5:30 p.m. Resident: \$180 / Non-resident: \$200 Materials Fee: \$20

CAMP



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 Monday-Friday, 9a.m.-4p.m. April 3-7 Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$170

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. March 3-March 31 Resident: \$60 / Non-resident: \$70

Teen Playwrights

Are you interested in theater and 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 Playwright's Theater, Inc.

Takoma Park Community Center Hydrangea Room 7500 Maple Avenue Grades: 6-12 8 Week Session Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m. April 18-June 8 Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Teen Money Management This class 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 Mondays, 6-7 p.m. April 17-June 7

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 about different cultures of the world. This spring break is set to be a whole lot of fun. Campers will have the opportunity to add some excitement to their break with games, group activities, crafts and a trip. Must bring a non-perishable lunch, snacks and labeled water bottle. Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue

This coed league allows girls and boys to have fun while learning the basic fundamentals of baseball. Emphasis will be on fun, learning to hit, running bases and catching. No experience is necessary as all skill levels are welcome. Participants must bring their own baseball glove. All teams will be formed by the Recreation Department. Games will be hosted at Belle Ziegler Park. Games are played on Saturday mornings at 9 a.m. Belle Ziegler Park Sports Field 7350 Takoma Avenue 5-7 years 8 Week Season Saturdays, 9-10:30 a.m.

Counselor in Training (CIT)

Teens ages 14 and 15 are invited to sign up to be a Counselor in Training (CIT) this summer! CIT consists of a set of trainings and the ability to earn up to 40 SSL hours by volunteering with Takoma Park Summer Camps. Teens will have an opportunity to develop leadership skills while becoming First Aid/CPR certified. During the summer camp sessions, the CIT will support all planned program activities on site as well as any regularly scheduled off site activities such as swimming and field trips. 14-15 years CIT Orientation: Wednesday, May 10 5-6:30 p.m. Pre-Service: Tuesday-Thursday, June 20-22 10 a.m.-4 p.m. First Aid/CPR Training: Friday, June 23 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45

FITNESS

Free

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 6 Week Session Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. April 12-May 17 Resident: \$30 / Non-resident: \$40

RECREATION 🗌 Page 7

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

RECREATION

RECREATION

From page 6

ADULT

ART

Ceramics - Handbuilding & Sculpture

The class focuses on hand-building techniques including pinch, coil and slab construction, as well as surface treatment and glazing. Open to all levels of experience. Students can create functional items such as vases, soap dishes and teacups, as well as sculptures including portrait heads and whimsical animals. Dream something up and try it out in the studio! Experienced potters may use studio's electric wheels to pursue independent projects. Non-refundable \$35 materials fee due to instructor first day of class. Registration for Monday's class includes studio time on most Fridays from 1-1:30 p.m. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Art Studio 16 & up Mondays, 9:30-11:30 a.m. April 17-June 12 Resident: \$200 / Non-resident: \$230 Materials Fee: \$35

Drawing

The practice of drawing can be both relaxing and enriching. Participants in this class will draw with black and white and color media, such as charcoal, oil and chalk, pastels, pen and ink and colored pencils. 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 7500 Maple Avenue Art Studio 18 & up Thursdays, 6:30-9 p.m. March 9-April 20 Resident: \$230 / Non-resident: \$260 Materials Fee: \$20

FITNESS

Boot camp A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, pushups, 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. March 7-March 30 Resident: \$65 / Non-resident: \$75

lyengar 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 Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Dance Studio 18 & up Wednesdays, 6-7:30 p.m. April 5-June 7 Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$170

SPORTS



2023 Adult Co-ed Softball League

Dust off your glove and warm up your swing, the Takoma Park Adult Softball League is back! This is a fun and exciting co-ed recreational program for competitive adults of all skill levels. Gather some friends to enjoy the spring season on the softball field! Team registrations must contain a minimum of 50% Takoma Park residents to qualify for the Resident Team entry fee. Roster limit 15. Top 4 teams advance to the playoffs. No Games on Mother's Day or Memorial Day Weekend. Email TPsports@takomaparkmd.gov for more information. Various Field Locations 16 & up 8 Week Season Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. April 3-June 12 Resident Team Fee: \$700 Non-resident Team Fee: \$800

Takoma Park Adult Softball League – Free Agent

Interested in joining the fun but don't have a team? Sign up as a free agent to be placed on a waiting list. You will be contacted if a space becomes available. Should you join a team you will be responsible to pay your registration and any other associated team fees.

