

BUILDING COMMUNITY

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Walk and Roll to School



ARTS

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D.C. Labor Chorus



RECREATION

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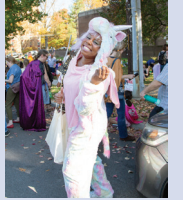
Explore Senior Planet



RECREATION

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Get Ready for Monster Bash!



Takoma Park News



October 2024

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 63, No. 10 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

Important Dates

Walk and Roll to School Day
Wednesday, October 9
See article on page 4

National Faith & Blue
Police and community unite with LEGO
Saturday, October 12, 2–5 p.m.
Corner of Maple Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway

D.C. Labor Chorus
Friday, Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Takoma Fixit Clinic
Sunday, October 20, 2–4 p.m.
Takoma Park Maryland Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave, Suite 205

Monster Bash
Saturday, October 26, 1 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Road

Fall Book Sale, Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML)
Saturday, November 2
Takoma Park Maryland Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave, Suite 205

Takoma Park Election Day
Tuesday, November 5, 7 a.m.–8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
See more information about the election on pages 7–10.

Veterans Day
Monday, November 11
Yard trimming collection is canceled.

Thanksgiving
Thursday and Friday
November 28 and 29
Thursday's trash, recycling, and food waste collection will take place on Wednesday, November 27. Friday's trash, recycling and food waste collection will take place on Saturday, November 30.

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

PRE-SORT STANDARD
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ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

All Residents 16 and Older Are Eligible to Vote for the Councilmember to Represent Their Ward and for the Mayor. See the Election Section on Pages 7–10



Ranked Choice Voting on the Ballot in Wards 3 and 6

by Sean Gossard

When Takoma Park voters cast their ballots in November's election, they will be using a ranked-choice voting system for races in Wards 3 and 6, which both have more than two candidates on the ballot.

Takoma Park first began using ranked-choice voting in 2007 after it earned the support of 84% of voters in a November 2005 advisory referendum. Ranked choice voting is now used in over 50 cities and two states (Alaska and Maine).

"Ranked choice voting helps us to ensure that our elected representatives actually represent us," says Takoma Park Board of Elections member Joe Goldman. "In too many places, leaders get elected with the support of only a fraction of the electorate. Our election system supports candidates who are supported by a majority of voters."

Ranked-choice voting works by allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference. If a voter's first choice doesn't have a chance to win, their ballot counts for their next choice. A candidate needs a majority of votes to be elected. If no candidate receives a majority of first choice votes, the candidate with the fewest first choice votes is eliminated. If those ballots indicate a second choice, the votes are transferred to the voter's second choice. This continues until a candidate receives a majority.



The advantage of ranked choice voting extends to both voters and candidates. With ranked choice voting, a candidate is incentivized to try to earn a voter's second choice vote if they see that a voter will rank an opponent as their first choice.

While Takoma Park is the only jurisdiction in Maryland that has ranked choice voting, the tide has been turning on its reception with voters, according to Rob Richie, the former CEO of FairVote, a non-partisan organization working for better

elections, and a Takoma Park resident. In the past 5 years, there have been 27 straight ballot wins for ranked choice voting, including New York City.

"I'm hopeful we'll see some progress in Maryland," says Richie. "We have some younger leaders who have supported it. D.C. is voting on it in November, so we'll see how that goes. Arlington County in Virginia went carefully at it with a one-year pilot and they found that it worked."

In Takoma Park, non-citizens as well as those 16 and over on Election Day and all otherwise-eligible people with a felony conviction are allowed to vote in City elections.

"Takoma Park makes it easy for everyone to cast their vote by mail or dropping ballots off early at a drop box," says Goldman. "Personally, I like to fill out my ballot as soon as it arrives and drop it off in person at the drop box. I hope that anyone who waits until the final week before the election will drop their ballot off in person, so that we can ensure that everyone's vote gets counted. If you are voting by mail, make sure to take into account how long it takes for the postal service to deliver your mail."

"Voting in local elections gives us a voice on the most important issues facing our community," he says. "Our city government makes decisions that impact every

VOTING □ Page 3



Behind the Badge

Sgt. Henok Atakilt: "The biggest thing for us is communication."

by Sean Gossard

For Sgt. Henok Atakilt, being a police officer was always his dream job.

"I've always wanted to be a police officer," says Atakilt. "My biggest thing was coming from an Ethiopian background. There's a lot of Ethiopians in the city and I thought that would be a great way to bridge the gap in the community."

Atakilt, 29, is very much a product of the community he's served for years. He went to Takoma Park Elementary School and Takoma Park Middle School before going to Montgomery Blair High School and later Montgomery County College. Before joining the force, Atakilt worked at the recreation desk in the community center, helping out with after school activities.

Since joining the Takoma Park police department in 2017, Atakilt quickly rose through the ranks. He served as a patrol officer, responding to calls for service in the community; then detective, investi-



gation crimes from homicides to robbery; and then was promoted to corporal.

Atakilt was named Takoma Park's Officer of the Year for 2019 because of his dedication to duty and his significant accomplishments and contributions throughout the year.

In a message from then-City Manager

Suzanne Ludlow, she wrote, "Pfc. Atakilt is quick with a smile and has an upbeat attitude with everyone he comes into contact with; he has been the subject of many compliments from residents for his assistance. On a personal note, I want to say how wonderful it is to see Henok win this honor. He is a hometown hero. He grew up in Takoma Park, worked for the Recreation Dept, then has succeeded in his dream to be a Takoma Park Police Officer."

In March, he was promoted to sergeant and now leads a team of five officers who work in 12-hour shifts around the city.

The test for being promoted to sergeant was a rigorous hundred-question exam covering state laws, criminal laws and general procedures among other inquiries. The second portion of the exam involved sergeants giving scenarios on how he would respond to several high-stress situations.

ATAKILT □ Page 3

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 an email to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

The public may comment at regular meetings of the city council in person or via Zoom. To comment over Zoom, you must register by 5 p.m. on the meeting date. There is no need to register to comment in person.

Meeting start times and listed agenda items can change. Please check the agenda page on the city website to confirm the start time and final agenda. All city council meetings will convene at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Ave., unless noted otherwise.

Wednesday, October 2 – The City Council will NOT meet.

Wednesday, October 9 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

For the Record:

- Proclamation of Indigenous People's Day

Public Hearing:

- Proposed Housing Tax Credits

Voting Session:

- Resolution Approving the FY26 Budget Schedule

Work Session:

- Proposed Housing Tax Credits
- FY25 Budget Amendment No. 2

Wednesday, October 16 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Voting Session:

- First Reading Ordinance Approving FY25 Budget Amendment No. 2

Wednesday, October 23 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Voting Session:

- First Reading Tax Credit Ordinance(s)
- Second Reading Ordinance Approving FY25 Budget Amendment No. 2

Work Session:

- Multifamily Building Improvement Grant Awards

Wednesday, October 30 – City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Voting Session:

- Second Reading Tax Credit Ordinance(s)

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, implements the policies set by the council, and prepares an annual budget for the council's 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), 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
- Ward 1 Councilmember **Shana Fulcher**: shanaf@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 2 Councilmember **Cindy Dyballa**: cindydyd@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 3 Councilmember **Randy Gibson**: randallg@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 4 Councilmember **Terry Seamens**: terrys@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 5 Councilmember **Cara Honzak**: carah@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 6 Councilmember **Jason Small**: jasons@takomaparkmd.gov
- Takoma Park City Manager **Robert DiSpirito**: robertd@takomaparkmd.gov

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. Visit takomaparkmd.gov and click on "Events and Meetings." Many city boards and committees continue to meet virtually, on Zoom. Some are holding hybrid meetings (in-person/on Zoom)

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, October 10, 7:30 p.m. (virtual)

Tuesday, October 29, 7:30 p.m. (virtual)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 17, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room with virtual option)

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, October 8, 6:30 p.m. (virtual)

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, October 28, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room with virtual option)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 17, 7 p.m. (virtual)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Monday, October 7, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room with remote option)

Monday, November 4, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room with remote 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 or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

CityCouncilAction

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2024

- Resolution 2024-35 Adopting the 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Resolution 2024-26 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute the National Opioids Settlement Agreement(s) with Kroger/Harris Teeter in the Opioid Litigation and Maryland Subdivision Agreement

Traffic Calming and Sidewalk Administrative Regulations

At the direction of council, staff developed two revised Administrative Regulations regarding traffic calming and sidewalk requests. The regulations make it easier for residents to make requests and establish a review process with community engagement and the council's role.

As specified in the regulations, a Takoma Park resident may submit a request to the city manager for a new sidewalk facility or a new traffic calming device located within one-quarter (1/4) of a mile from their primary residence.

To read the new regulations and to submit a request, visit the page on Traffic Calming and Sidewalk Administration Regulations under Public Works on the City of Takoma Park website, takomaparkmd.gov.



