



# Takoma Park News



July 2024

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 63, No. 7 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

## City Events

**Neighborhood Circle Time:**  
Singer/songwriter Lilo Gonzalez  
July 2, 10:30 a.m.  
Takoma Park Maryland Library  
7505 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 205

**Independence Day Parade**  
Thursday, July 4, 10 a.m.  
Takoma Junction to Ritchie Avenue  
*More information at  
takomapark4th.org*

**Independence Day Street Festival**  
Thursday, July 4, 6–9 p.m.  
Maple Avenue between Philadelphia  
and Ritchie Avenues  
*More information at  
takomapark4th.org*

**Note:** On July 4, city offices and  
facilities will be closed, except police.  
Thursday collection routes  
will occur on Friday, July 5.

**Social Work Assistance: Community  
Engagement and Consulting Group**  
Thursday, July 11, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.  
Takoma Park Maryland Library  
7505 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 205  
*See more information on page 6*

**City of Takoma Park Election:  
Prospective Candidate Information  
Session**  
Tuesday, July 16, 7 p.m.  
Over Zoom:  
[bit.ly/candidacy-info-session](https://bit.ly/candidacy-info-session)

**National Night Out**  
Tuesday, August 6, 6–9 p.m.  
Piney Branch Elementary School  
7510 Maple Ave.  
*See more community events  
on page 12.*

## Gene Herman Leads the Parade

by Eric Bond

For more than 50 years, Gene Herman has been working behind the floats to pull together Takoma Park's iconic Independence Day parade and evening festivities. And for many of those years, he has been the driver in the car at the end of the parade with the image of Porky Pig telling parade watchers, "That's All, Folks!"

This year, Gene will be heading the parade as the grand marshal, a role that he calls "humbling" as he references past grand marshals, such as U.S. Rep Jamie Raskin, who was recognized in last year's parade.

Tara Egan, the president of the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee, can't think of a more deserving person than Gene to be honored.

"It's hard to imagine that the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade would still be taking place in Takoma Park without him," says Tara. "Over the years, as I've gotten to know more volunteers who are part of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July in Takoma Park, I've come to appreciate how many began their service because of



Gene Herman.

Photo by Eric Bond

Gene—whose own commitment to community service runs to his core. They just couldn't say no."

Gene, himself, was asked to join the July 4 committee shortly after he and his wife, Esther, moved to the city in 1972.

"We had a friend up the street who was on the city council," says Gene. "I think it was 1973 or 1974 when he approached me about helping out for a year on the commit-

tee. So I accepted. And then Belle Ziegler, who used to be the head of the Recreation Department, asked me to stay on. And she was a person you could not say no to."

Gene went from committee member to vice president to president of the committee, where he served for several decades before passing the baton to his previous vice president, Tara Egan. Gene is quick to reiterate that although he has passed the role of president to the next generation, he remains an active member of the committee.

Each year, in July or August, after the parade and evening festivities, the committee meets for a closing session to tie up loose ends and evaluate the activities for that year. Then there is a hiatus until January, when the committee chooses a theme and starts initial planning. The spring is a busy time as the committee lines up music, applies for permits and insurance, and registers parade units so that by May, most things are in place for the day of celebration. The parade route traditionally crosses the D.C. line at Maple Street, which requires coordination with the District—and

HERMAN □ Page 10

## Thirty-five Years Later, the Takoma Park Flag Waves On

By Eric Bond

When then-Councilmember Hank Prensky traveled to Santa Marta, El Salvador in 1990—along with a delegation of approximately 40 other Takoma Park residents—he brought along with him a fistful of colorful 3"x5" flags depicting an oak leaf on a field of gold.

"We were organizing sister city relationships with rural areas in El Salvador as a way of building solidarity," says Prensky, now retired and living in Burlington, Vermont. "I gave the Takoma Park flag away to the head of the village and the head of the FMLN [Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front], and all the people we met."

Santa Marta may not be the farthest that



the flag has traveled, but it is likely the first location outside of the Washington, D.C., region where it was shared as a symbol of goodwill from the people of our community.

Newcomers to Takoma Park may be unaware that the city has its own flag. Waving for 35 years now, the flag came about be-

cause then-Takoma Park Mayor Steve Del Giudice suffered from banner envy. When he went to the Maryland Municipal League convention, he noticed that other municipalities, such as Greenbelt and Rockville had flags. Why not Takoma Park?

So the call went out and 80 design submissions came back, 50 by school children.

"There were representations of people shaking hands, doves for peace and lots of trees," said Del Giudice, according to an August 1989 article by Kira Davis in the Takoma Voice. The flag committee was stumped, so they sent the finalists to the city council to decide and chose the winning bold design by Nancy Gurganus, a Silver Spring designer. Along with the glo-

FLAG □ Page 10

### Correction

In the June edition of the Takoma Park Newsletter, the article on Takoma Park crossing guards featured the wrong photo of Virina "Miss Liz" James. Our thanks to Miss Liz and all of the crossing guards who safely guide our children to and from school. Here is the correct photo of Miss Liz.



Photo by Sam Kittner

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

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# On the DOCKET

## CITY COUNCIL

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly city council agenda and committee calendar update by email can sign up by sending a message to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto: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. There is no need to register to comment in person.

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meeting start times and listed agenda items can change. Please check the agenda page on the city website to confirm the time and final agendas.)

All city council meetings will convene at the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium, 7500 Maple Ave.

**Monday, July 1:** City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

### Presentation

- Grant Review Committee Recommendations

### Voting Session:

- First Reading Ordinance Amending Takoma Park Code, Title 14, Health and Safety, to Add Chapter 14.01 Non-Stormwater Discharge

- First Reading Ordinance Amending the Takoma Park Code to Remove Provisions Referring to the Repealed Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights and Add References to Maryland's Police Accountability Act
- First Reading Ordinance Amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 7, Purchasing and Taxation, Chapter 7.04 General Provisions, Chapter 7.08 Source Selection and Contract Formation to Address Software and Information Technology Related Contracts
- First Reading Ordinance Amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 5, Chapter 5.18 Mail-in Ballot Voting and Chapter 5.12 Fair Election Practices
- Single Reading Ordinance Approving Payment in Excess of Contract Amount for the Brashear's Run Outfall Repair and Stream Restoration
- Resolution Adopting an Emergency Operations Plan
- Resolution Providing for Reappointments to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

### Work Session:

- Housing Policy Discussion #1

MEETINGS  Page 3

## Engage with Your City Government!

Takoma Park has a council/manager form of government. The city manager of Takoma Park oversees the day-to-day operation of the city operations and works to ensure that city staff provide excellent services to the community and adhere to best practices in managing city finances.

The city council appoints the city manager, implements the policies set by the council, and prepares an annual budget for their consideration.

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

If you are unsure about which ward you are in, check the ward map and street directory,

also available through the city council page. Contact information for the mayor, city council and city manager.

- Mayor **Talisha Searcy:** [talishas@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:talishas@takomaparkmd.gov)
- Ward 1 Councilmember **Shana Fulcher:** [shanaf@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:shanaf@takomaparkmd.gov)
- Ward 2 Councilmember **Cindy Dyballa:** [cindydy@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:cindydy@takomaparkmd.gov)
- Ward 3 Councilmember **Randy Gibson:** [randallg@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:randallg@takomaparkmd.gov)
- Ward 4 Councilmember **Terry Seamens:** [terrys@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:terrys@takomaparkmd.gov)
- Ward 5 Councilmember **Cara Honzak:** [carah@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:carah@takomaparkmd.gov)
- Ward 6 Councilmember **Jason Small:** [jasons@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:jasons@takomaparkmd.gov)
- Takoma Park City Manager **Robert DiSpirito:** [robertd@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:robertd@takomaparkmd.gov)



Mayor Talisha Searcy



Shana Fulcher (Ward 1)



Cindy Dyballa (Ward 2)



Randy Gibson (Ward 3)



Terry Seamens (Ward 4)



Cara Honzak (Ward 5)



Jason Small (Ward 6)

## CouncilAction

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

### MAY 22, 2024

- Resolution 2024-16 authorized temporary closure of Erie Avenue in support of the 2024 Flower Avenue Together Block Party

### MAY 29, 2024

- Resolution 2024-17 authorized submittal of legislative action requests to the Maryland Municipal League
- Resolution 2024-18 appointed Peter Munger (Ward 1) and Donald Pinkston (Ward 5) to the Police Employees' Retirement Plan Committee

### JUNE 5, 2024

- Ordinance 2024-13 approved FY24 Budget Amendment No. 4 (first reading)
- Resolution 2024-19 approved the final

administrative regulation addressing the process to request, evaluate, and advance traffic calming

- Resolution 2024-20 approved the final administrative regulation addressing the process to request, evaluate, and advance sidewalk installations and rescinding Resolution 2015-32

### JUNE 12, 2024

- Ordinance 2024-13 approved FY24 Budget Amendment No. 4 (second reading)
- Ordinance 2024-14 approved purchase and equipping of three police vehicles
- Resolution 2024-21 authorized submittal of National Capital Strategic Economic Development (NED) Grant applications
- Ordinance 2024-15 authorized the use of NED Grant funds to assist with the tenant purchase of 7520 Maple Avenue

## CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Check the calendar on the city website for the most up to date information on Council and committee meetings, including links to access meetings and agendas. Visit [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) and click on "Events and Meetings." Many city boards and committees continue to meet virtually, on Zoom. Some hold hybrid meetings (in-person and on Zoom).

### ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 23, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center Council Conference Room)

### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, July 11, 7:30 p.m. (virtual)

### COMMISSION ON LANDLORD-TENANT AFFAIRS HEARING

Tuesday, July 9, 7 p.m. (virtual)

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 18, 7 p.m. (Community Center Council Conference Room, with virtual option)

### GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 9, 6:30 p.m. (virtual)

### POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, July 15, 7 p.m. (Community Center Council Conference Room, with virtual option)

### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 18, 7 p.m. (virtual)

### SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND CERTIFIED COMMITTEE

Monday, July 1, 7 p.m. (Community Center Council Conference Room, with virtual option)

### 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](mailto:jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

# Public NOTICES

## Notice of Final Administrative Regulation

The May 2024 issue of the *Takoma Park Newsletter* included notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation to establish reservation procedures and requirements, fees, rules, and guidelines for the use of certain public facilities in accordance with Takoma Park Code, Chapter 14.20 Public Space and Public Buildings. The regulation updates prior regulation 2011-1. The notice was published in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2.12, Administrative Regulations, of the Takoma Park Code, to allow the public the opportunity to review and comment on the proposal. This notice is to inform the public that the final regulation will become effective on August 1, 2024. The full text is available for review at [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov).

### MEETINGS

■ From page 2

- Board and Committee Appointment Recommendations

**Wednesday, July 3: The City Council meeting is rescheduled to Monday, July 1.**

**Wednesday, July 10: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**

Voting Session:

- Second Reading Ordinance Amending Takoma Park Code, Title 14, Health and Safety, to Add Chapter 14.01 Non-Stormwater Discharge
- Second Reading Ordinance Amending the Takoma Park Code to Remove Provisions Referring to the Repealed Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights and Add References to Maryland's Police Accountability Act
- Second Reading Ordinance Amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 7, Purchasing and Taxation, Chapter 7.04 General Provisions, Chapter 7.08 Source Selection and Contract Formation to Address Software and Information Technology Related Contracts
- Second Reading Ordinance Amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 5, Chapter 5.18 Mail-In Ballot Voting and Chapter 5.12 Fair Election Practices
- Single Reading Ordinance Approving Community Grants
- Resolutions Providing for Appointments to Boards and Committees

Work Session:

- Recommendations of the Sustainable Maryland Committee

**Wednesday, July 17: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**

Work Session:

- FY25 Budget Amendment No. 1
- (tentative) Housing Policy Discussion #2
- FY25 Budget Policy Working Group Findings Discussion

**Wednesday, July 24: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**

Voting Session:

- First Reading Ordinance Approving FY25 Budget Amendment No. 1

Work Session:

- Overview of Code Enforcement
- Housing Policy Discussion #3

**Wednesday, July 31 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.**

Voting Session:

- Second Reading Ordinance Approving FY25 Budget Amendment No. 1
- Resolution Providing for Appointments to the 2024-2025 Youth Council
- Resolution Setting Forth Dates for the City Council's Summer Recess

**The City Council will be on recess until September 4, 2024.**

## City Of Takoma Park Election For Mayor And City Council

### Two Separate Elections on November 5, 2024

- Presidential General Election
- City of Takoma Park Election

The Takoma Park Election for mayor and city council is separate from the Maryland presidential election process. Remember to vote in BOTH elections if you are eligible.

**For Candidates**—Any person seeking elected office in the City of Takoma Park shall register with the city clerk by completing a candidate registration form. *Only a registered candidate may accept contributions or make expenditures in a city election.*

### City Nominating Caucus: Tuesday, September 10

Takoma Park residents interested in running for mayor or city council should plan to attend the nominating caucus on Tuesday, September 10. A candidate must receive a nomination and a second to that nomination to have their name placed on the ballot. Anyone interested in running for office is welcome to contact the city clerk at [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267.

### Takoma Park Vote by Mail

The Takoma Park Board of Elections will send a vote-by-mail city election ballot to every active registered voter. You may return the ballot by mail in the enclosed prepaid envelope or drop the ballot in an official Takoma Park Ballot Drop Box at one of two locations:

- Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave., lower-level parking lot)

- Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Avenue)

Ballots will be mailed in October.

### Absentee Ballots

If you expect to be out of town through election day and want your ballot sent to an address other than your Takoma Park residence, submit that request to the City Clerk's Office.

### Election Day Voting

The Community Center will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day for residents who prefer to vote in person or residents not yet registered. Remember that only the Takoma Park Election for mayor and city council will take place at the Community Center. *To vote in the presidential election on November 8, you will go to your regular precinct polling place.*

### Who Can Register and Vote in Takoma Park Elections for Mayor and City Council?

Any Takoma Park resident who will be 16 by election day is eligible to vote in city elections. U.S. citizenship is not a requirement.

If you are already registered at an address in the city, you need not register again. If you are not registered, you may register to vote in Takoma Park elections if you:

- are a resident of the City of Takoma Park;
- will be at least 16 years old on Election Day;
- do not claim the right to vote elsewhere;

ELECTION  Page 10

City Election Calendar		
Activity	Date/Time	Location
Candidate Registration	Ongoing through September 10	City Clerk's Office
Prospective Candidate Information Session	Tuesday, July 16, 7 p.m.	Over Zoom: <a href="https://bit.ly/candidacy-info-session">bit.ly/candidacy-info-session</a>
Nominating Caucus	Tuesday September 10 7:30 p.m.	Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue
Ballots Mailed to Voters	October	
Ballot Return by Secure Drop Box	Daily until November 5. (Box is closed and sealed at 8 p.m. on November 5)	Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue (Lower Level)  Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Ballot Return by US Mail	MAIL EARLY (but no later than November 5 with a postmark)	
Election Day In-Person Voting	Tuesday November 5 7am - 8pm	Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave
Board of Elections Reports Election Certification	Wednesday November 13.	Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Mayor and Council Will Be Sworn In	Monday November 18 7:30 p.m.	Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium



### Editor's note

#### English:

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

#### French:

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

#### Spanish:

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

#### Amharic:

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# Building COMMUNITY



## CityTV Wins Hometown Media Award

The Alliance for Community Media (ACM) announced its annual Hometown Media Awards at the end of March with Takoma Park's CityTV receiving the "Overall Excellence in Governmental Access" award from ACM in the \$300,000–\$650,000 budget division.

The awards celebrate and promote community media, community radio, and local cable programs distributed on Public, Educational, and Governmental (PEG) access cable television channels. Nearly one thousand entries are submitted every year from all across the country, with awards going to the most creative programs that address community needs, develop diverse community involvement, challenge conventional commercial television formats, and move viewers to experience television in a different way, according to the ACM website.

CityTV's submission featured over 20 projects and programs, including its coverage of new businesses, Polar Bear Plunge, Takoma

Park Community Band Concert, Takoma Park Softball, Montgomery Housing Partnership, the Independence Day Parade, Egg Hunt, and Community Kitchen Fair.

"We produce programs that represent the events and activities of the City, showcasing the character of Takoma Park. We are not just Takoma Park Television; we are Takoma Park on Television," said Alvaro Calabia, CityTV Production Manager.

In addition, CityTV also recognized for its outstanding children's programming for its coverage of the Takoma Park Children's Business Fair as part of the "We Are Takoma Show."

For more information on the Hometown Media Awards, visit [allcommunitymedia.org](http://allcommunitymedia.org). To check out CityTV's past programming, visit [youtube.com/@TakomaPark-CityTV](https://www.youtube.com/@TakomaPark-CityTV).

—Sean Gossard

## It's Summer! Get Outdoors and Stay Safe!

by Kaysi-Anne Webley  
Special Projects Coordinator

As Takoma Park basks in the sunshine, more residents are hitting the streets on foot and by bike. While we enjoy the warm weather and these healthy activities, staying safe in the summer heat is essential. Here are some tips to keep you safe all summer long.