*Spaces are not guaranteed. *

Takoma Park Pickleball Club

Register and join us for some fun! We are offering pickup pickleball games for all skill levels. Bring a water bottle and a towel. Balls and paddles will be provided. Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium 7315 New Hampshire Avenue 18 & up 6 Week Session Mondays, 6:45-7:45 p.m. April 17-May 22 Free with Recreation Center Membership

55+

ART

Art and Crafts These classes cover a variety of quick art and craft projects. Have fun and learn a new skill such as decorating vases, painting ceramic

tiles, creating table decorations and holiday projects. Enjoy the supportive and relaxed atmosphere. Instructor: Alice Sims Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Lilac Room 55 & up Mondays, 10-11 a.m. Spring: April 10, May 8 \$6

DROP-IN

Bingo Come try your luck and win a prize! This is drop-in, no registration necessary. Host: Paula Lisowski Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Lilac Room 55 & up Tuesdays, 12-2 p.m. Spring: April 25, May 23, June 27 Free

DANCE

Line Dance

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

Zumba Gold

Active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity. The design of the class introduces easy-tofollow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Register for one in-person Zumba Gold class only. Choose the class that fits your schedule. Instructor: Yesika Flores Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue Gymnasium 55 & up Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. April 12-June 14 Fridays, 10-11 a.m. (in person or virtual) April 14-June 16

RECREATION Page 11

A new face in the Recreation Department: Introducing Chris Parker!

We are pleased to announce Chris Parker who joined the Recreation Department mid-January as the Recreation Manager. He will oversee classes, facilities, special events and our Community Center front-desk staff. Take a moment to get to know him!



What are you most excited about regarding your new position?

Tell us a little about yourself, your background, and your hobbies.

I was born in Philadelphia, raised on the Eastern Shore and lived in Baltimore for the past 14 years. My hobbies are traveling and sports. Some of my favorite places to travel to are the Virgin Islands and Canada. My favorite sports are basketball, football and baseball. I ran track in college. I have a daughter who just turned 4.

What recreation programs were you involved in growing up and how did they shape who you are now?

I was involved in youth sports and my coaches taught me about sportsmanship and teamwork. These programs helped me learn how to work with different people and to adapt to changing situations.

Chris Parker

I am excited to learn about all the classes offered by the Department already, but I am particularly happy to be working with the recreation team and meeting new people around Takoma Park.

What have you enjoyed so far about the City of Takoma Park?

The diversity within the community has been refreshing. Coming from my previous position in Loudoun County, VA, it has been nice to see all the different people that live in Takoma Park and interact with them.

What kind of programs and classes would you like to bring to Takoma Park?

I would eventually like to bring a Track and Field program to Takoma Park.





Library and Computer Center hours are:

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

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.

New! Internet Hotspots to borrow! The Library has acquired 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 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 Michele Valeri will join us on March 7th for banjo fun. 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/ 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. 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 wrapping up this month, just like winter. March 19th is the last day of winter, and it will be the last day of WinterQuest, too. Join us in June for SummerQuest!

Special Events

Author event - Matt Tavares, author/ illustrator of the popular book, *Hoops*, will join us on Monday, March 20th at 6pm at the Library. After his presentation he will sign books. Books will be available from Politics & Prose at the event.

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.

Favorite Poem Night returns! April 25th at 7:30 pm in the Library. Come out and hear your friends and neighbors read their favorite poems, or read one of your favorites. Register to read a poem - it must be published and not your own work - by emailing Jill Raymond at jillr@takomaparkmd.gov with your name and phone number (and occupation if you like), along with the title and author of the poem you want to read.

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.

Listen to this!

by Anne LeVeque

Wow in the World with Guy Raz and Mindy Thomas is a kid-oriented podcast with a funny take on the latest news in science, technology, and innovation. Raz and



Thomas are co-authors of *What in the Wow? 250 Bonkerballs Facts*, a, "page-turning, jaw-dropping survey of some of the most astounding, gross, and all around weird scientific facts that will totally wow your world!" This podcast is geared toward younger grade-school age children, K through 5 or 6. Found wherever you get your podcasts.