Takoma Park Is Open for Business

by Eric Bond

Over the summer, the City of Takoma Park began distributing funds to small businesses in the city through its Open for Business grant program. Funded through the City of Takoma Park's Neighborhood Commercial Corridor fund, part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Grants are capped at \$10,000 to a single business and are calculated as follows:

- Ground-floor businesses outside of the Old Town commercial district may be funded at up to \$6/square foot.
- Old Town businesses, and upper-floor businesses elsewhere in Takoma Park may be funded at up to \$4/square foot.

Red Hound Pizza, Well Paid Maids, and San Alejo Restaurant, and Richardson School of Music are all current grantees. Red Hound Pizza is a new restaurant



Photo by Eric Bond

Red Hound Pizza held a ribbon cutting in July to celebrate the opening of this new shop on Carroll Avenue, which provides a healthy slice with a whole grain crust. An Open for Business grant helped Red Hound add outdoor seating.

that opened on Carroll Avenue in July. Well Paid Maids is an existing Takoma Park business that recently expanded its office space. San Alejo is a popular Salvadoran

restaurant in Hyattsville that is adding a new location in Takoma-Langley Crossroads. And Rich-

Building Community

COLTA Corner

by Jean Kerr
Senior Housing Specialist

The Commission on Landlord and Tenant Affairs (COLTA) is a quasi-judicial body created by the Takoma Park City Council to resolve landlord-tenant disputes. COLTA hears cases and issues written opinion & orders on a variety of complaints only after the parties go through all avenues of mediation. Below are the summaries of two decisions rendered by COLTA.

Keely Maxwell, et al. v. Jones, Case #2024-1T

On August 7, 2024, COLTA issued a decision in a case brought by former tenants alleging that the landlord unreasonably withheld their full security deposit of \$3,000 plus interest and requested three times the total security deposit be returned to them.

COLTA found the following: 1) tenants signed a lease with the landlord, paid a security deposit of \$3,000 on September 12, 2012, and moved in on or around October 3, 2012; 2) tenants gave a notice to vacate on January 31, 2023, and vacated April 30, 2023; 3) landlord and property management company inspected the property on or around May 2, 2023; 4) landlord, through her agent, mailed a letter to the tenants withholding the security deposit due to the damages accrued during the tenancy; and 6) landlord failed to provide tenants with a written list of damages along with the itemized costs within 45 days after tenants vacated. COLTA further found that the landlord presented an invoice for damages to the property and spent a considerable amount of money on repairs at the end of the tenancy and, therefore, tenants

are not entitled to receive threefold of the amount of security deposit. COLTA ruled that the landlord pay the tenants \$3,619.87 (\$3,000 plus \$619.87 in interest). COLTA further ruled that the tenants' request in the amount of three times the total security deposit was denied.

Sherman v. Lenkin, Case 2024-2T

On July 25, 2024, COLTA issued its decision on a tenant's complaint that the landlord issued a 60-day no-fault notice to vacate in retaliation after tenant filed numerous complaints over the course of the tenancy due to lack of heat and hot water and for other issues with Montgomery County Code Enforcement. The tenant requested that the notice to vacate be withdrawn.

COLTA found the following: 1) The tenant moved in on November 2011 and at some point in time the tenancy changed to month-to-month; 2) tenant made several complaints to Montgomery County Code Enforcement between October 2012 and February 2024; 3) tenant was an active advocate and involved in a tenant association at the building during 2011, 2015 and 2018; 4) tenant filed a complaint with Montgomery County Code Enforcement on February 29, 2024, and received a notice to vacate on March 29, 2024; and 5) landlord insisted that he has a legal right not to disclose the reason for providing the notice to vacate.

COLTA found that the tenant failed to prove that the landlord engaged in retaliation by issuing the notice to vacate. COLTA ruled that upon consideration of the testimony, exhibits and evidence presented at the hearing, that the relief requested by the tenant was denied.

Housing Mailbox

What is the percentage that a landlord can increase the rent?

A landlord can only increase the rent by the Rent Stabilization Allowance established each year by the City and is 100% of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The Rent Stabilization Allowance for this year is 3.4% from July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025. For example, if the rent was \$1,000, a 3.4% would bring it to \$1,034.

GRANTS

■ From page 2

ardson School of Music is located on Carroll Avenue in Takoma Junction.

Charbel Abrache says that the \$2,000 grant allowed him to establish outdoor seating for the pizza shop, which specializes in a whole grain crust. Abrache was previously a pastry chef at Seylou Bakery & Mill in D.C.'s Shaw neighborhood. Abrache brought a unique approach to pastries, using only whole grains like millet, buckwheat, and eichorn and eschewing all refined sugar. Abrache said that Takoma Park seemed like the right place to apply the same approach to pizza for a slice unlike any other in the area.

Several years ago, Abrache and his wife, Andrea, found themselves in Takoma Park quite a bit, bringing their red hound, Arepa, to the vet.

"We really liked the vibes of the neighborhood," says Abrache. "You know how it feels how everyone seems to know each other and supports each other. We saw this opportunity and we said 'Okay let's give it a shot.'"

"[The Economic Development team] was super amazing and they helped us through process of opening the shop. And the grant gave us a little bit of oxygen to figure things out," he says.

Aaron Seyedian, a Takoma Park resident, launched Well Paid Maids in 2017 in response to the Fight for \$15 movement. Cleaners start at \$26 an hour, in keeping with Seyedian's philosophy. As the business has grown, it has required more office space, and the grant for \$7,000 helped it move into the new space more quickly. Seyedian says that he appreciated that Takoma Park has "a long tradition of trying to support its small business community."

When his business was faced a setback because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Seyedian took advantage of ARPA funding through the City's Economic Development

office. And he is grateful for a little push now that his business is thriving.

"The space that we were in in our building was quite cramped, especially in a job like this with folks are on the phone all the time, says Seyedian. It's a lot of noise, and we needed a bigger space. Without the grant program, we probably would have waited another year. I think, is just going to make us a more productive firm."

There is no restriction on use of grant funds—they can be applied where most needed, whether to support capital expenditures and hard costs related to new business fit-out, for existing tenant improvements, or to serve as a one-time subsidy to offset cost of lease.

"The thing that's special about this grant is the funds are not restricted by us as to what they can be used for," says Grants Coordinator Patti Mallin. "The owner is the one who knows best where they need the help."

Mallin says that business owners receive half of the grant upon signing the agreement with the City and the other half at a grand opening or grand re-opening. She says that the City still has \$50,000 in funds to award and encourages small businesses to apply online at takomaparkmd.gov/grants.

Mallin also says that she hopes business owners will take advantage of the newly launched Façade Improvement grant program, which is also funded through ARPA. The City is looking to disburse a total of \$75,000 to Takoma Park businesses, with a \$10,000 cap per business.

"We would reimburse expenses paid by small businesses to improve or repair their front-facing structures," says Mallin. "That could be signage and awnings. It could be safety glass. Anything that is storefront, street facing."

"We want to have a vibrant commercial community, and these are ways we can help do it," says Mallin.

VOTING

■ From page 1

facet of our lives. I hope everyone will take the time to cast their ballots and make their voices heard."

Takoma Park elections are non-partisan and there's no primary. Candidate forums will be held on Monday, Sept. 30, and Monday, Oct. 7.

Takoma Park's election for city council and mayor will take place the same day as the presidential election on Tuesday, November 5. Most voters in the city election will vote by mail, but the Community Center will be open for City Election voting only. For the presidential election, you can find your local polling location online or on the sample ballot sent out by the Montgomery County Board of Elections.

ATAKILT

■ From page 1

He says being in the police force gives him the opportunity to talk to many members of the community.

"As community as a whole we're doing great," he says. "The biggest thing for us is communication, not just between officers, but with the community. It's nice having events like National Night Out and Coffee with a Cop."

He says his team has a Spanish-speaking officer who helps bridge the gap with Takoma Park's growing Hispanic population.

"We have different beats we work in the city," he says. "We want to have someone they can communicate with. It's all about having the right officer in the right spot to help the community."

Atakilt says one of the biggest challenges of policing in Takoma Park is the various jurisdictions that surround it.

"We're surrounded by Prince George's County; Washington, D.C.; and the greater Montgomery County area. We have a lot of different traffic flow that goes through our city. It's kind of important to stay active and be in those areas to keep the crime out. Even with our agency, we're the only full-service police department in Montgomery County. We all work together very well to take care of the community."

In the little personal time Atakilt has, he says he loves spending it with his wife and daughter.

If you have a frontline officer that you'd like to nominate for a profile, please contact seang@takomaparkmd.com.



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:

ኮታቶ ያለውን ደህን ክፍ ይፈልጉ የዚህ መጽሔት አርከፍ ራስዎ ማውጣት ለሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ተርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታኮማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀ ካደረጉን በኋላ ስድራቱ ክንፍ ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥን ላይ ታንባሰች የአሰሳ ክፍሉን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን.