### Pedestrians

- Hydrate: Carry a reusable water bottle and sip frequently. Avoid sugary drinks that can dehydrate you faster.
- Sun protection: Sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher), a hat, and sunglasses are your best friends. Don't forget to reapply sunscreen every two hours, especially after sweating.
- Sidewalk savvy: Stay alert and avoid distractions like phones. Walk on the correct side of the road (facing traffic) if there are no sidewalks.
- Crosswalk caution: Look both ways before crossing, even in marked crosswalks. Drivers may be less attentive in warmer weather.
- Be safe, be seen: The days are longer but a late evening stroll may have you returning in the dark. To be safe at night, wear retro-reflective clothing to shine by artificial light.

### Cyclists

- Hydration is key: Just like pedestrians, cyclists need to stay hydrated. Bring a water bottle and consider a hydration pack for longer rides.
- Be seen: Wear bright, reflective clothing during the day and use a headlight and taillight at night.
- Helmet on, worries gone: Always wear a properly fitted helmet. It's the law and your best defense in a crash.
- Mind the heat: When possible, schedule rides for cooler parts of the day or opt for shaded routes. Take breaks and avoid pushing yourself too hard.



Photo by Sam Kittner

- Ride the right way: Ride with the flow of the traffic, be predictable and signal when turning, slowing down or stopping.

### Drivers: remember to share the road!

- Drivers of a vehicle must not pass any closer than three feet to a bicycle or motor scooter if the bicycle is operated in a lawful manner.
- Motorists must yield the right-of-way to bicyclists riding in bike lanes and shoulders when these vehicle operators are entering or crossing occupied bike lanes and shoulders. Cyclists yield to pedestrians, especially at crosswalks. Pedestrians, be aware of your surroundings and give cyclists space.

If we all look out for each other, we will make our roads safer. Let's make this a safe and enjoyable summer for everyone!

## City of Takoma Park's New Rent Stabilization Allowance Is 3.4%

The Rent Stabilization Law enacted in 1981 helps provide affordable housing to Takoma Park residents and allows the city to maintain economic and ethnic diversity by controlling the frequency and amount of rent increases that may be imposed by a landlord.

Each year the City establishes a percentage based on 100% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) published by the Department of Labor Statistics which changes every July and is given to landlords to increase their rents. Takoma Park's annual rent stabilization allowance this year is 3.4% CPI, starting July 1, 2024 (through June 30, 2025) to help residents afford rent. The previous CPI percentage was 3.7% (through June 30 of this year).

Landlords cannot increase rent on occupied units in the City higher than the listed allowance more than once during a 12-month period. Both multi-family rental units and individual rental condominium units are also subject to rent stabilization. Single-family houses, accessory apartments, and duplexes when the owner occupies one of



the units as their primary residence are exempt from the rent stabilization law. Also, exempt with an approved application from

the City, is any rental facility where the rents are regulated under contract by a governmental agency that controls the rent

levels of not less than one-half of the rental units in the rental facility and restricts the occupancy of those rental units to low- and moderate-income tenants.

The City Code also mandates that landlords give two-month written notice to tenants before they can legally increase rent.

According to the rental management website Zillow.com, the average rental monthly price in Takoma Park is \$1,730.

Landlords are required to submit Annual Rent Stabilization reports by Sept. 30 showing the rents, rent increases, and dates of rent increases for a particular period.

"The reports are reviewed for compliance and citations are issued for non-compliance," said Jean Kerr, Takoma Park's senior housing specialist. "They can also file a Fair Return Petition for a higher rent increase above the Rent Stabilization Allowance when their operating expenses have risen higher than the rental income for the property."

—Sean Gossard

# The ARTS

## Takoma Park Arts Series Wraps Successful Season

The *Takoma Park Arts* series has brought free concerts, theater, dance performances, film screenings, and art exhibitions to Takoma Park over the past 12 months, with plans for more events starting in September after a summer break.

The City's Arts and Humanities Division organizes free *Takoma Park Arts* events at the Takoma Park Community Center to share the arts with city residents and visitors in an accessible and affordable way, says Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith.

"We support artists and performers from across the D.C. area by providing a great performance venue, honorariums, extensive promotion, and professional recordings of events by our City TV crew that are shared on our YouTube channel to reach an international audience," says Smith.

The series has become well-known and attracted large crowds for some popular performances, including the *Soul of Langston* play by Daron Stewart that celebrated Black History Month, dance performances by Percussion Discussion and the Mayur Dance Company, and concerts by Franglais and the Capitol Hillbillies. The 2023-24 season also included film screenings from locales across the world, including documentaries about Cambodian circus performers and the challenges of rural life in Mongolia.

"One of the primary reasons that Takoma Park has a strong sense of community is the vibrant and diverse arts and culture that we share," says *Takoma Park Arts* and Humanities Committee Chair John W. Warren. "The Takoma Park Arts series celebrates the arts and brings us together to enjoy music, theatre, dance, poetry, film, and more."

The *Takoma Park Arts* series will return with more events this September at the start of our 2024-25 season. You can get more information about all of our upcoming events by signing up for our e-newsletter at [takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts). Join us and celebrate the arts!



Above: *Curving Lines Art Exhibition*

Left: *Interfaith Comedy Show*

Below: *Daron Stewart in Soul of Langston*



Left: *Capitol Hillbillies Concert*

Right: *Julius Kassovic at Celebrating Sligo Creek Exhibition*



Above: *Mayur Dance Company Performance*

Right: *Percussion Discussion Tap Dance Performance*





# LIBRARY

7505 New Hampshire Ave.,  
Suite 205

## Library and Computer Center hours

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

There is plenty of parking as well as access to public transportation—not to mention free WiFi.

**Independence Day holiday.** The library and computer center will be closed on July 4 in celebration of the Independence Day holiday.

**Internet Hotspots to borrow.** The library has a supply of Verizon JetPacks for patrons to borrow. The hotspots will permit up to 10 devices to connect to the internet. These items will be available only to adult patrons and require a signed user agreement.

**Books-to-Go** (pick up at the library) and **Books-to-You** (delivered—for Takoma Park residents only) continues. Email [librarytakomapark@gmail.com](mailto:librarytakomapark@gmail.com) to order. Please note: if you are picking up a Books-to-Go order, please call the library's main number, 301-891-7259.

## Programs and Events

**A note about program and event registration:** Library events are always free and open to all. We do ask patrons to register for some programs. Registration provides the library and its partners with a headcount so that we can prepare accordingly. Registration, however, does not guarantee a seat, so participants are encouraged to arrive early.

### Crochet and Cozies

Join us at **10:30 on Monday mornings** for crochet and cozy mysteries. All ages are welcome. Bring your hooks, needles, and yarn. Don't have any? We'll find some for you. A beginner? You'll find help. Knitters and loom knitters—please join us. Registration is optional but allows us to contact you if necessary. Register on our events calendar.

### Neighborhood Circle Time

**Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.** Takoma Park singer/songwriter **Lilo Gonzalez** joins us on **Tuesday, July 2**.

Join Ms. Kati and/or Ms. Verónica. We sing, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, dance, and do movement exercises. We read a book in the middle



Lilo Gonzalez



Nahom Aklilu (right) and Nebaioth Asnake play a round of chess on the permanent chess board in the Library. Everyone is welcome to play, and the pieces for this board are kept at the front desk. Photo by Anne Leveque

**TELL STORIES AT THE MARKET THIS SUMMER!**

**YARD DRAMAS**

**READ MORE ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE.**

**CROSSROADS FARMERS MARKET**  
Anne St. @ University Blvd E, Takoma Park  
Wednesdays | 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
June 5, 26  
July 3, 10, 24, 31  
August 7, 14, 21

Supported in part by **MSAC**

of the program. And we close with bubbles. Jumpstart With the Arts joins us with live music for Circle Time on the first Tuesday of each month. This month, Lilo Gonzalez is the special Jumpstart guest. Jumpstart With the Arts is made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

**Canta Juego: Spanish Circle Time**  
Thursdays, 10:30 a.m.

¡Canciones y juegos en español!  
Join the fun at our weekly Spanish

Circle Time, led by Señora Geiza , In this 30-minute program, kids and adults can sing songs and do rhymes and movement exercises in Spanish. Sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

**Family Chess**  
Sundays at noon

Join us to play this ancient strategy game. Caregivers and kids are invited. Bring a chessboard and pieces if you like, but we have plenty. Players of all

levels are welcome. Note: There will be no chess instruction in July and August, but the chess matches are ongoing. Please register if you want to receive updates.

**LEGO Club**  
Sunday, July 7, 2 p.m.

Block time on your calendar for fun with LEGOs.

**Kids' Art**  
Sunday, July 14, 2 p.m.

Come to the library and leave with a fun



art project!