La columna de Verónica Rivera-Negrón regresará el mes próximo/Verónica Rivera-Negrón's column will return next month.



Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

The Friends' Book Group will be reading *Lavinia* by Ursula K. Le Guin, and having a discussion on March 9th at 7:30 pm in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center. Copies are available at the Library. The May selection for the Friends' Book Group is *So Long, See You Tomorrow* by William Maxwell.

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



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, March 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

Preserve your family's heritage Tuesday, May 2nd at 7:30pm

To commemorate the American Library Association's National Preservation Week this year, the Library is partnering with Historic Takoma, Inc. for a program on what you can do to preserve your family's history. Please join us to learn about how to evaluate, handle, and store your family's record of memory. This event will be held at the Historic Takoma, Inc. building at 7328 Carroll Avenue.



Meet the Author-Illustrator!

Monday, March 20 | 6:00 PM 7505 New Hampshire Avenue



Director's column

by Jessica Jones

As we begin another month in much of the world, a date is abbreviated as day/ month/year. The units get increasingly larger - it's logical! It makes sense. But, like our resistance to the metric system, American date abbreviations are not logical, as we typically invert the first two numbers: month/day/year. Why am I telling you this? Because Pi Day relies on the weird American system of abbreviating dates. March 14 is Pi Day: 3/14 (or, 3.14...). There is no April 31, so the rest of the

world has to use our irrational system to celebrate Pi Day with us. **Sidebar:** This is not exactly an aberration, as America tends to assert/ impose its cultural hegemony all the time anyway, but I digress. **Second sidebar:** Pi

What are the primary themes of the top 10 most challenged books in American libraries?



*note: "Indoctrination of a social agenda," which, judging by the context, I tend to read as, "What if this book inspires my kid to engage in critical thinking that might upset my world view?"

Adult fiction Adult new books Children/YA fiction Children/YA nonfiction Childre/

Circulation by type of book in January 2023

Our young readers really love fiction! I also love to see our new adult books circulating so much.

or π as it's written in mathematics, expresses the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. It is an irrational number, meaning it goes on forever, infinitely.

There are two popular themes for observing Pi Day, and they are Math and Pie, so I am combining them both to give you pie charts. They are not a cohesive series, just a reflection of some of the things I've been thinking about.



2021 children's books published in the US & written by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) authors (out of 3,190 reviewed by the Cooperative Children's Book



In total, all of these books represent a little more than one third (36%) of children's books published in the United States that year. I think publishers can (and need to) do better.

And, just for fun, some random pie charts for our Library!



of languages used by Library & Computer Center staff at work

Our staff's language abilities include Spanish, French, and Amharic!

Have a lovely Pi Day, everyone! Celebrate with whatever form of Pi/pie you enjoy the most.

Book Review Chouette by Claire Oshetsky

by Kati Nolfi

Chouette is a little book, but it is so descriptive and bursting with character development that it feels massive. The story unfolds over the course of the main character Tiny's pregnancy and her resulting owlbaby, Chouette. French for "owl" and slang for "cool," her name is mispronounced as Charlotte by the book's characters, an effective detail that highlights Tiny's isolation. Tiny births a baby who is a human/ owl hybrid, a metaphor for an unusual child who doesn't fit in. Claire Oshetsky's poetic and dreamy writing dually exists on a literal and figurative level. This is magical realism about nonconformity and disability with so much emotional truth that Chouette really could be an owl.

Tiny's character changes and blossoms. She is treated like a helpless child, like a vessel, inadequate, "a woman in constant need of his protection and advice," but she is a wild thing and is more capable than her husband thinks. As it is with so many caregivers, especially of children with disabilities, Chouette gives her someone to fight for and the story is the best iteration of the cliche that a baby changes everything. Despite the strangeness of the story, Tiny's pregnancy is relatable. Her professional identity is rocked (she is a concert cellist.) She is "in mourning for my uncomplicated past, before I became pregnant with an owl-baby... Maybe I can take the owl-baby along when I tour. Maybe I can give cello lessons while the owl-baby is gently napping. The owl-baby isn't buying it. My mind is flooded with broody owlbaby objections to my plans."

It is not too surprising that Oshetsky began this book as a memoir of motherhood, ambition, loneliness, and troublesome in-laws. You might just find yourself identifying with this transformative time in a person's life. Recommended to fans of *Rosemary's Baby* and *Eraserhead*!