Building COMMUNITY

Celebrate National Walk & Roll to School Day on October 9

by Kaysi-Ann Weibly
Transit Planner

As the crisp autumn air ushers in the month of October, the temperatures are perfect to celebrate this year's Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 9! This annual event is not just a fun opportunity to get moving but also a chance to foster stronger community bonds, promote healthy habits, and enhance safety around our schools.

Why Walk to School?

Walking to school offers numerous benefits for both children and adults. It provides a chance for physical exercise, helps reduce traffic congestion, and fosters a sense of independence in children. Moreover, walking as a family can strengthen relationships and create a shared sense of accomplishment.

Get Involved by Forming a Walking Bus

One of the best ways to participate is by forming a "walking bus." Gather a group of families and establish a regular meeting point where everyone can start their journey to school together.

This not only makes walking more fun but also ensures that children have supervision along the way. To get started, plan your route, set a meeting time, and communicate with participating families about the logistics.

Safety Tips

1. **Be visible:** Wear bright or reflective clothing to ensure you and your child are easily seen by drivers.
2. **Use Pedestrian Crossings:** Always use

Photos:
Sam Kittner.



marked crosswalks and obey traffic signals to safely cross streets.

3. **Stay Alert:** Keep distractions to a minimum. Parents should lead by example by staying off their phones and focusing on the walk.
4. **Communicate with Your Child:** Discuss the importance of being aware of their surroundings and practicing safe pedestrian behaviors.
5. **Select Your Route:** Be sure to reference the latest Safe Routes to School Maps at bit.ly/SRTSRoute to find a safe walking route.

Driver Awareness

For those driving near schools, please be extra cautious on Walk to School Day and every day. Observe reduced speed limits, watch for pedestrians at crosswalks, and avoid distractions. Your attention can make a big difference in keeping our children safe.

Get Involved and Spread the Word

Be sure to contact your School Administration and parent-teacher group to see what plans are already in place and ask how you can help!

Encourage your friends and neighbors to join in on Walk to School Day. The more walkers the greater your visibility! Share your experiences and photos on social media using the hashtag #WalkToSchoolDayTKPK to inspire others in our community.

Walking to school is more than just a commute; it's an opportunity to invest in our health, safety, and community spirit. Let's make this October 9 a day to remember by stepping out together and enjoying the benefits of walking.

Happy walking!

Activities to Incorporate into Your Walk to School

- **Scavenger hunt:** Create a list of things to spot on your walk, like specific types of trees or landmarks. This can make the journey more engaging for younger children.
- **Walking journal:** Have your child keep a journal of their observations and experiences on their walk to school. This can be a great way to encourage reflective thinking and writing skills.
- **Healthy breakfast:** Start the day with a nutritious breakfast to fuel the walk and set a positive tone for the day.

Leave the Leaves!

by Anna Mische John
Vegetation Maintenance Supervisor

Leaf season is a festive time at Public Works. Residents often praise the annual curbside collection, and can be seen greeting the vacuum trucks and crews as they make their way through the city. Typically, leaves are collected within 10 feet of the curb, from piles raked in front of residential properties.

This year, the Department of Public works is piloting a program to encourage residents to consider using the leaves on their property, rather than have them all removed by the city.

Fallen leaves are a great source of nutrients for gardens and lawns. They can be ground and left on the lawn or piled up and composted to be used in a garden bed. If you have started a garden or are mulching leaves in an area that may be subject to leaf collection, signs will be available to alert the collection crews that you intend to leave these leaves in place. Leaves on sidewalks, near storm drains, or those likely to encroach on these areas will be collected by the crews.



"I'm a Leaf Saver" signs will be available for residents to pick up at the Public Works office between 8:30 and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Signs may only be placed in front of your own property. Please place one sign at

each end of the area where you do not want leaves to be collected; corner properties may request additional signs. Signs should remain in place from the first day of collection, November 15; through December 31

and can be reused the following year.

Leaf piles up to a few inches thick provide valuable habitat to overwintering bugs, worms, and insects—as well as benefits for soil and plant health as they decompose. Un-mowed leaves may be more beneficial to insects, but are also more likely to blow or drift away. Consider decorative garden fencing to contain the leaves.

If you choose to leave your leaves to protect overwintering invertebrates and wish to remove them as part of spring clean-up, it is a safe bet that by the time the grass is ready to be mowed for the first time (after Tax Day), the invertebrates no longer require the protection. The city does not offer a vacuum leaf collection in the spring; however, the city's Monday yard waste collection program—which occurs year-round—can be an opportunity dispose of those leaves.

More information about leaf collection and "I'm a Leaf Saver" program can be found by searching "leaf collection" at takomaparkmd.gov.



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.

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 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, all ages welcome: Join us at 10:30 Monday mornings for crochet and cozy mysteries. We are now making many hats for those in need as the weather gets colder! 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: Join Ms. Verónica every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. for Circle Time. We sing, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, dance, and do movement exercises. We read a book in

the middle of the program. And we close with bubbles!

Jumpstart With the Arts joins us with live music for Circle Time on the first Tuesday of each month. The next time they will be with us is Tuesday, October 1st with Gabriela Cohen. Jumpstart With the Arts is made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Canta Juego: Spanish Circle Time every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. ¡Canciones y juegos en español! Join the fun at our weekly Spanish Circle Time, led by Señora Geiza. In this 30-minute program, kids and adults can sing songs and do rhymes and movement exercises in Spanish. Sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Family Chess: Join us on Sundays at noon to play this ancient strategy game. Caregivers and kids are invited. We

have plenty of chess boards and pieces. Players of all levels are welcome. There will be group instruction once a month - please welcome our new instructor, Jonathan. This month instruction will be held on October XX. Please register if you want to receive updates.

Social Work: CE-CG, (Community Engagement and Consultation Group) will be providing social work assistance at the library on a regular basis. The next time they will be at the library is Sunday, October 13, 1–3 p.m. and Monday, October 14, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Monster Bash! October 26th. Look for Library staff at the **Monster Bash!** Turn to the Recreation Department pages for more information on this fun annual event. Dress up as your favorite literary character and win a prize from the Library!

Coming soon:

The Friends' Book Sale on November 2—see the article for more information. The Library is accepting book donations. The Winter Solstice celebration will be happening once again in December—mark your calendars for Thursday, December 19. We'll have dancing, storytelling, and treats!



Takoma Park Maryland Library

¿Qué piensas de nuestras COLECCIONES EN ESPAÑOL?

Por favor, accesa este enlace para dejarnos un comentario: tinyurl.com/TkPkLee

Kati Nolfi Has Left the Building

by Anne LeVeque
Artwork by Dave Burbank

Children's librarian Kati Nolfi recently left the library to further her career in a new position at the Montgomery County Public Libraries. While we are already missing her very much, we are grateful for her time in Takoma Park. Kati was the recipient of the 2023 czalea Award for Public Servant. She coordinated many events and programs over the years, including Circle Time, Kids' Art, Family Chess, various yoga programs, and more. She did a lot of outreach and communications, particularly on social media. Additionally, Kati was responsible for developing the children and young adults collections, selecting the books kids really want to read.

Children and Youth Services Manager Verónica Rivera-Negrón has this to say, "As a librarian, Kati is thoughtful. She always pays attention to community needs and does not hesitate to adjust her work to better serve them.

"For instance, we have an increased number of Spanish-speaking patrons at our temporary location. While Kati is not fluent, she immediately started incorporating bilingual books and songs to storytime, as well as developing bilingual flyers and signs. This meant a lot to me as a Spanish-speaker, and I know it meant a lot to patrons whether or not they spoke the language.

"I read somewhere that a good co-worker



Photo by Anne LeVeque

Library associate and resident artist Dave Burbank provided children's librarian Kati Nolfi with a remembrance of her time with the Takoma Park Maryland Library—enhanced with messages and marks from Takoma Park Children.

is hard to find, difficult to part with, and impossible to forget. And this is definitely Kati. Above all, I am thrilled Kati is moving on to a well-deserved full-time job—but she will be missed."

Library Director Jessica Jones said, "I am so proud of the work that Kati has done as a librarian, especially these last several wild years. She took programs online when the pandemic started and then moved them outside and to schools and pop-ups when the original library building closed. She has strong senses of empathy, compassion, and inclusivity that make her great at collection development, because she cares that everyone feels represented in a meaningful way on our shelves. We will miss her, and we wish her the best in her new role!"

Fair winds and following seas, Kati!



Photo by Maurice Belanger

Friends News

Book Sale

Saturday, November 2
Takoma Park Maryland Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave, Suite 205

Once again, the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library is holding its twice-yearly book sale at the library's temporary location at 7505 New Hampshire Ave. The book sale raises much needed funds for programs and purchases that we otherwise would not be able to fund. You can bring your book donations until October 28. We love popular fiction, children's books, biography, history, cookbooks, and mysteries. Please, no textbooks, yearbooks, old computer manuals, and the like. Please do not donate anything that has been kept in a basement or garage.