**Yard Dramas**  
Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Join the fun at the Crossroads Farmers Market located on Anne St. at University Blvd E. The market meets every Wednesday throughout the summer (July 3, 10, 24, 31; August 7, 14, 21). We are looking for teen and adult volunteers/ Please email Verónica Rivera-Negrón at [veronican@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:veronican@takomaparkmd.gov) for details. Yard dramas are sponsored by the Maryland State Arts Council.

**Social Work Assistance**  
**Community Engagement and Consulting Group**  
Thursday, July 11, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Library staff often find that they are called on by patrons to help solve problems that might be better addressed by a social worker. While the staff tries to help make appropriate referrals and recommendations, there are many things we simply cannot do, or don't have the best information about.

The Community Engagement and Consultation Group (CE-CG) has stepped up to help our patrons find the best resources, depending on their problem. CE-CG can help patrons with SNAP (food stamps) and Medicaid enrollment, finding food assistance, health and wellness education, referrals for affordable healthcare, English language learning classes, workforce training and employment assistance, and more. If they cannot address your problem themselves, they can refer you to someplace that can.

CE-CG will have a table in the library once a month, on the second Thursday of the month through October.

## Friends News

Join the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library at [ftpml.org](http://ftpml.org)! The Friends support many of our library programs and events. They hold a twice-yearly book sale to raise funds for these programs: look for the next one in October, date to be determined.

### Fixit Clinic

Recently, the Friends have organized several Fixit Clinics, where you can sign up to bring in something broken —toaster, torn pants, radio, bike, etc.—and learn how to fix it, keeping it out of the landfill. To volunteer or to get information about signing up to have something fixed, email [fixittakoma@gmail.com](mailto:fixittakoma@gmail.com). The next Fixit Clinic will be on Sunday, July 14, 2-4 p.m.

### Book Groups

The Friends have several book groups, and the next one is the Friends Book Group, which has as its July selection *The Great Mistake* by Mary Roberts Rinehart. Rinehart was one of the more prolific novelists of the early 20th century. Her reputation as a mystery writer gave her the nickname of the “American Agatha Christie.” By the time of her death in 1958, her publishers estimated that 10 million books by Rinehart had been printed. *The Great Mistake* can be found on Hoopla in both audiobook and ebook format. If you want help signing up for Hoopla, just call or come to the Library. It’s a great resource for audiobooks, ebooks, movies, TV shows, graphic novels, and more.

For more information about the Friends Book Group, email [ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com](mailto:ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com).



## Topping Off Ceremony

On May 21, there was a topping-off ceremony at the Library construction site. The mayor and city council were present to sign the last steel beam going into the structure. Library Director Jessica Jones also wrote former director Ellen-Arnold Robbins name onto the beam since Robbins (who couldn’t make it to the ceremony) was so instrumental in making this new library happen.

## SummerQuest returns!

The library’s adventure reading program has returned, this time with *Hard Hat Summer: The Ghost Library*. Diggers. Dirt. Ghost trees. And the ruins of Takoma Henge. Who knows what adventures you will find behind the fence as you work your way through this year’s SummerQuest reading adventure. Come in to get your game board and character and register to read your way through the guided adventure!

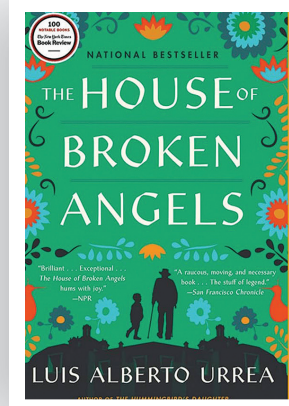
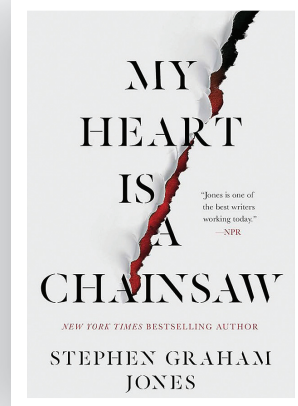
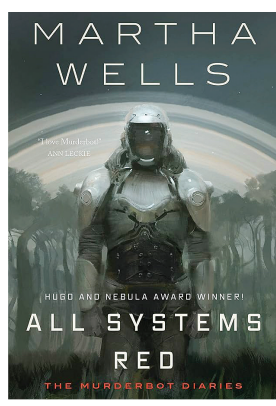


## Listen to This!

by Jessica Jones

### Minnie Questions with Minnie Driver

Anchored by Minnie Driver’s hypnotically beautiful speaking voice, *Minnie Questions* is an interview podcast that uses an adaptation of Proust’s *Questionnaire* to get to know someone. She asks the same questions of every guest, ranging from “When and where were you happiest?” to “What relationship—real or fictionalized—defines love for you?” to “What would be your last meal?” Many guests are names you will recognize, like Courteney Cox and Constance Wu—and others may be a delightful surprise. Driver’s questions lead to deep and interesting conversations that improve any car, train, or plane trip. Available on all podcast platforms.



## Director’s column

### Vacation Reads

by Jessica Jones

What I wouldn’t give to have a grade school summer vacation again (sigh). If you are feeling the same way, we can try to capture the essence of it again as we read through the next few months. Summer reads are a time to embrace escapism, whether your “vacation” is literally traveling out of town, of the stay-cation variety, or a mental vacation in your off-hours.

Everything in this list is fiction, because the real world is for the other seasons. Also, the real world is only thinly veiled in fiction, but that veil is important when you want to get away from your obligations and responsibilities for a minute.

For organizational purposes, I’m going to attempt to categorize these suggestions from our collections.

**Outer Space:** This is as escaped as a person can get (unless you’re claustrophobic, in which case the confines of life-support-imbedded spacecraft may not be your thing).

- *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*, by Douglas Adams. Summer is a fun time to revisit the classics, and this would be especially fun on a beach. With your towel.
- *Project Hail Mary*, by Andy Weir. This book brings a detail-oriented approach to the science of interstellar space travel without being boring, and the ending has a bit of a twist. Ryan Gosling is starring in the movie adaptation that is currently scheduled to be released in early

2026.

- *All Systems Red* (first book in the Murderbot Diaries series), by Martha Wells. This is a sentient security unit with an identity crisis, and it gives this series moments of levity, as long as you can appreciate sarcasm. This book is also technically a novella, as are several other volumes in the series, meaning that it’s not a big commitment. Books for when you’re camping and you want to jump every time you hear a noise outside your tent:
- *My Heart Is a Chainsaw*, by Stephen Graham Jones. Do you love the thrill of a good scary campfire story? This book may be for you. It’s about a young woman named Jade who loves slasher movies and finds herself searching for a real slasher in the mountains of Idaho.
- *When the English Fall*, by David Williams. At its heart, this is a book about unplugging and life away from screens, but it’s nestled in a chassis that looks like apocalyptic fiction. A solar storm wipes out the telecom grid, and an Amish family takes in some refugees from the city. Books for when you want to get lost in someone else’s family drama:
- *The House of Broken Angels*, by Luis Alberto Urrea. If you like stories about families with a lot of love (and a lot of mess), this is a beautifully written story

DIRECTOR’S COLUMN □ Page 10

## El rincón de Verónica, por Verónica Rivera-Negrón Aportando a las bibliotecas caseras de nuestra comunidad

Imagina a una niña, llamémosla Alma, que un verano visita el mercado de agricultores con su papá. Entre verduras frescas y panes recién horneados, descubre libros nuevos que la biblioteca pública de la ciudad está regalando.

Con curiosidad, Alma busca entre los libros disponibles. Lee varios títulos en voz alta y ríe con varias portadas. Finalmente, encuentra el libro que más le llama la atención.

Lo abraza y se lo lleva a casa.

Este libro pasa a formar parte de su colección personal y, con los años, Alma se convierte en una lectora ávida y fiel partidaria de las bibliotecas públicas.

### La biblioteca continuará regalando libros este verano

Alrededor de 60 niños y jóvenes tuvieron la misma oportunidad que nuestra Alma imaginaria el año pasado, cuando Takoma Park Maryland Library regaló ejemplares en el Crossroads Farmers Market.

Este año, más de 250 personas podrán llevarse un libro gratis a casa.

La biblioteca estará regalando libros el miércoles, 17 de julio, desde las 10:30 AM, en este mercado de agricultores que atiende a las comunidades de Takoma y Langley

Park.

En caso de mal tiempo, el evento se llevará a cabo el 24 de julio.

### El impacto de las bibliotecas caseras

El informe titulado *Home Libraries* presentado por la editorial *Scholastic* evidencia que tener una biblioteca casera tiene beneficios académicos y personales para la juventud y sus familias.