At Your SERVICE



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT



'Team Handcuffs and Halligans" representing Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department (TPVFD) and Takoma Park Police Department (TPPD) pictured at the 2023 Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge held at Sandy Point State Park. Together the team raised over \$2,300 for Special Olympics Maryland. BTW: Halligan Bar (or Halligan Tool) is a multipurpose tool used by firefighters often paired with a flat head axe to breach a locked door. The Halligan Bar and Axe paired together are referred to as Irons.



Safety Minute – Smoke Detectors and Fire Escape Plan **Smoke Detectors**

Three out of five home fire deaths result from fires in properties without working smoke alarms.

-U.S. Fire Administration

- · Choose interconnected smoke alarms, so when one sounds, they all sound.
- · Put smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Put alarms on every level of the home.
- Make sure your smoke alarms work. Your family is not safe if they can't hear the smoke alarms.
- Test smoke alarms every month and replace 9-volt smoke alarm batteries at least once every year.
- Smoke alarms do not last forever. Get new smoke alarms every 10 years.

Are you ready to thwart property criminals in **Takoma Park?**



Claudine Schweber, chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

All the news about crime in the Greater DC area may have folks in Takoma Park really worried about the situation here. Don't be: we've had a relatively low crime rate over the last 5-7 years (compared to surrounding communities), according to Police Chief DeVaul.!! The Chief and several officers have been hosting Public Safety meetings with community members in several wards -6,5,3 so far-and sharing city wide and ward data 2021-2022.

Most of the crimes involve property thefthome burglaries, theft from automobiles, package delivery theft. Let's focus on what can be done to limit the opportunities: be prepared!

First: calling for help-911 or Takoma Park (TPk) Police directly 301-270-1100. Keep in mind that 911 calls are routed from the nearest tower to the nearest emergency call center, which then reroutes calls to TPk Police, so that could add time to the response. For immediate danger ---fire, res-cue, life threatening situations call 911. For others call Takoma Park police, since they answer directly (if they are busy, call 911).

Second: limiting varied property thefts : mark your status and take action now!

Preventing home burglary :

 Get a home security check FREE from Takoma Park police: https://takomaparkmd.gov/ government/police/services-and-programs/ residential-home-security-survey/

Status: Done____ Needs action___

• Away from home 4-30 days: contact TPk police for daily safety checks

Search: takomaparkmd.gov—Vacant house check program

Status: Done____ Needs action____

· Lights on! When away even for a short period, leave visible lights on each floor. Apartment, same. If needed--Use an automatic timer to turn visible lighting on and off at specific times.

In addition, include exterior lighting near porch, rear/side doors and entry possibilities.

Status: Done____ Needs action____

• Lock all home/apartment doors, windows and check before you leave. Several burglaries in 2022 were made possible by an unlocked door.

Status: Done__ __ Needs action____

· Homes with Sheds: lock the shed always; frequently inspect the shed for rotting boards, window frames and repair. Repair and use materials that resist termites and fungal decay; cover windows. More information see Takoma Park News, February 2023, p12 https://takomaparkmd.gov/news/newsletter/

Status: Done____ Needs action___

Preventing Thefts from cars:

• Many of the thefts have been from unlocked cars-in driveways, on the street. Always lock the car, even if you are away for a few minutes! . Make an extra key in case yours is lost. And never leave keys in the car!

Status: Done____ Needs action__

In addition to locking the car and taking the key, there are visible deterrents such as steering wheel locks, brake pedal locks, and more. See www.MDAutoTheft.org

Package delivery thefts—'Porch Pirates'

The increasing use of online shopping has also resulted in an increase in theft of the packages from porches, apartment lobbies-from holiday thefts to all year. Porch Pirates target unattended packages on people's doorsteps, stealing them if the resident isn't home to collect the parcel upon delivery, and sometimes even immediately upon delivery before a resident can get to the door. A few suggestions for limiting the opportunity include:

• Tracking the packages so you'll know arrival time; collaborate with neighbors to receive each other's packages; have a visible delivery area with clear home security measures; use a parcel locker; have parcel delivered to office; choose to have the delivery require a signature . Suggestions from https://www. bobvila.com/articles/package-theft/

Status: Done____ Needs action__

• When you hear a smoke alarm, you may have less than 2 minutes to get everyone outside and safe.