Photo by Eric Bond

Takoma Fixit Clinic

Sunday, October 20, 2-4 p.m.
Takoma Park Maryland Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave, Suite 205

Want to repair your broken stuff and make a difference by keeping it out of the landfill? Then bring your small appliances, computers/devices, lamps, bikes, clothing/sewing, dull knives, broken furniture, etc. to our FREE clinic. Your skilled neighbor volunteers will diagnose your item's issue and show you how to make the repair (and you'll learn some basic DIY skills too!).

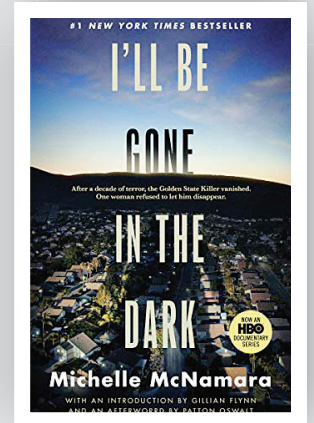
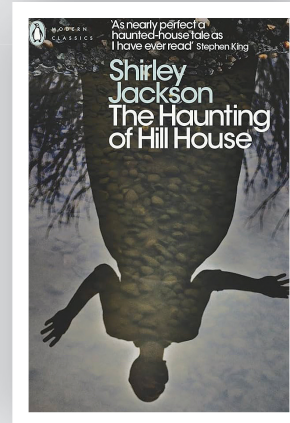
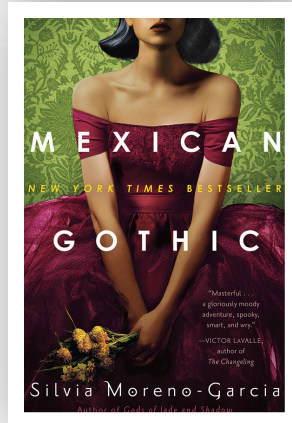
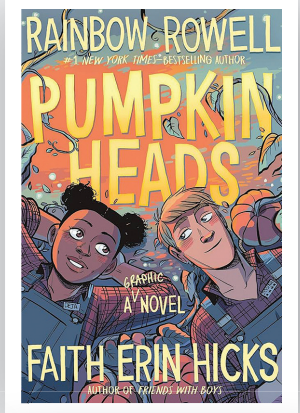
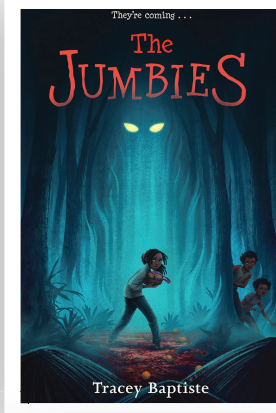
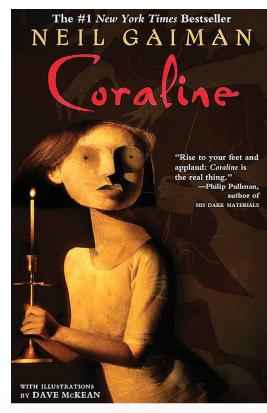
The clinic is free, but you must register so that we can prepare for your repair! To register, use this link: tinyurl.com/2a26jv2f. Email questions to Fixit-takoma@gmail.com

Clínica Takoma Fixit

Domingo, 20 de octubre 2-4 p.m.
Biblioteca de Takoma Park Maryland
7505 New Hampshire Ave, Suite 205

¿Quiere reparar sus cosas rotas Y marcar la diferencia manteniéndolas fuera del vertedero? Luego traiga sus pequeños electrodomésticos, computadoras / dispositivos, lámparas, bicicletas, ropa / costura, cuchillos sin filo, muebles rotos, etc. a nuestra clínica GRATUITA. Tus vecinos voluntarios expertos diagnosticarán el problema de tu artículo y te mostrarán cómo hacer la reparación (¡y también aprenderás algunas habilidades básicas de bricolaje!).

LA CLINICA ES GRATUITA, pero debe registrarse para que podamos prepararnos para su reparación. Para inscribirse, utilice este enlace: tinyurl.com/2a26jv2f



Director's column

Spooky Season—or Beyond Stephen King

by Jessica Jones

My favorite day of the year is when the first legit cold front of the season arrives. I believe it should be a holiday, because all I want to do that day is celebrate the fact that summer is over by sitting at home in a sweater with a cinnamon roll and a giant mug of tea, reading a creepy book with a cat in my lap. Yes, this is very specific because I think about it a lot.

There is likely something faulty with my wiring, but I associate creepy and cozy together, which is why October is **The Best Month**. The coziness tempers the scarieness. It's perfect. It's Spooky Season.

Here are some spooky books to get the whole family ready for Halloween ... with liberal use of the creepy ellipses ...

For younger readers: Honestly, I have read and enjoyed all of these as an adult reader. I also love what Neil Gaiman said about how different ages react to his book *Coraline*: "As a general rule, *Coraline* the book is much creepier for adults than it is for kids, who tend to read it as an adventure." I think this is true for a lot of chil-



dren's books. With that in mind, here are some books written for young readers but enjoyed by this middle-aged one.

Coraline, by Neil Gaiman. As an adult, this book is objectively terrifying (*Coraline* gets stuck in an alternate reality with the Other Mother, who has buttons where her eyes should

be!), but children think it's hilarious.

The Jumbies, by Tracey Baptiste. The jumbies are trickster figures in Caribbean folklore, and they are featured characters in this middle grade novel that sends its protagonist on an adventure full of magic and scares.

Pumpkinheads, by Rainbow Rowell (author) and Faith Erin Hicks (illustrator). This is a graphic novel shelved in the Young Adult section, but if it were a movie, it would probably be PG-13 at the most. Two friends meet up at the pumpkin patch they worked together in during their high school years, and it is, honestly, not very spooky. It is set in fall carnival, so it fits into the seasonal theme.

SPOOKY □ Page 14



Listen to This!

The Art of Crime, with Gavin Whitehead

by Anne LeVeque

In keeping with the October theme of spookiness, creepiness, and general horror, I give you this gruesome podcast. The first season, "The Unusual Suspects," is entirely about the killer known as Jack the Ripper. As the series title suggests, the suspects examined in this podcast are not the ones you've heard of as candidates for the identity of Jack the Ripper. They are all engaged in the arts in one way or another. Lewis Carroll? What??

The second season is titled "Assassins" and examines assassins and those who attempt to assassinate public figures from Trotsky to Warhol. And Lincoln, of course, but apparently no Kennedys.

Season Three is particularly macabre—"The Queen of Crime," all about Madame Tussaud and the Chamber of Horrors.

Content warning: This podcast is not for little ones! There are many explicit descriptions of horrific crimes.

Found at artofcrimepodcast.com and wherever you get your podcasts.



City of Takoma Park Election Information

Two Separate Elections on November 5

- 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.

Takoma Park Vote by Mail

The Takoma Park Board of Elections is sending a vote-by-mail City Election ballot to every active registered voter. Voters can 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 Ave.)

Ballots will be mailed the week of October 14. Check takomaparkmd.gov to find out how to track your ballot with Ballottrax.

Absentee Ballots

If you expect to be out of town through election day and want your ballot sent to a different address, request an absentee ballot: takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/f/2024_TP_Absentee_App. (the link is on the City website as well).

Election Day Voting

The Community Center will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day for residents to vote in person and for 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 state/county election on November 5, you will go to your regular precinct polling place.*

Need Assistance with City Voting, Voter Registration or City Election Questions?

In-person voter assistance for the Takoma Park Election will be available at the City Clerk's Office in the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., from October 21 through November 4, Monday–Friday, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. Other times are available by appointment. If language assistance is needed, contact Irma Nalvarte at 301-891-7214 or irman@takomaparkmd.gov.

Voter Registration for the Takoma Park City Election—Up to and Including Election Day

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 in the United States;
- 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.



U.S. citizenship is not a requirement for voting in City of Takoma Park elections.

Not everyone who registers to vote in city elections will be eligible to vote in county, state or national elections. Re-

view the registration form carefully to understand the requirements for voting in the State of Maryland. For registration information, view takomaparkmd.gov/elections, call 301-891-7252, or email elections@takomaparkmd.gov.

City Election Calendar		
Activity	Date/Time	Location/Notes
In-Person Voter Assistance, Replacement Ballots, Ballot Marking Device, Voter Registration	Monday–Friday October 21–November 4 11 a.m.–4 p.m.	Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave. Please call when you arrive or make an appointment.
Ballot Return by Secure Drop Box	Daily until November 5 <i>(Box is closed and sealed at 8 p.m. on November 5)</i>	Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave. (lower level) Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ballot Return by US Mail	MAIL EARLY (but no later than November 5)	Ballots received after election day must have a postmark of November 5 or earlier.
Election Day In-Person Voting	Tuesday, November 5 7 a.m.–8 p.m.	Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave.
Board of Elections Reports Election Certification	Wednesday, November 13 7:30 p.m.	Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Mayor and Council Swearing in	Monday, November 18 7:30 p.m.	Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

Limited Parking and Access to the Community Center on Election Day

Due to library construction, parking at the Community Center is very limited. Additionally, all access to the building will be via the Grant Avenue entrance or through the Police Department Lobby entrance on the lower level.