Varias investigaciones citadas en este informe revelan que, cuando los niños tienen acceso a libros en el hogar, su motivación para leer es mayor, su actitud hacia la lectura es más positiva y su habilidad para leer aumenta.

Una biblioteca casera puede ser aún más poderosa si los jóvenes tienen la oportunidad de seleccionar los materiales de esta.

Varios estudios citados en el informe de *Home Libraries* explican que cuando los niños tienen un rol en escoger aquello que van a leer, se motivan y esfuerzan más, y comprenden mejor los textos.

¡Lo bueno es que los niños quieren escoger lo que leen!

Un estudio de *Scholastic* demostró que 9 de cada 10 niños dice que su libro favorito

EL RINCON □ Page 10

# RECREATION

For a full list of our classes and to register visit [bit.ly/TPRDActiveNet](http://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 won't even realize they are learning to dance. Instructor: Dance Solutions

Takoma Park Community Center  
(Dance Studio)  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Ages 3-5  
Sundays, 12:15-1 p.m.  
July 7-August 18  
Resident: \$125 / non-resident: \$145

## YOUTH

### CAMP

#### Dance Camp

Children will learn basic dance skills, rhythm, musicality, and improvisation. Focusing on choreography, ballet, modern dance and hip-hop, geared to allow youth the opportunity to enhance talents with skills and techniques taught during the session. Instructors will focus on building self-esteem and personal creativity; which will allow them to gain confidence in the craft of dance. In addition to dance, campers will have an opportunity to participate in team building, games, arts and crafts, and outdoor activities. At the end of each session, campers will be given the opportunity to highlight and showcase what they have learned with a performance. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Ages 6-12  
2-week session  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
July 29-August 9  
Resident: \$595 / non-resident: \$625  
**Before Care:** 7-9 a.m.  
**After Care:** 4-6 p.m.  
Resident: \$90 / non-resident: \$110



#### New Ave Adventure Camp

Explore a new adventure each week with games, crafts, activities, and trips related to each theme. Camp will consist of active and passive activities, both indoors and outdoors. Select the weeks with themes that pique your interest and fit your schedule! Beforecare and aftercare are available for an additional fee.

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
6-12 years  
Eight 1-week sessions  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Through August 16

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

### EXTENDED CARE

#### School Year 2024-2025

##### Registration is open!

Our emphasis is on providing fun, leisure, and recreation programs before and after the school day, while providing a safe environment for children grades K-5. Participants will engage in daily indoor/outdoor group activities and holiday based events. Children will have time for free play, homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or simply prepare for their upcoming day in beforecare. Each afternoon kids will receive a snack; complete homework; and enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, free play, and more!

Programs operate when Montgomery County Public Schools are in session

**Beforecare:** \$1,700 / non-resident: \$2,000

Hours: 7-9 a.m.

**Aftercare:** \$2,500 / non-resident: \$3,000

Hours: 3:30-6:30 p.m.

**Bundle Discount:** Resident: \$3,570 / non-resident: \$4,250

Participants who register for both beforecare and aftercare at the same facility in one transaction will receive a discount.

**Payment Plan:** There is a 20% deposit due at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments, October-May.

#### Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave.

##### Before the Bell and After the Bell

Transportation will **not** be provided through the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Staff will escort participants to the bus stop at Hampshire Towers and will wait with them at the bus stop. After school staff will wait at the bus stop for the arrival of After the Bell participants.

#### Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave.

**Morning Addition and Afternoon Addition**  
Staff will escort participants to and from Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School.

## TEENS

### CAMPS

#### Powered by S.T.E.A.M.

All aboard! During this one-week summer camp, teens can enjoy STEAM-powered activities! Powered by S.T.E.A.M. is an action-packed week full of hands-on STEM learning and career exposure, including food science and engineering challenges. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp. Participants will need to bring a non-perishable lunch every day. Instructor: Okechi Hamilton

Takoma Park Community Center  
(Teen Lounge)  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Grades 6-12  
1-week session  
August 5-9  
9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Resident: \$220 / non-resident: \$240



### Visual Arts Camp

Campers have fun and express themselves with color, shape, and design. They sharpen their drawing skills, explore new media, and exercise their imagination with these inspiring art projects. Each week a different theme/focus. **Beforecare and aftercare is not offered for this program.** Instructor: Kelsey Joyce

Takoma Park Community Center  
(Art Studio)  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Ages 11-14  
Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
July 8-July 12: Still Life and Interiors  
July 15-July 19: Land, Sea and Cityscapes  
Resident: \$310 / non-resident: \$340 per week

## SPORTS

### Y.E.S. League 2024 Grades 9-12

This program provides a positive venue for youth to express themselves through the game of basketball. Teams will be guaranteed five games and each participant will receive a Y.E.S. League T-shirt.

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
Grades 9-12  
Wednesday, 6-9 p.m.  
July 3-August 14  
Resident: \$35 / non-resident: \$45

## ADULTS

### DANCE

#### Ker De Zuri DanXercise Class-AfroBeats

Beat 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 Ave.  
Ages 16 and up  
Thursdays, 7-8 p.m.  
July 11-August 29  
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70  
Drop-in: \$10

## FITNESS

### Zumba New Ave.

Zumba is a total body workout, combining all elements of fitness with cardio, muscle conditioning, balance and flexibility. Zumba takes the work out of the workout, by mixing low and high intensity moves. The class will incorporate Latin music that will easily move you through your workout. Drop-ins are welcomed. Instructor: Yesika Young

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
(Gymnasium)  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
16 and up  
6 Week Session  
Saturdays, 9-10 a.m.  
July 13-August 17  
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

## SPORTS



### Adult Summer Basketball League

Join our Adult Basketball League this summer! Put together your winning team and go against other area teams in order to win the league championship. Teams will be provided uniforms. Free Agent Policy: Individual participants will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if space becomes available on a team. If offered a space on a team, you will be responsible to pay your registration and any other associated fees to that team. Spaces are not guaranteed.

Takoma Park Middle School  
7611 Piney Branch Road  
Ages 18 and up  
Wednesdays and Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.  
July 10-August 15  
Team Fee: Resident: \$300 / non-resident: \$400

### After Hours Basketball

This program will provide a drop-in service for the teens and young adults ages 16-24. The Recreation Department is partnering with the Takoma Park Police Department to offer basketball Tuesday and Thursday nights over the course of the summer. We are looking to provide safe but fun activities for the young adults in our community as well as build the relationship between the community and the Takoma Park Police Department. Instructor: Greg Harris

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
(Gymnasium)  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
Ages 16-24  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-11 p.m.  
July 2-August 15  
Free



## RECREATION

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## 55+ ACTIVITIES

### CAMP



#### Pickleball Summer Camp—Intermediate

Welcome to Forever Young's 2024 Summer Camp for adults 55+. You'll enjoy a week of pickleball designed to expand your skills and knowledge while having fun. This camp

is for players who have some experience playing the game with other players or had some training, such as taking a beginner class and are familiar with the basic knowledge of rules, scoring, etc.

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7513 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 55 and up  
1-week session  
Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.  
August 19–August 23  
Resident: \$95 / non-resident: \$105

### DANCE

#### Hip Hop Move N' Groove

This dance class gives participants a beat to start their day. Easy-to-follow hip-hop, jazz, lyrical, and modern choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion, and coordination. No equipment needed. Instructor: KoKoe Divine

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 55 and up  
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
July 11–August 15  
(No class 7/25)  
\$6

#### Line Dance

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. Instructor: Barbara Brown

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 55+  
Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.  
July 2–August 13  
\$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. Choose the day that fits your schedule. A virtual option is available for Friday class. Instructor: Yesika Flores

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 55+  
**Wednesdays**, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.  
July 3–August 14  
**Fridays**, 10–11 a.m.  
July 5–August 16  
\$6

## “Dance Can Facilitate Personal Growth” Meet Kokoe Divine

Kokoe teaches teen and senior (55+) hip-hop dance classes for the Recreation Department.

### Can you tell us about your journey in dance?

My dad used to play music when my mother was pregnant and put the speakers to my mom's belly. When I was delivered, it was said I started to cry, but as soon as my dad put on his favorite Lucky Dube tune, I started to move!

At the age of 2, I was placed on my mom's Afro-tribal Caribbean dance team to be the showstopper. We traveled around the USA and even got to dance at the White House for Bill Clinton and for the president of Sierra Leone.

Then, by the age of 5, I joined my grandmother's liturgical dance team and learned ballet and modern dance movements. When I turned 9, I started doing cheer, poms, and step for the Wheaton Boys and Girls Club. At 13, as a CIT [counselor-in-training] under Long Branch Community Center, I started a dance team with elementary school-aged kids and my peers.