Fire Escape Plan

TPVFD

If there is a fire in your home, you could have less than 2 minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

-U.S. Fire Administration

- Make a fire escape plan. Draw a map of each level of your home showing all doors and windows. Discuss the map with everyone who lives with you.
- Plan two ways out of every room. Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home.
- Make a fire escape plan around your abilities. If you need to use a wheelchair or a cane, make sure you can get to it easily and get out quickly. If you wear hearing aids or eyeglasses, put them next to your bed while you are sleeping.
- Make sure all doors and windows open easily.
- Practice your fire escape plan by having a home fire drill at least twice a year with everyone in the home.
- If there is a fire in your home, get out and stay out. Never go back inside for people, pets or things.

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 mailin 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 takomaparkmd. gov/services/passports.

Questions? Email sofiav@takomaparkmd.gov.

SUSTAINABILITY From page 1

quirement to receive the funding included that the buildings purchase 100% green power."

Improvements in the electricity grid, related to an increase in the amount of electricity coming from clean, renewable sources, has played a major part in the reported reductions in emissions, according to the report. The other main contributors to the decline include a reduction in miles traveled, believed to reflect the pandemics impacts, as well as a decrease in commercial electricity intensitywhich could be attributable to the closing of the hospital.

The city plans to continue efforts to improve sustainability, including replacing aging HVAC and water heater systems with efficient electric systems in city-owned buildings and updating its fleet of government vehicles to electric and hybrid models.

"The technology and availability of cars and other vehicles is improving," she said. "For police vehicles, which is the largest portion of the City's vehicle fleet, there isn't yet a valid EV option for a pursuit-rated vehicle, but there is a hybrid option. Since 2022, the Police Department has taken the lead by purchasing hybrid models as replacements."

Another major improvement will be the new library that's being built to replace the old one that dates back over 70 years.

"The new library is going to be an all-electric and very

HONZAK

From page 1

borhood. And it felt like a good time as I've struggled to make sense about what's going on around us. I've often had to choose between spending my time with my children and professional life and the civic engagement in Takoma Park. There's a window in my life where I can fully engage with my city that I haven't been able to do for the past 20 years."

Honzak says that she's taking a multipronged approach to reach the different sectors of the ward effectively, including using several different forms of communication as outreach.

"To build the cohesion and connectivity, I've worked with the city government to figure out what we're doing, not doing

and what we could do," she says. "People have said they haven't gotten a lot of communications in the past so I've launched weekly electronic communications that go out through email and the listservs. I'm also working on a quarterly newsletter and working on making a councilmember website that's different from the campaign website."

She also wants to work with the City Council to allocate more resources to outreach for the community.

"Long-term, I'm hoping to work with other council members to try to draft some policy to guide us on getting financial and technical support for Councilmembers to help play this vital communication role," she says. "I'm getting a lot of good reception from other council members on that."

When it comes to the city recovering

COMMUNITY-WIDE GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY SUMMARY City of Takoma Park, Maryland

EMISSIONS SUMMARY

The City of Takoma Park community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions decreased by 27% between 2005 and 2020, despite a 11% growth in population. In 2020, forests and trees sequestered more than 1,800 metric tons of CO_2 equivalent (MTCO₂e) or 1% of total emissions.



energy-efficient building," Braithwaite said. "When change is being made, we're making sure that we're being responsible by selecting the most energy-efficient options for building lighting, cooling and heating, as well as the overall building envelope. Making those changes as they come up, whether it's greener vehicles or buildings."

Other sustainability program efforts include the new Tree Takoma program, providing free trees to property owners as well as consulting services to select the right native trees and the correct locations. The program which started last Fall is expected to add 250 new trees on private property in the first year. Efforts are ongoing in the Vegetation Maintenance Division to remove invasive plants in the city's parks and replace them with native ones. Major planning is underway to increase and improve access to bikeways including the New Hampshire Avenue Bikeway project. Together with enhancing sidewalks and improvements to transit stops these efforts support alternative transportation modes as well. The City plans to partner with Montgomery County's effort to encourage electrification and adopt building energy performance standards which sets an energy use intensity goal for each type of building. More aggressive actions under consideration include a prohibition on the purchase of fossil fuel-powered equipment.