Plan to use your vote by mail ballot and the drop boxes if you can. Voters needing assistance should try to come in during voter assistance hours on weekdays October 21–November 4, 11 a.m.–4 p.m., rather than waiting until Election Day.

Returning Ballots by U.S. Mail

If you are returning your ballot by mail, plan to mail early. When mailing a ballot close to the November 5 deadline, take the ballot into a post office and request that it be postmarked. This will ensure that your ballot can be counted if received after November 5.



Counting Ranked-Choice Voting Ballots

Takoma Park elections use ranked-choice voting. Voters can rank candidates in order of preference: first choice, second choice, and so on. Ranking additional candidates will not affect your first choice. Your other choices are only considered if your first choice is eliminated.

How votes are counted in ranked-choice voting:

- All first-choice votes are counted. If a candidate gets more than 50% of the votes, they win.
- If not, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated. Ballots for that candidate are counted for their next choice.
- If there is still no candidate with a majority, the process repeats until a candidate has more than 50% of the remaining votes and is declared the winner.

Dos Elecciones Apartes el 5 de Noviembre

• Elección Presidencial

• Elección de la Ciudad de Takoma Park

Las elecciones de Takoma Park para alcalde y concejo municipal es independiente del proceso de elección para Presidente de los EE.UU. Recuerde votar en AMBAS elecciones si es elegible.

Voto por Correo en Takoma Park

La Junta Electoral de Takoma Park está enviando una papeleta electoral de votación por correo a cada votante registrado para votar. Puede devolver la papeleta por correo en el sobre de farnqueo prepagado adjunto o puede devolver la papeleta en un buzón electoral de Takoma Park en una de las dos ubicaciones:

- Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park (7500 Maple Ave. estacionamiento de nivel inferior)
- Centro Recreativo de Takoma Park - (7315 New Hampshire Ave.)

Las papeletas se enviarán por correo la semana del 14 de octubre. Consulte www.takomaparkmd.gov para averiguar cómo rastrear su papeleta con Ballottrax.

Papeletas de Voto en Ausencia

Si espera estar fuera de la ciudad hasta el día de la elección y desea que su papeleta se envíe a una dirección diferente, solicite una papeleta de voto en ausencia: takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/f/2024_TP_Absentee_App_SPA. (el enlace también está en el sitio web de la Ciudad).

Votación el Día de las Elecciones

El Centro Comunitario estará abierto de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. el día de la elección municipal de Takoma Park para los residentes que prefieran votar en persona o los residentes que aún no están registrados. Recuerde que solo la elección municipal de Takoma Park para alcalde y concejo municipal se llevará a cabo en el Centro Comunitario. *Para votar en las elecciones Presidenciales el 5 de noviembre, irá a su lugar de votación asignado en su precinto.*

¿Necesita ayuda con la votación de la ciudad, el registro de votantes o las preguntas sobre las elecciones de la ciudad?

Asistencia electoral en persona para la elección de Takoma Park estará disponible en la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave. del 21 de

octubre hasta el 4 de noviembre, de lunes a viernes, de 11 a.m. a 4 p.m. Si necesita asistencia en Español, comuníquese con Irma Nalvarte al 301-891-7214 o irman@takomaparkmd.gov.

Registro de Votantes para las Elecciones de la Ciudad de Takoma Park - Hasta e incluyendo el Día de las Elecciones

Si ya está registrado en una dirección en la ciudad, no necesita registrarse nuevamente.

Si no está registrado, puede registrarse para votar en las elecciones de Takoma Park si

- es residente de la ciudad de Takoma Park;
- tendrá al menos 16 años de edad el día de las elecciones;
- no reclamen el derecho de voto en otro lugar en los EE.UU.;
- no haber sido condenado por comprar o vender votos;

- no están bajo tutela por discapacidad mental o si lo está, la corte no lo ha encontrado incapaz de comunicar su deseo de votar.

La Ciudadanía Estadounidense No Es un Requisito para Votar en las Elecciones Municipales de Takoma Park.

No todos los que se registran para votar en las elecciones municipales de Takoma Park serán elegibles para votar en las elecciones del condado, estatales o nacionales. Revise el formulario de registro cuidadosamente para comprender los requisitos para votar en el estado de Maryland. Para obtener información de registro, consulte www.takomaparkmd.gov/elections, llame al 301-891-7252, o envíe un correo electrónico a: elections@takomaparkmd.gov.

Votación por Orden de Preferencia

Las elecciones de Takoma Park utili-

zan la votación por orden de preferencia. Votantes pueden clasificar a los candidatos en orden de preferencia: primera opción, segunda opción, etc.

Clasificar candidatos adicionales no afectará su primera opción. Sus otras opciones solo se consideran si se elimina su primera opción.

Cómo se cuentan los votos en la votación por orden de preferencia:

- Se cuentan todos los votos de primera opción. Si un candidato obtiene más del 50% de los votos, gana.
- Si no, el candidato con menos votos es eliminado. Los votos para el candidato eliminado se contarán para la siguiente opción.
- Si todavía no hay un candidato con mayoría, el proceso se repite hasta que un candidato tiene más del 50% de los votos restantes y es declarado ganador.

Calendario de la Elección Municipal		
Actividad	Fecha/Hora	Ubicación
Asistencia al Votante en Persona, Votación, Papeletas de Reemplazo, Acceso a nuestro Sistema Electrónico para Marcar Papeletas, Registro	Lunes–Viernes 21 de octubre a 4 de noviembre 11 a.m.–4 p.m.	Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park 7500 Maple Ave. Llame cuando llegue o haga una cita.
Devolución de Papeletas por Buzón Electoral	Diario hasta el 8 de noviembre <i>(el buzón estará cerrado y sellado a las 8 pm el 5 de noviembre)</i>	Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park 7500 Maple Avenue (nivel inferior) Centro Recreativo de Takoma Park 7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Devolución de Papeletas por correo de EE. UU.	MANDE POR CORREO CON ANTICIPACION (pero no enviar más tarde del 5 de noviembre)	Las papeletas recibidas después del día de las elecciones deben tener un matasellos del 5 de noviembre o anterior.
Votación en persona el Día de las Elecciones	martes, 5 de noviembre 7a.m.–8 p.m.	Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park 7500 Maple Ave.
Junta de Elecciones Informa Certificación Electoral	miércoles, 13 de noviembre 7:30 p.m.	Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park Auditorium
Juramento del Alcalde y del Concejo	lunes, 18 de noviembre 7:30 p.m.	Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park Auditorio

Estacionamiento y Acceso al Centro Comunitario el Día de las Elecciones es Limitado

Debido a la construcción de la biblioteca, el estacionamiento en el Centro Comunitario es muy limitado. Además, acceso al edificio será solo a través de la entrada de Grant Avenue o a través de la entrada del Departamento de Policía en el nivel inferior.

Envíe su papeleta por correo o use uno de los buzones electorales si puede. Los votantes que necesitan asistencia deben tratar de venir durante las horas de asistencia electoral los días laborables del 21 de octubre al 4 de noviembre, de 11 a.m. a 4 p.m., en lugar de esperar hasta el día de las elecciones.

Devolución de papeletas por correo de EE.UU.

Si usted está devolviendo su papeleta por correo, envíe su papeleta por correo con anticipación. Cuando envíe una papeleta por correo cerca de la fecha límite del 5 de noviembre, lleve la papeleta a una oficina de correos y solicite que sea sellada por correo postal. Esto asegurará que su papeleta puede ser contada si se recibe después del 5 de noviembre.



Contando los Votos Clasificados por Orden de Preferencia

Las elecciones de Takoma Park utilizan la votación por orden de preferencia. Votantes pueden clasificar a los candidatos en orden de preferencia: primera opción, segunda opción, y así sucesivamente. Clasificando candidatos adicionales no afectará su primera opción. Sus otras opciones solo se consideran si se elimina su primera opción.

- Se cuentan todos los votos de primera opción. Si un candidato obtiene más del 50% de los votos, gana.
- Si no, el candidato con menos votos es eliminado. Los votos para el candidato eliminado se contarán para la siguiente opción.
- Si todavía no hay un candidato con mayoría, el proceso se repite hasta que un candidato tiene más del 50% de los votos restantes y es declarado ganador.

CANDIDATES FOR MAYOR



TALISHA SEARCY

My name is Talisha Searcy, and I am running for re-election as the mayor of the City of Takoma Park. Elected in 2022, I am the first African American mayor in Takoma Park. I have used my passion for civic engagement to serve city residents for over a decade.