At 14, I met my best friend from New York, who introduced me to break dancing and hip-hop movements. And at 15, I became captain of the JV cheer team at Wheaton High School. Then, in my senior year of high school, I started a Christian dance team, and we danced to Christian hip-hop music. At 17, I started the Advanced Dance Workshop at Washington College, where we studied cultural dance pieces from India, Ireland, the Caribbean, and the Dominican Republic.

Last, in 2014, I was afforded the opportunity to teach dance to the students at the Takoma Park Teen Lounge, with an emphasis on dance therapy in line with my mental health class. I was able to help the students leave their emotions on the dance floor, grow in confidence, and learn public speaking and leadership skills. I was able to follow them throughout their high school and now college careers to see the impact. That's how I knew dancing was part of my personal mission.

### What styles of dance do you specialize in, and what drew you to these particular styles?

I specialize in African, Caribbean, hip-hop, modern, step, liturgical, bachata, poms, and chair dance (for the elderly), with a focus on dance therapy. I want to continue learning, so I am currently taking classes in line dancing and hand dancing to grow as both a teacher and a student. I believe dance helps people expand their minds, travel, and be introduced to new cultures. It also helps individuals release built-up tension and emotions that have been pent up in the body. Additionally, dance



Kokoe Divine

serves as a form of communication.

### How would you describe your teaching philosophy?

I love integrating the rich cultural traditions of West Africa and the Caribbean with the expressive and empowering elements of hip-hop and other dance styles. I believe movement is a form of therapy that promotes healing, self-expression, and connection. By drawing on the rhythms, life experiences, and storytelling of individuals, dance can facilitate personal growth and well-being, ultimately creating a tasteful and meaningful dance piece.

### How do you keep your classes engaging and motivating for your students?

I offer a supportive and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued and encouraged to participate. We also do dance journaling. I regularly ask for feedback from students and their parents and help them track their progress. Additionally, I hold homework help sessions to encourage them and emphasize that it takes a whole person to dance!

### What are some common challenges your students face, and how do you help them overcome these challenges?

One of the biggest challenges my students face is allowing school drama to impact their focus and performance. Youth can be easily distracted, especially by things that won't matter in the future. To combat this, I create an open environment where they feel comfortable discussing their problems with me. I use these opportunities to empower them to rise above the distractions and be the bigger person in all situations.

### Can you share a memorable or rewarding moment from teaching dance?

In 2014, I taught a dance class at Takoma Community Center with middle school-aged students. I was able to follow one of my students through high school and college, and the dynamic shift in her dance style and personality blows my mind. She came into my class as a timid young lady who used to cry a lot because of things going on at home, which also showed up in her dance. But now, everyone says she is a carbon copy of me! She is now a dance teacher herself and always tells her students about me. Recently, one of her students joined my class because of her, and at the end of the class, she surprised me by showing up as a guest.

### If you could collaborate with any dancer or choreographer, who would it be and why?

Wow, this question is hard. I don't only have one dancer or choreographer that I would like to collaborate with—I have four. I would love to dance with Misty Copeland, Debbie Allen, Alvin Ailey, and Fatima Robinson! If I had to choose only one, it would be Alvin Ailey. To me, he is one of the originators of African American dance. Learning his styles and movements helped me elevate and hone my dance techniques. I wish he was still alive to teach me.

Debbie Allen is packed with a wealth of dance knowledge, and I think I could learn from her when it comes to owning my own dance business.

Misty Copeland is so light on her feet and executes every movement effortlessly, I would love to do a ballet/hip-hop routine with her.

Last, Fatima Robinson is one of the baddest hip-hop choreographers in the game. I feel like we could teach each other and create an atomic dance routine that might even start a new genre!

## EL RINCON

■ From page 7

es aquel que ellos mismos escogieron y que están más dispuestos a terminar de leerlo si fueron ellos quienes lo seleccionaron.

### Regalar libros debe ser parte de nuestro servicio publico

Un informe publicado por *The Reading Teacher* asegura que los jóvenes se convierten en lectores más motivados y comprometidos cuando les *regalan libros*. Esto es aplicable en todos los niveles económicos.

Es por esto que los investigadores aseguran que las organizaciones comunitarias *deben promover la posesión de libros*, especialmente para aquellos niños y jóvenes que no los reciben como regalo.

Además, un artículo publicado en *Education Week* afirma que los beneficios no son solo para quien recibe el libro, sino que se multiplican cuando estos comparten su amor por la lectura con familiares y amistades.

### Regalar libros es una inversión en el futuro de las bibliotecas públicas

En resumen, las investigaciones demuestran que entre más libros posees en casa, más quieres leer.

Esto quiere decir que al regalar libros estamos desarrollando lectores de por vida e invirtiendo así en el futuro de las bibliotecas públicas.

Como lector ávido, sabes que tu biblioteca pública local tiene miles de títulos entre los que puedes escoger.

Y que los libros están esperando a que abras sus páginas para que aprendas algo nuevo o te sumerjas en un buen cuento.

in a Goodreads shelf I've titled "Rich People Problems." It is beautifully written, and I'm surprised HBO hasn't already adapted it for screen.

- *Now You See Us*, by Balli Kaur Jaswal. This story is told from the perspective of three domestic workers from the Philippines who were sent to Singapore. When a fellow worker is accused of murdering her wealthy employer, the others look for the real person at fault, because as the people in the background of day-to-day life, they know all of Singapore society's secrets.

Books for when you want to be reminded that one day, the cold will return:

- *South Pole Station*, by Ashley Shelby. At the South Pole Station in Antarctica, Cooper Gosling embarks on an art fellowship among a group of scientists living in very close quarters. I really enjoyed the conversations that Shelby creates between the STEM and humanities camps.
- *Pumpkinheads*, by Rainbow Rowell. This is a charming graphic novel that takes place at an outdoor harvest festival. It has major autumn vibes, young love, and drama that is enough to keep you invested without stressing you out. It's a perfect summer read for when you're over summer.

## HERMAN

■ From page 1

accounts for those rare instances when the parade has had to detour onto Willow Avenue within the city of Takoma Park.

On the day of the parade, things tend to go smoothly, says Gene, although he does recall one year when a float caught on fire and several occasions when a July 3 storm dropped trees on the parade route.

"There have been issues with the traffic, and sometimes the first unit in the parade is late," says Gene, "but in general, the parade goes on."

As do the evening festivities. The fireworks are a thing of the past due to the reconfiguration of Lee Jordan Field behind Takoma Park Middle School. Still, the party continues, with Gene harmonizing on his euphonium with the rest of the Takoma Park Community Band. As with the Independence Day Committee, Gene joined the band in 1974 and now calls himself the "elder statesman" as the remaining member who dates back to the earliest days.

The Committee Band generally plays four concerts a year, with the Independence Day gig reaching its biggest audience, playing a mix of Sousa, big band, and Latin jazz. This year, the Community Band will be followed by the JoGo Project, a gogo band—appropriate to the Washington, D.C. metro area, the birthplace of gogo. The evening events, which start at 6 p.m., have moved to Maple Avenue in front of the Community Center for a citywide block party, featuring games, food, and music.

Gene, the son of Ukrainian immigrants, grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he worked at his parent's small grocery store. His interest in astronomy called him to Berkeley, California, to attend the University of California tuition-free—in exchange for two years of ROTC. While studying, Gene became more interested in health and changed his major to biochemistry. In 1965, he earned a Ph.D. in pharmacology at the California Medical Center in San Francisco, with a focus on cancer research.

Then commissioned by the Army, Gene had the good fortune to be assigned to the Walter Reed Army Research Institute, which brought him to the D.C. region. He stayed and built a career at the FDA and the Cancer Research Institute.

Gene has seen a lot of changes in Takoma Park over the years. For one thing, it was a *dry town* when he moved in due to the legacy of the Seventh-Day Adventist community. And although Takoma Park is now considered by many to be a tiny progressive enclave, it had a reputation as "Tacky Park" in those days.

"When we first moved to Takoma Park, people thought we were crazy because it did not have a good reputation," he says. At that time, many houses in Takoma Park were divided as a result of policies during World War II to provide more affordable housing for government workers and veterans. Gene was active in efforts to continue to provide people with fair housing.

With four children, Gene and Esther were also active in the schools. "The school board was starting to think about closing schools, and one of the first places they looked was Takoma Park because, in their minds, this was becoming a minority community," says Gene. "They were complaining about racial imbalance and declining enrollment." The schools were neglected, says Gene, citing uncovered electrical sockets at the school that his daughter attended. While organized parents could not save all of the local schools, they succeeded in keeping Piney Branch Elementary School open.

Independence Day activities have been a constant thread throughout those years, with a few variations.