"This is a herculean effort that will require lots of resources," she says. "So a city of our size needs to work with surrounding jurisdictions to continue to progress."

from the COVID pandemic, Honzak wants to ensure that all city resources that are available-either ARPA funds or other grants and programs-are directed to every resident who may be struggling.

"I want to make sure that as we're in the recovery stages of some very tough times, either pandemic related or larger geopolitical issues, that we're doing a really good job of using city resources to ensure that all residents are aware of what's available to them," she says. "I believe recreation and child care are essential parts of that, particularly for lower income residents. I want to rebuild as best as we can."

Most of all, Honzak says she wants Takoma Park to be a guide to the rest of the country about what strong progressive values in city government can accomplish.

"I've felt like a lot of people where there's

so much going wrong, but Takoma Park is a beacon of light," she says. "I moved here 20 years ago with purpose and great intentionality. This is the place where we can really make a difference in this complex world. If we can make it work here, we can make it work in the rest of the country. And if we can't then the nation will struggle because we have the right values here and can show people how it can 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 an interview with Councilmember Jason Small of Ward 6

RECREATION

From page 7

FITNESS

Foundational Fitness 55+ The program is designed to

enhance strength; decrease fall risks; increase physical fitness

level; improve cardiovascular capacity and range of motion; and enhance general sense of well-being. Class utilizes a high back chair, light hand weights and or a resistance tube. Have a towel and water bottle nearby. Instructor: Michael Williams Virtual 55 & up

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 7315 New Hampshire Avenue Back Room 55 & up Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. April 13-June 15

Yoga for 55 plus

Students need to provide their own yoga sticky mat, a yoga belt (or equivalent, e.g., a necktie), a tennis ball, preferably a yoga block and blanket. Instructor: Carol Mermey Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue Back Room 55 & up Fridays, 12-1 p.m. April 14-June 16

SPORTS

\$6

Pickleball Open Play

Join other new players for pickleball practice and play in the Gymnasium. This activity is geared toward beginners. No registration

Ed Wilhelm Field 2 Darwin Avenue 2-8 years Saturday, April 8 Starting at 10 a.m. Free

Family Outdoor Movie Night

Our outdoor movie will begin at dusk on Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School). Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family! The Recreation Department will provide one small bag of popcorn per person and water. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged. The movie will be a family friendly hit, vote on the City website ahead of the event!

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. April 4-June 15 \$6

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. April 4-June 13 \$6



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

7500 Maple Avenue

Gymnasium

55 & up

Tuesdays, 12-1 p.m. April 11-June 13

\$6

Yoga for Healthy Aging

This class helps build strength, endurance, flexibility and range-of-motion and improve posture and balance, and aids in preventing/ reversing bone loss related to osteoporosis using seated, standing, and floor poses and breathing and relaxation techniques.

required, however a Recreation Center Membership is needed. Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue Gymnasium 55 & up Thursdays, 12-2 p.m. April 13-June 15 Free with membership

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual Egg Hunt

Get your baskets ready and join the Takoma Park Recreation Department for an "egg" citing time! There are 4 age categories: 2 & under, 3-4 years old, 5-6 years old, and 7-8 years old. Games will begin at 10 a.m. and the hunt will begin at 11 a.m. SHARP, don't miss out! Check our website for more details leaving up to the event: takomaparkmd.gov/ recreation

Ed Wilhelm Field 2 Darwin Avenue All ages Saturday, June 3 Movie starts at dusk Free

Fitness Expo

Come join us for an exciting day that will include demonstrations from our fitness programs as well as presentations from our local community health and wellness organizations. The expo will kick off at 10 a.m. For additional information or if you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or Vincentc@ takomaparkmd.gov Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue All ages Saturday, April 1 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free

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

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 the website: https://www.jkproductions.org.

Opening Reception "Repetition Studies: Thread On Canvas"

Friday, March 10, 7 – 9:30 p.m. The Willow Street Gallery

The Willow Street Gallery in Takoma, DC is pleased to announce its first solo exhibition of 2023 featuring works by Katharine Heyl. REPETITION STUDIES is an expression of a love of color through the insanity of everyday life. Using the thread as a medium, Katharine deconstructs the base colors by applying color theory techniques. The process of hammering hundreds of brass nails, then weaving fragile thread back and forth, results in a contrast of the materials similar to the contrast of a single color thread against a different hue, shade, or complementary. The intricate placement allows the color to express simply the best versions of itself while having a dramatic and psychological effect on the viewer. REPETITION STUDIES will run from March 10 to 31. An opening reception will take place on Friday, March 10 from 7-9:30 p.m. All events are free and open to the public, with the exception of the workshop on March 26th. There is an artist talk scheduled for Friday, March 24th from 7-8 p.m. The Gallery will be open until 9pm that evening.