From 2017 to 2022, I served on the Takoma Park City Council representing Ward 6. As mayor, I've continued my commitment to city residents. My key accomplishments include leading the city through initiatives such

as its library expansion, land rezoning efforts, and implementing a Direct Cash Assistance Program, which provided \$1.4M to over 1,400 city households.

A vote for me means that you will have a leader that will push for what residents' need. I will focus on the issues that matter to you, including housing and economic development, fiscal management, public safety, and enhancing the city's infrastructure.

Check out talisha4takoma.com to learn more about me and the issues.

CANDIDATES FOR CITY COUNCIL

WARD 1

SHANA FULCHER

I hope you'll please support me for reelection. I've worked to make our pedestrian space safer and more equitable. Due to my request, the city installed a four-way stop at Grant Avenue and Maple Avenue. I will advance pedestrian and cyclist rights to safety and quality of experience by advocating for pedestrians with SHA and support funding more sidewalks to better connect our community. I will continue advocating for stop sign cameras and the use of Laurel Avenue as a public square during the weekends.

I support more opportunities and better stability for homeownership and renters. I testified at the Maryland Senate in support of tenants rights and voted in favor of the Minor Master Plan Amendment to remove a barrier in the creation of more housing. Takoma Park has an obligation to diversify housing stock, both through building new homes and supporting changes in single family housing zoning.

Website: shanafulcher.com
Email: fulcher@gmail.com
Phone/text: 301-927-2927



JESSICA LANDMAN

Our community faces big challenges: Adapting to climate impacts on stormwater and the tree canopy. Preserving our stock of affordable housing. Welcoming new development without causing displacement through gentrification. Tackling traffic and infrastructure, including the Purple Line's impacts. Addressing city spending and management of capital projects.

As your Ward 1 representative, I would bring my expertise as an award-winning environmental lawyer and my many years of civic engagement with city, county, and state officials to the table to collaborate with council and city staff to fashion solutions. And I pledge to keep residents informed about and engaged in community affairs, through timely neighborhood listserv and website postings, regular office hours, transparent communication about where I stand and why, and receptivity to the views of everyone in Ward 1.

Website: JessicaForTkPkWard1.net



WARD 2

CINDY DYBALLA

It's been an honor and privilege to serve you as Ward 2 councilmember. I seek another term, to continue building a community that's inclusive—all ages, incomes, cultures, races; affordable—many incomes, housing types, lifestyles; and sustainable—climate, environment, local economy.

Here's my approach to just a few upcoming issues.

Engagement: Expand the circle of residents active in civic life.

Housing: Protect current lower income tenants; improve rental building quality; encourage new missing-middle and senior housing.

Safer Streets: Base traffic calming and sidewalk decisions on safety data; continue pushing for state safety actions.

Climate Change: Build strong city programs; coordinate policies with others; expand resiliency efforts; seek funding for new stormwater projects.

Fiscal Health: Balance city revenues, budget and services; develop more revenue sources; hold property tax rate level; support healthy small businesses.

I'm happy to talk with residents about these issues!

Website: cindy4ward2.com Email: cindy4ward2@gmail.com



WARD 3

MATT BORMET

Hello! I'm the co-owner of People's Book, the father of two wonderful kids, and a public policy professional with 25 years of experience on Capitol Hill.

My priorities are based on what I've heard from voters: creating safer streets for bikes, kids and pedestrians; welcoming new neighbors by protecting and growing affordable housing; and diversifying our tax base to avoid the city's impending budget cliff. I am confident that we can continue to grow our city while keeping its character—much like we've done with our bookstore.

The divisive politics of the past have prevented us from addressing the real problems we face. I have built a small business, passed meaningful legislation at the federal level, and navigated bureaucracies of every size to make change. I want to put those same skills to work for you. I hope I can earn your vote.

Website: mattbormet.com
Email: matt@mattbormet.com
Phone: 301-291-5399



LUCY MOORE

I want to represent Ward 3 because I believe in this community and our ability to express our values through budgeting and governance. I'm a mom, an architect, an organizer, an 11-year resident of Ward 3, and a Takoma Soccer coach (go Prairie Dogs!). I have served on city committees for over nine years, where I removed obstacles to business development in Old Town and ensured continued funding for community grants. Last winter, I organized with neighbors to successfully advocate for the Council's adoption of a Ceasefire Resolution. My policy priorities are building more housing including affordable housing, alleviating poverty, fighting climate change through carbon reduction, and working with county and state partners to reduce class size in our public schools. As Ward 3 representative, I will use my experience, my vision, and my compassion to serve all residents of Takoma Park.

Website: Lucy4Takoma.com
Email: Lucy4Takoma@gmail.com
Instagram: [@Lucy4Takoma](https://www.instagram.com/Lucy4Takoma)



ROGER SCHLEGEL

I've been a Takoma Park resident (Allegheeny Avenue) since 2002. With a master's in public administration, I've worked for Durham, North Carolina, and the District. My wife and I teach high school. Our two children have attended MCPS schools. In 15+ years' service on task forces, committees, budget groups, and civic organizations, I've insisted on comprehensive outreach, solid facts, ecological soundness, and racial equity. I'm an Azalea Award recipient and a past co-president of the Cooperative Nursery School. With Pincrest Association, I successfully advocated for a playground, safer streets, and much-needed sidewalks. If elected, I'll prioritize coordinated local action on climate, safe and safely connected neighborhoods, guided housing growth that targets affordability, living within our means with the budget, and an accountable government. I believe we're obligated to pass this place on better than we found it. That belief will come through in all I do as a City Council member.

Website: rogerforward3.org
Email: rogerforward3@gmail.com
Facebook: [facebook.com/rogerforward3](https://www.facebook.com/rogerforward3)



WARD 4

KURT GILBERT

My name is Kurt Gilbert. I have been a member of this community for 50 years. I began my years of public service at the age of 16 with the Takoma Park's Department of Recreation and the Boys and Girls Club, mentoring and coaching for their various youth and athletic programs.

At 23, I joined the Takoma Park Police Department, where I served for 27 years, focusing on youth outreach, conflict resolution, and crime prevention, retiring with the rank of Lieutenant in 2020.

My years of public service has taught me the importance of community collaboration. I hope to apply my experience in community problem solving to the existing issues that members of my community are experiencing. It is also my intention to safeguard the current policies and laws that support our community members, with emphasis on the inclusion of those who have traditionally been viewed as marginalized and underserved.

Email: Kurtgilbert23@yahoo.com
Phone: 301-346-8198



TONY KYERE

I have lived on Maple Avenue for 34 years. My goal is to protect the interests of families who live on Maple Avenue. As a council member I will continue my long-standing work as a tenant organizer and leader.

For many years, council members have promised to defend our rights. Despite their good intentions, they have never fully realized the real-life problems we face in our apartment homes. Their proposed solutions often fall short of protecting our homes and creating opportunities for us.

I will focus on protecting our City's vital rent stabilization regulation. I am committed to keeping rent stabilization. Others aren't. Without that law many of us would lose our homes. I will focus on promoting development of low- and moderate-income homes in Ward 4. I will promote the safety of all residents and will work to create educational and economic opportunities for our teenagers.

Email: tony4ward4@hotmail.com
Phone: 301-538-1344



WARD 5

CARA HONZAK

During my first term, I focused on rejuvenating our community, starting with Ward 5. Working with colleagues, I helped recruit an experienced City Manager, who has formed a top-notch management team. I also prioritized enabling our government to provide representative service across our city. Partnering with leaders and organizers, I championed events like Flower Avenue and Toatley Fraser Park celebrations in Ward 5, our City's first Juneteenth celebration, and a Spanish language public safety meeting. In my second term, I aim to ensure small businesses thrive, government services meet daily needs, and new development is smart and responsive to the needs of our diverse population. With over 20 years in international health, gender, and climate advocacy, I am committed to building solutions that benefit everyone. As a long-time resident and parent, I am also deeply invested in continuing to foster a collaborative environment where trust and hope thrive.

Website: cara@carafortakoma.com
Email: carafortakoma.com



WARD 6

AMBROISE AGOSSE

Ambroise Agosse is a Takoma Park resident with a family of five lovely children who attend MCPS. He is the vice president of the New Hampshire Gardens Citizen Association and a member of the board of directors of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority, Inc.



He is a Takoma Park business owner who prioritizes advancement opportunities for women and children, support for entrepreneurs, personal healthcare, and the health of the local ecosystem. He attended Riverland College (Minnesota), Montgomery College (Takoma Park), and the University of the District of Columbia (UDC). He earned degrees in geography, history, and environmental science (Water Resources Management) and worked for UDC.

With Ambroise Agosse education, experience, and awareness of the real, everyday issues that residents face, he will bring fresh perspectives and problem-solving skills to the Council.

Voting for Ambroise Agosse for Ward 6 helps make Takoma Park stronger, more responsive, and more resilient.

Website: agossea.com

Email: agosseaforcitycouncil@gmail.com

Facebook: Ambroise Agosse

JASON SMALL

My name is Jason Small, and I am honored to be the current Ward 6 representative. My partner Jumana and I have lived in Ward 6 for 23 years, and we are raising our two sons here.