"We used to have military units," says Gene. "But they have suffered membership loss, so they don't really come to the parade as much. And we used to have many more floats than we do now, and more children in the parade." He misses the Washington Adventist University Acro-Airs, who used to send gymnasts flying over the streets of the city, and he encourages neighborhoods and community groups to sign up for the parade and show their independent spirit.

Gene notes that although political theatre at the parade has increased since the election of George W. Bush in 2000, the committee is careful to be nonpartisan. It limits the number of marchers who can accompany elected officials and allows groups into the parade that many committee members differ with politically.

When asked what explains his commitment to July 4, Gene replies, "I am a little patriotic, and here is an opportunity that the city provided to have a citywide celebration of independence." He also notes that "it's one committee where you start meeting, and there actually is an end result."

Takoma Park Independence Day Committee President Tara Egan notes that the theme this year is "Harmony in Takoma Park," words that fit Gene perfectly as the longtime harmonizer of the July 4 parade and as the man behind the euphonium in the Community Band.

*Find out more about the Takoma Park Independence Day activities—including how to support the Independence Day Committee—at [TakomaPark4th.org](http://TakomaPark4th.org).*

## DIRECTOR'S COLUMN

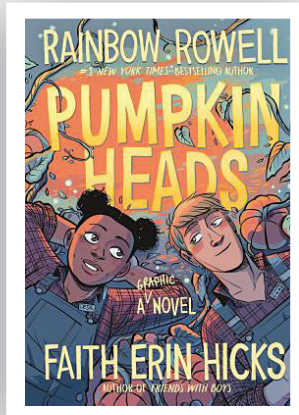
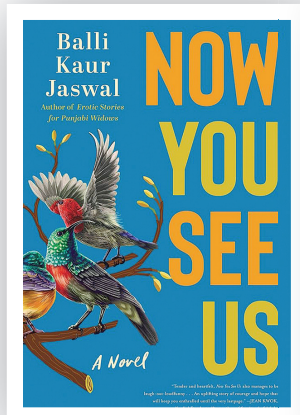
■ From page 7

about a Mexican American family in San Diego celebrating both a birthday and a funeral.

- *Here Comes the Sun*, by Nicole Dennis-Benn. Set around a resort in Jamaica, this book is more about the people working at the resort than the ones vacationing there. This is a story about the lengths some people will go to for their family.
- *The Old Drift*, by Namwali Serpell. This is a sweeping epic following three different families, spanning decades and continents, but it primarily takes place in Zimbabwe. It is gorgeous and poignant and weird and memorable.

Books if you are on Team Orca whenever another yacht goes down:

- *The Heirs*, by Susan Rieger. I have this



## ELECTION

■ From page 3

- have not been convicted of buying or selling votes;
- are not under guardianship for mental disability or if you are, you have not been found by a court to be unable to communicate a desire to vote.

### Ranked Choice Voting

Takoma Park elects candidates using ranked choice voting. Voters rank candidates in order of preference (1, 2, 3 and so on). If a candidate receives a majority of votes, they are elected. In the event no candidate receives a majority, an instant runoff is held. The candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. Voters who chose that candidate as their first choice have their next choice counted. The process continues until one candidate achieves a majority of votes.

### Orientation for Prospective and Registered Candidates for Mayor and City Council

Important information and forms for candidates can be found on the city website. In addition, a resource page has been set up to share information about city services, the structure of city government, the budget, and other topics that may be helpful for those considering running for office. Be sure to check out these helpful pages.

On Thursday, July 16, at 7 p.m., the city clerk will host a workshop to provide information about running for office in Takoma Park. The workshop will be virtual and is open to anyone interested. Register at [bit.ly/candidacy-info-session](http://bit.ly/candidacy-info-session).

After the Nominating Caucus, nominated candidates will be invited to attend an information session on the council-manager form of government, the budget process, and a high-level overview of departments. Individual or small group meetings may be held with the city manager.

## FLAG

■ From page 1

ry of winning the contest, Gurganus was awarded \$250.

"The center is an oak leaf," Gurganus explained in the Voice article. "I wanted to show a tree or a leaf to depict the leafy neighborhoods. B.F. Gilbert, when he started the little community of Takoma Park a hundred years ago, wanted to provide a retreat from the swamp air of Washington, D.C., My primary goal was to reflect that kind of neighborhood.

"The blue band around the center diamond represents clean air and water that is such a concern here. I was thinking of Sligo Creek," she continued. "The four green corners reinforce the idea of an incorporated community. The gold behind the leaf implies warmth for the friendliness and warmth of the community.

"The design is reminiscent of old-fash-

ioned patchwork to keep alive the traditional spirit Takoma Park tries to foster and to commemorate the centennial of the foundation of the city government."

The new flag was rolled out in May 1989 and distributed at the 100<sup>th</sup> July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration that year. It elicited a variety of responses from Takoma Parkers, from enthusiasm at the design to appreciation at the symbolism of a unified city (then split between two counties) to hostility to the very idea of flags.

The Takoma Park flag flew over the city throughout the 1990 centennial celebrations. Then-Recreation Director Belle Ziegler declared that this flag would be able to represent Takoma Park for the next 100 years.

"It needn't be limited by history and calendar dates," said Del Giudice, who passed away in 2015. "As creative as this community is, the Takoma Park colors could flip in the breeze for almost any happy occasion."

# At Your SERVICE



## Have a Bang-up 4th Without Lighting a Fuse!

Fireworks are illegal on July 4 (and every day). Enjoy your Takoma Park Independence Day and avoid a fine!



## Take the Picture

Before taking children to events this summer, pause for a second, pull out your cell phone, and take individual pictures of each child. That way, if the unthinkable happens and a child gets lost, you have a picture of how they are dressed and what they look like that day. The photo can also be immediately sent to police to aid in locating the child. Seconds can be precious in this scenario, so, take a second and take the picture.

The coupons are great for officers on patrol in the community. It's an icebreaker, a way to encourage dialogue in a non-threatening, non-law enforcement situation. So be on your best behavior this summer. Takoma Park Police officers will be patrolling parks, community events, and other areas around the City, looking to hand out these free treats!

## Survive the Heat

Montgomery County officials urge residents to take precautions to protect themselves, and their loved ones, against heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke and heat exhaustion. For information on homeless services, animal services, signs of heat exposure, and more, visit [montgomery-countymd.gov](http://montgomery-countymd.gov) and search for "Heat Alerts."

## Vacant House Checks

Did you know that Takoma Park Police offer FREE vacant house checks while residents are out of town? For more information and an application, visit [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) and search for "vacant house check."

## Takoma Park Police Department Weekly Crime Reports

If you are not signed up for daily emails from the Police Department, you can find all weekly reports on the Police page at [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov).

## SAVE THE DATE

### National Night Out: Tuesday, August 6, 6–9 p.m.

Piney Branch Elementary School  
7510 Maple Ave.

The City's National Night Out Against Crime observance takes place every year the first Tuesday in August to heighten awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit, and enhance police-community relations. Come out for fun and food with the Takoma Park Police Department.



## Chill with the Takoma Park Police

When school lets out for summer, kids in Takoma Park may actually look forward to their next encounter with "the heat."

Every year, the Takoma Park Police Department partners with 7-Eleven in its Operation Chill program, which aims to reduce crime and build rapport between kids and law enforcement. Through this partnership, Takoma Park Police patrol officers "ticke" youngsters caught in the act of doing good with Slurpee coupons. These acts might include helping another person, deterring crime, practicing safety (wearing a helmet during bike riding), participating in a positive activity in the community, or just for having a pleasant conversation with an officer. Each coupon can be redeemed for a small Slurpee drink at participating 7-Eleven stores.



# Stay Safe, Stay Cool This Summer

by Claudine Schweber  
Emergency Preparedness Committee

Summer in Takoma Park means days of extreme heat, strong sunrays, and mosquitos. Here are some recommendations to help you deal with these summer realities.

## Beat the Heat

- Get inside to an air-conditioned room or a cool public place like a library, museum, or shopping mall to beat the heat.
- Do not rely on a fan as your primary cooling device. Fans create air flow and a false sense of comfort, but do not reduce core body temperature or prevent heat-related illnesses.
- NEVER leave children or pets alone in vehicles! Heat can rise up to 20 degrees in just 10 minutes.
- Use awnings or curtains to keep the heat out. Roughly 40% of unwanted heat buildup in our homes is through windows.
- Limit use of the oven.
- Drink fluids regularly to avoid getting



dehydrated and overheated. Keep fluids with electrolytes on hand.

- Older adults: Take frequent breaks and come inside to cool off and drink noncaffeinated fluids.

## Stay on the Shady Side of the Street

- Wear water-resistant sunscreen, SPF30 or higher to protect against powerful ultraviolet rays.