People's Book Opening in Takoma Park

7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

People's Book, a general-purpose bookstore, is opening in the heart of Takoma Park in early summer 2023 at 7014-A Westmoreland Ave. The store will have a diverse selection of over 10,000 books, with a special focus on children's literature, local interests, new releases and independent magazines. The inventory will also include book-themed gifts. Locally roasted drip coffee, kombucha, and other beverages and treats will be available. People's Book plans to host children's storytime, book readings, and other book-related events. The store is also located across the street from Takoma Urban Park. Interested readers are encouraged to sign up now for the Republic of Readers program, which provides discounts and perks based on membership level, and is free to join at the basic level. More information on People's Book and the Republic of Readers program can be found at www.peoplesbooktakoma.com, and on Instagram @ PeoplesBookTakoma.

Takoma Park Police Updates

Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day on April 22

The Takoma Park Police Department will be participating in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. This campaign gives the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your prescriptions to the Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912. Collection boxes will be set up in the first floor police lobby of the City building. Prescription, over-the-counter and pet medications will be accepted. In addition, vape pens and other e-cigarette devices are now accepted BUT only after the batteries are removed from such devices.

Although we continue to participate in this nationwide event, as a reminder, residents looking to dispose of excess and expired prescription and over-thecounter medications can visit the safe and secure permanent drop off location at the City of Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Avenue, 1st Floor Lobby, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912. The collection site is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked. Items that CANNOT be left are liquids, inhalers, aerosol cans, regular household ointments/lotions, needles/sharps and/ or thermometers. The Takoma Park Police Department will collect and store all items and then safely dispose of them through accepted practices as done in past Take Back Events.

If you have questions, please contact

Message from the Chief of Police Response to the Increase in Violent Crime in Takoma Park

We are very concerned about the increase in violent crime in Takoma Park. These violent incidents that have plagued our region are now impacting our City far too frequently.

We are doing everything we can to address the increase in crime in Takoma Park. This includes increased patrols, both uniform, and plainclothes, as well as overtime details to put more officers in identified "hot spot" problem areas. We want to make sure criminals know that Takoma Park is not a "soft target."

We ask that residents continue to act as our eyes and ears, "if you see something say something." Community members can also leave anonymous tips on our 911 Tip Line, Residents' calls/tips have led to officers being able to make arrests for in-progress crimes and have also provided information that has helped us solve crimes. We have made several arrests for crimes in Takoma Park, including the arrests of two individuals responsible for multiple burglaries in Takoma Park and the arrest of a juvenile in the recent carjacking on Westmorland Ave. We will continue to investigate incidents to ensure offenders are identified and charged professionally. We have held multiple Public Safety Ward meetings in Wards 1, 2, 3, and 6, as well as more focused neighborhood meetings to hear from residents, provide crime stats and crime prevention tips, and update residents on incidents in Takoma Park. Our next meeting, focused on Ward 5, will take place on Monday, March 13th.



Chief of Police DeVaul

updates on crime incidents in Takoma Park. Residents can sign up for crime alerts and other public safety information on our website,

Long-term, we must take a holistic approach to addressing the causes of criminal activity. Until we address these underlying issues, lack of education, food security, jobs, etc., the cycle of crime and violence will continue. The police alone cannot solve the problem. We look forward to the City implementing some of the recommendations made by the Takoma Park Reimaging Public Safety Task Force that help address these issues and continuing to look for ways to address the root causes of criminal behavior.

Cathy Plevy at cathyp@takomaparkmd.

unused

National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day

Turn in your unused or expired medication for safe disposal

Visit www.dea.gov or call 800-882-9539 for a collection site near you.

Sponsored by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

We also put out daily and weekly

We are doing everything we can to keep our residents safe and secure while still protecting the values and smalltown identity of Takoma Park.

We are always open to ideas and input. Have suggestions? Please send them to me at tonyd@takomaparkmd.gov.

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