I grew up in Illinois and came to the area after graduating from Yale Law School. I spent my career working on affordable housing, economic opportunity, and educational equity. I served as the Town Administrator for Capitol Heights, Maryland, and I have used this experience for the benefit of the residents of our city.

I care about all of the people in Ward 6 who want safe streets and enjoy living in economically and socially diverse neighborhoods whether they live in houses, apartments or condos. I care about people who want vibrant civic spaces and value for their tax dollars. I believe the local government should serve the interest of local communities.

Website: jasonsmallforward6.com

Email: jsmallTKPK@gmail.com

Facebook: @dreambigvotesmall

AMY WESOLEK

Hi, I'm Amy Wesolek (she/her). My wife, Danielle, and I chose Takoma Park to make our home more than 12 years ago. We are proud to be raising our two daughters in a community that celebrates diversity, justice, families, small businesses, and the environment. I earned a master's degree in public administration and worked for many years in the nonprofit and public sector. I've also volunteered with the Hillwood Manor neighborhood association and my daughter's cooperative schools, including serving for two years as board president at Silver Spring Nursery School.



Our city faces numerous opportunities to better serve residents, such as improving public safety and city services in Ward 6. I am a clear communicator who will seek out diverse viewpoints and an effective leader who will plan and implement solutions to ensure the community is welcoming and supportive of all its residents.

Website: amyfortakomapark.com

Email: amyfortakomapark@gmail.com

WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

- ✓ Vote for mayor.
- ✓ Vote for a city councilmember to represent your ward.

¿QUÉ HAY EN LA PAPELETAS?

- ✓ Voto por alcalde
- ✓ Voto por un miembro del consejo de su distrito electoral

This Information Will Appear on All Ballots

Esta Información Se Encontrará En Todas Las Papeletas

Instructions

- Rank candidates in the order of your choice.
- Vote for candidates by filling in the oval for your 1st choice, your 2nd choice, and so on.
- You may mark as many or as few candidates as you wish.
- Ranking more candidates will not hurt your 1st choice candidate.
- To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, print the name in the space provided and fill in the oval that shows your ranking of the write-in candidate.
- Do not make stray marks.
- DO NOT SIGN YOUR BALLOT.
- If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot.

Instrucciones

- Clasifique los candidatos en el orden de su preferencia
- Vote por candidatos llenando el óvalo para su primera opción, su segunda opción, y así sucesivamente.
- Puede marcar tantos o tan pocos candidatos como desee.
- Clasificando más de un candidato no perjudicá su primera opción.

Mayor Alcalde	1 st choice 1 ^a opción	2 nd choice 2 ^a opción
Talisha Searcy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in candidate/ candidato autonominado	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

- Para votar por una persona cuyo nombre no aparece en la papeleta, escribe el nombre en el espacio provisto y llene el óvalo que muestra su clasificación del candidato por escrito.
- No haga ninguna otra marca en la papeleta.
- NO FIRME SU PAPELETA.
- Si comete un error, solicite una papeleta de reemplazo.

Each Ward Will Have A Different Council Contest

Cada Distrito Tendrá Un Concurso Para Concejo Distinto

City Council - Ward 1 Concejo Municipal - Distrito 1	1 st choice 1 ^a opción	2 nd choice 2 ^a opción	3 rd choice 3 ^a opción
Shana Fulcher	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jessica Landman	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in candidate/ candidato autonominado	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

City Council - Ward 4 Concejo Municipal - Distrito 4	1 st choice 1 ^a opción	2 nd choice 2 ^a opción	3 rd choice 3 ^a opción
Kurt Gilbert	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Tony Kyere	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in candidate/ candidato autonominado	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

City Council - Ward 2 Concejo Municipal - Distrito 2	1 st choice 1 ^a opción	2 nd choice 2 ^a opción
Cindy Dyballa	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in candidate/ candidato autonominado	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

City Council - Ward 5 Concejo Municipal - Distrito 5	1 st choice 1 ^a opción	2 nd choice 2 ^a opción
Cara Honzak	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in candidate/ candidato autonominado	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

City Council - Ward 3 Concejo Municipal - Distrito 3	1 st choice 1 ^a opción	2 nd choice 2 ^a opción	3 rd choice 3 ^a opción	4 th choice 4 ^a opción
Matt Bormet	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Lucy Moore	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Roger Schlegel	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in candidate/ candidato autonominado	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

City Council - Ward 6 Concejo Municipal - Distrito 6	1 st choice 1 ^a opción	2 nd choice 2 ^a opción	3 rd choice 3 ^a opción	4 th choice 4 ^a opción
Ambroise Agosse	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Jason B. Small	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Amy Wesolek	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Write-in candidate/ candidato autonominado	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The ARTS

The *Takoma Park Arts Series* Is Back

The *Takoma Park Arts* series has returned after a summer break with more free arts events at the Takoma Park Community Center, including upcoming concerts and an improv musical.

Organized by the City's Arts and Humanities Division, the series features free

events in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium at 7500 Maple Ave. No tickets or reservations are required, but donations are accepted to support the performers.

"We're very excited to share the arts with local residents and visitors in free perfor-

mances," said City's Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith. "We provide honorariums, extensive promotion, and a state-of-the-art venue to support artists and performers from across the D.C. area, which enhances Takoma Park's well-earned reputation as an arts-friendly city."

More than 1,500 people attended 13 *Takoma Park Arts* events during the 2023–24 season. There's more information about our upcoming events at takomaparkmd.gov/arts where you can sign up for our e-newsletter.



D.C. Labor Chorus Friday, Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring singers from Takoma Park and other communities, the D.C. Labor Chorus will lead an audience sing-along of some favorite civil rights and peace and justice songs.

Led by founding director Elise Bryant, the chorus includes about 25 members of various ages, races, and faith traditions who have performed at concerts, rallies, demonstrations, and picket lines. Some of the singers are current or former union members, and every member actively supports the principles of liberty and justice for all.

The D.C. Labor Chorus is one of the programs of the Labor Heritage Foundation, which also organizes the D.C. Labor Filmfest, Great Labor Arts Exchange, and awards recognizing union leaders. For more info, go to laborheritage.org.

iMusical Improv Musical Friday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.

What's going to happen during the iMusical performance? No one is sure yet, including the actors since they will be improvising a live musical on the spot.

Based at the Washington Improv Theater, iMusical has performed at the Kennedy Center, many theater spaces, and comedy festivals on the East Coast. *The Washington Post* has called the group "spot on."

Founding director Travis Ploeger created the improv group in 2006 after moving to D.C. from New York City. At the beginning of a performance, the group of about 6 or 7 actors takes suggestions from the audience for the theme of the show and then creates a musical with completely improvised scenes, lyrics, and piano accompaniment.

"I wanted to create an improvised musical not to satirize the genre but to celebrate it, having warmth and poignancy as well as comedy," Ploeger said.



Takoma ARTery Exhibition

Artwork by 20 local artists from the Takoma ARTery group is on display in a group exhibition at the Takoma Park Community Center that branches across a wide range of mediums, including painting, photography, sculpture, and mixed media.

The artists explore a variety of themes from the deeply personal to global perspectives. The power, beauty and fragility of nature provide inspiration for some artists while others revel in the fleeting moments of everyday life.

The featured artists include Marilyn Banner, Paige Billin-Frye, Kate Childs Graham, Magalee Cirpili, Sara Daines, Tuula Ehn Smith, Dinesh Godavarty, Susanna Goldman, Li Howard, Julius Kassovic, Renee Lachman, Eleanor Landstreet, Janice Levitt, Ellen Maidman-Tanner, Jake Muirhead, Norah Neale, Becky Snider, Jeff Weiss, Randall Williams, and John Yao.

Takoma ARTery is a local volunteer-run group of artists that organizes artwork displays at the Historic Takoma building, Olive Lounge, and other locations. Many of the artists' work also is featured in an online artist directory at takomaartery.com.



RECREATION

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

SPECIAL NOTICE

The Game Room, Restrooms, Dance Room and Recreation Department Office in the municipal building are under construction. All programs and services offered in the affected area will be canceled or temporarily relocated.

YOUTH

DANCE

Ballet & Stretch

This 45-minute class focuses on the basics of ballet, but highlights advanced concepts, including history, stage production, performance etiquette, and choreography. Students will explore the history of ballet and practice combinations from various ballet choreographers. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center
(Auditorium)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 5–12
Saturdays, 12:30–1:15 p.m.
October 26–December 7
Resident: \$90 / non-resident: \$110



Hip-Hop Dance

This movement class focuses on the basics and culture of hip-hop. Students will learn basic b-boy and b-girl dance technique, practice temporal and spatial awareness, and learn choreography. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center
(Auditorium)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 5–12
6-week session
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
October 26–December 7
Resident: \$90 / non-resident: \$110

DROP-IN

Kid Night

The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides affordable, safe, and fun activities for kids on the first and third Friday nights of the month. Come out to a night of games and other activities. Bring your friends and meet new ones. Free with Recreation Center membership.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 5–12
Fridays, 4:30–6:30 p.m. October 4, October 18, November 1, November 15, December 6, December 20
Free with Membership

EXTENDED CARE

School year 2024–2025

The Recreation Department is pleased to again offer both beforecare and aftercare at both of our facilities. Morning and Afternoon Addition are held at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., and Before and After the Bell are held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave.