- Wear clothing that covers skin thoroughly; wear a wide brimmed hat and sunglasses with UV protection.

## Bug Off

- Apply a low concentration of insect repellent several times to provide effective protection from biting mosquitoes and minimize the risk of overexposure to DEET.

## Swim Smart

- Swim only in designated areas supervised by lifeguards. Children need to be with a buddy or have an adult watching.
- For inexperienced or weak swimmers, remember that water wings, swim rings, inflatable toys, or other items cannot replace supervision.
- Using a private pool? Make sure there are barriers to prevent unsupervised access to the pool, especially by children.

## Note:

Throughout the summer, always inform an emergency contact of your location and situation.

# Community ACTIVITIES

## Correspond with Incarcerated Artists

Monday July 1 and July 15, 6–8 p.m.  
7112 Willow Ave.

Join us in gathering bi-monthly to respond to recently received art and mail from incarcerated artists in the Justice Arts Coalition network! All materials, directions for the letters, and music will be provided. Learn more at [thejusticeartscoalition.org](http://thejusticeartscoalition.org), and reach out to [ava@thejusticeartscoalition.org](mailto:ava@thejusticeartscoalition.org) with any other questions.

## Mariachi Night

Tuesday, July 2, 5:30–8 p.m.  
Cielo Rojo  
7211 Carroll Ave.

Mariachi Imperio by Blanca Chucúan transports you to Guadalajara with its own spin on traditional rancheras and corridos. More information at [cielo-rojo.com](http://cielo-rojo.com).



Photo by Eric Bond

Don't miss the Takoma Park Independence Day parade and street festival.

## Independence Day Parade

Thursday, July 4, 10 a.m.  
Takoma Junction to Maple and Ritchie Avenues

This year's Independence Day theme is Harmony in Takoma Park. The parade will be led by Grand Marshal Gene Herman, the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee's outgoing president and a community leader—whose commitment to making Takoma Park a meaningful and musical place goes back half a century.

The parade starts at the intersection of Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues and travels south on Carroll Avenue, turn right at Willow Avenue, turn left at Tulip Avenue, then right on Maple Avenue where it will continue until Ritchie Avenue. More information at [takomapark4th.org](http://takomapark4th.org).

## Independence Day Street Party

Thursday, July 4, 6–9 p.m.  
Maple Avenue between Philadelphia and Ritchie Avenues

Join your friends and neighbors for an evening of live music, food trucks, a beer

and wine garden, and kids activities from Let's Play America. Entertainment will be provided by the Takoma Park Community Band and the JoGo Project. The parade winners will be announced and there will be a raffle drawing. More information at [takomapark4th.org](http://takomapark4th.org).

## Meet the Tent

Thursday, July 4, noon–2 p.m.  
Takoma Park-Silver Spring Food Co-op  
201 Ethan Allen Ave.

Directly after the Takoma Park Independence Day parade, the Co-op will host an event to familiarize member-owners and shoppers with the summer renovation set-up. Throughout the summer, the Co-op will remain open, with shopping outside the building under a tent, while construction work is ongoing inside. There will be an assortment of customer favorites and a full selection of refrigerated/dairy products. Come out to meet the tent and chat with Co-op staff and the board.

## The HalfSmokes

Friday, July 5, 7–10 p.m.  
VFW Post 350  
6420 Orchard Ave., Hell's Bottom

Hear favorite tunes from WHFS radio's glory days. Combining melodic pop with rootsy rock, their inspired performances of these eclectic classics will remind you of happier times. More information at [TheHalfSmokes.com](http://TheHalfSmokes.com). No cover charge.

## Historic Takoma's Reading Room

Sunday, July 7 and 14, 1–4 p.m.  
Historic Takoma  
7328 Carroll Ave.

The Reading Room contains Historic Takoma's reference collections and archives. Featured is the Maryland Reference Collection on loan from the Takoma Park Maryland Library while the library undergoes renovation and reconstruction. The Reading Room also includes the Historic Takoma reference collection of books about Takoma Park; Montgomery County; Washington, D.C.; the Civil War; and a wide variety of architectural and design publications. The local authors collection contains books by local writers, mainly from Takoma Park. Most of the issues of the Takoma Voice and City Newsletter are also available for reading, along with a collection of journals and magazines about Maryland history. More information at [historictakoma.org](http://historictakoma.org).

## Fixit Clinic

Sunday, July 14, 2–4 p.m.  
Takoma Park Maryland Library  
7505 New Hampshire Ave.

Volunteers will work with you to repair your broken items. Bring your small appliances, computers/devices, lamps, bikes, clothing/sewing, dull knives, broken furniture, etc. to our clinic. The clinic is free, but you must register so that we can prepare for your repair: [tinyurl.com/yc8t0w7](http://tinyurl.com/yc8t0w7). Questions? Send a message to [fixittakoma@gmail.com](mailto:fixittakoma@gmail.com).

## Green Way Reading: Tope Folarin

Sunday, July 14, 5–7 p.m.  
People's Book  
7014-A Westmoreland Ave.  
Takoma Park, MD20912 United States

Curated by Simon Shieh and Takoma Park's Poet Laureate Taylor Johnson, the Green Way Reading series centers emerging and established poets and artists in interdisciplinary, intergenerational and cross-regional dialogues. This event features Tope Folarin, a Nigerian American writer based in Washington, D.C. He serves as director of the Institute for Policy Studies and the Lannan Visiting Lecturer in Creative Writing at Georgetown University. More information at [peoplesbooktakoma.com](http://peoplesbooktakoma.com).

## Village of Takoma Park Walking Group

Thursday, July 18, 11 a.m.  
Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Ave.

Starting inside the front entrance of the Takoma Park Community Center, join other seniors for a one-hour walk on Sligo Creek. Pace to be determined by the walkers. No need to sign up in advance—just show up in walking shoes! Check the Village of Takoma Park calendar for cancellation information ([villageoftakomapark.com](http://villageoftakomapark.com)). If in doubt, contact Mary Jane Muchui at [muchui@aol.com](mailto:muchui@aol.com).

## Outdoor Movie Night: Jurassic Park

Friday, July 26, 6–9 p.m.  
Flower Avenue Urban Park  
8746 Flower Ave.  
Long Branch/Silver Spring

Rediscover the Jurassic era. Bring your own chair or get comfy on a picnic blanket (provided). Dinner and music start at 6. Enjoy scrumptious pupusas from your favorite local spots while you watch Jurassic Park al fresco! More information at [discoverlongbranch.com](http://discoverlongbranch.com).

## ONGOING

### Takoma Park Farmers Market

Sundays, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.  
6931 Laurel Ave.

Come out every Sunday behind the shops on Laurel Avenue 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.

### Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.  
Anne Street at University Boulevard East  
Crossroads Farmers Market offers the season's freshest fruits and vegetables, as well as free-range eggs, honey, locally roasted coffee, healthy snacks, and fresh-cut flowers, all from no more than 50 miles away. The market is cultivating a more inclusive local food system in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. More information at [crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org](http://crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org).

### Takoma Spark Open Mic

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

Hosted by Rob Hinkal of [ilyAIMY](http://ilyAIMY) and sponsored by Institute of Musical Traditions. Signup starts at 6 p.m. All musical genres and poetry and all abilities/ages welcome. No amps or drum kits. For updates, follow Rob's Open Mics on Facebook or visit [ilyaimy.com/robsopenmics](http://ilyaimy.com/robsopenmics). Free.

### Takoma Jazz

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

Weekly jazz at Takoma Station Tavern hosted by Jazz Kitchen Productions. For the schedule, check the website: [jkproductions.org](http://jkproductions.org).

### Silver Spring/Takoma Thunderbolts

Blair Baseball Stadium  
51 East University Blvd.  
Silver Spring

Get out and watch local baseball this summer at Blair Stadium as players from around the country come together to chase the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League championship. Enjoy the excitement and atmosphere of a nine-inning baseball game while watching the stars of tomorrow. See the complete schedule and other information at [tbolts.org](http://tbolts.org).

Send information about free community events to [editorbond@gmail.com](mailto:editorbond@gmail.com). Because of space and other considerations, not all events will be featured.

## Takoma Park Folk Festival

Applications are now open for community tables for the 2024 Takoma Park Folk Festival

Apply at [tpff.org](http://tpff.org). For information about volunteering, please contact [info@tpff.org](mailto:info@tpff.org). And mark your calendar for a day of peace, love, and music on September 8—featuring multiple music stages, craft vendors, and community information tables.

At right: Munit Mesfin at the 2023 Takoma Park Folk Festival.



Photo by Eric Bond



### Questions, concerns, or ideas?

Reach out to Takoma Park City Manager Rob DiSpirito at [robertd@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:robertd@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7202.