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-themed events. Children will have time for free play, homework assignments, breakfast (not provided), or simply to prepare for their upcoming day in beforecare. Each afternoon kids will receive a snack; have a time period to complete homework; and enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, and free play.

Programs operate when Montgomery County Public Schools are in session.

Beforecare: Resident:

Resident: \$1,700 / non-resident: \$2,000
Hours: 7–9 a.m.

Aftercare

Resident: \$2,500 / non-resident: \$3,000
Hours: 3:30–6:30 p.m.

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

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

Payment Plan: A 20% deposit is due at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments beginning in October.

Before the Bell and After the Bell Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave.

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

Morning Addition and Afternoon Addition Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue

Staff will escort participants to and from Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School.

Fun Days

Fun Day is offered on specific days when Montgomery County Public Schools are not in session. The program is designed to provide recreational activities for children enrolled in kindergarten through fifth grade. Through structured activities, crafts, and presenters, children have opportunities for socializing, unwinding, and releasing energy. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Must bring a lunch, snacks, and labeled water bottle. Activities and performers are subject to change. Registration is required. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of the program.

Takoma Park Community Center
(Azalea Room)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades K–5
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Thursday, **October 3:** Watkins Nature Center
Friday, **October 18:** Cox Farms
Monday, **November 14:** Shadowland Laser Adventure
Resident: \$55 / non-resident: \$65 per day

SPORTS

Basketball Skills

This class will teach the fundamentals of the sport. Good sportsmanship will be emphasized. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching. You will learn proper dribbling, shooting, and defensive techniques. Instructor: Greg Harris

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 6–12

8-week session

Saturdays, noon–1 p.m.

November 2–December 21

Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110

Winter League Registration Dates

October 9

Current scholarship recipients

October 15

City of Takoma Park residents

October 23

Non-residents: 10/23

Futsal League 2025

Futsal, a sport that is similar to soccer, offers the perfect combination of learning and fun. It is designed to improve fundamental technique and skill development during the winter months. It's also a great opportunity to meet new friends, stay in shape, and prepare for the upcoming season. Please note that program registration is first-come-first-served. Parents are encouraged to volunteer as coaches. This is an eight game season. Practices will be once a week and will begin in December 2024. Games are on Sundays and begin January 12, 2025. Game times are subject to change based on gym availability and number of teams in a division.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.

8-game season

Games on Sundays

January 12–March 16

Ages 7–8 division, noon–2 p.m.

Ages 9–10 division, 2:15–4:15 p.m.

Ages 11–12 division, 4:30–6:30 p.m.

Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110

Winter Basketball League 2025

The Winter Basketball League is a developmental, community league. The program will introduce children to the fundamentals of basketball and emphasizes that playing the game and being a member of a team are more important than winning. The coaches in this league will focus on personal improvement, sportsmanship, and fun.

Practice times (1 hour per week) vary throughout the week at various local schools. Games are held on Saturdays, times vary. Specific details regarding each league will be available at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/sports/winter-basketball-league.

Coaching Information: Volunteer coaches

are always needed. Please contact the Takoma Park Recreation Department if interested (240-687-2202).

Team Assignments: K–2 grade divisions will reflect gender equity based on number of participants.

Special Requests: Requests must be made in writing and submitted through ActiveNet at time of registration, though requests are not guaranteed.

Various Local School Gyms

Grades K–8

8-week season

Practices: weekday evenings

Games: Saturdays, January 11–March 1

Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110

TEENS



ART

CRAFT!

Welcome to CRAFT! Creative Recreational Arts for Teens! In this class, teens will explore mixed media art projects that cater to a variety of interests. Participants will get to work on different art forms, including painting, collaging, illustration, and even sculpting! This class will scratch that creative itch and expose teens to the endless possibilities of art. All experience levels are welcome! There is a non-refundable \$20 materials fee due directly to the instructor on the first day. Instructed by: Kelsey Joyce

Takoma Park Community Center
(Art Studio)

7500 Maple Ave.

Grades 8–11

Mondays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

October 14–December 16

(No class on November 4 and 11)

Resident: \$50 / non-resident: \$60

DANCE

Kolor Me Dance: Hip-Hop

Hip-hop dance incorporates aspects of modern dance, tap, and swing, integrating music and complex movements to form artistry. Teens will have the opportunity to make their own routines and explore other types of dance such as ballet, jazz, and stepping. **PLEASE NOTE:** Class will be held twice a week, on Thursdays at 3:15pm and Saturdays at 1pm. Thursday classes will be held at the Takoma Park Middle School (7611 Piney Branch Rd). Saturday classes will be held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave).

Grades 6–8

8-week session, through November 16

Thursdays, 3:15–4:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Middle School

7611 Piney Branch Road

Saturdays, 1–2 p.m.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

RECREATION

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

RECREATION

■ From page 12

7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Free

DROP-IN

Teen Lounge

Welcome to the Teen Lounge, where teens can do their homework, participate in fun activities, or kick back with friends after school in a safe environment. Open Monday through Friday, 3–6 p.m., youth in grades 6–12 are encouraged to come to the Lounge after school!

Takoma Park Community Center
(Teen Lounge)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12

When Montgomery County Public Schools are in session

Monday–Friday, 3–6 p.m.
Free with registration

Teen Night

Nothing to do on the second Friday of the month? The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides quality affordable, safe and fun activities for teens. Come on out to a night of games and other activities. Bring your friends for a night out of the house. Free with a Recreation Center Teen Membership.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 12–16

Fridays, 6:30–8:45 p.m.
October 11, November 8, December 13
Free with membership

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Teen Money Management

Teens can learn fundamental financial skills to 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.

Virtual
Grades 6–12
8-week session
Wednesdays, 6–7 p.m.
October 9–December 4
Free

TRIPS

Teen Trip: Field of Screams

Join the Teen Program for a spooky trip to the Field of Screams! Voted the #1 best scream park in Maryland, teens will have a frighteningly fun time taking part in the haunted house and trail experiences. No food or drink is allowed into the venue, but concession stands will be available onsite offering pizza, burgers, etc. so please bring money if you would like to take advantage of this. Additionally, there will be carnival games with tickets available onsite. Participants will meet in the Teen Lounge at 5 p.m. The bus will be departing at 5:15 p.m. PLEASE be on time as refunds will not be provided due to missing the bus. Parent

discretion is advised! Space is limited, so register today.

Takoma Park Community Center
(Meet in Teen Lounge)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
Friday, October 18, 5–9 p.m.
Resident: \$30 / non-resident: \$40



Teen Trip – Roller Skating

We are rolling to Skate Zone in Crofton, Maryland for a fun day off from school! Participants will meet in the Teen Lounge at noon. The bus will be departing at 12:30 p.m. Please be on time as refunds will not be provided due to missing the bus.

Takoma Park Community Center

Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
Wednesday, December 27, noon–4 p.m.
Resident: \$15 / non-resident: \$25

ADULT

FITNESS

Flow Yoga

Flow yoga is a mixed-level hatha yoga class with flow sequences. Students who are new to yoga will learn what yoga is, get familiar with yoga poses and alignment, be introduced to basic breathing techniques, and become more grounded and mindful in their approach to yoga, both on and off the mat. Students who have been practicing yoga for a while will also benefit from this class, as they will have the opportunity to deepen their practice and understanding of yoga and learn more sequences, poses, and modifications. The class sessions are energizing, grounding, playful, and renewing. Instructor: Jill Skillcorn

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
6-week session
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
November 2–December 14
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

RECREATION □ Page 14

Senior Planet Is Coming to Takoma Park

Aging with Attitude and Tech

Senior Planet is a nonprofit that focuses on enabling older adults to find ways to learn, work, create, and thrive together in today's digital age. Senior Planet programs are offered free of charge to help older adults build technology skills in on-line and in-person classes and lectures—as well as through articles, videos, and other activities. Programs are designed around five impact areas: financial security, social engagement, creative expression, health and wellness, and civic participation. All five areas represent opportunities in the lives of older adults where technology can have a transformative effect.

Join Senior Planet for the following lectures this Fall. More topics will be introduced throughout 2025. These free lectures introduce popular tech topics and themes in a clear and concise manner. Each presentation aims to explain the general purpose of a device or concept, its usefulness, and important tips and tricks.

Lectures take place at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave., instructed by University of Maryland Extension, Digital Literacy. Registration is required.

Thursday, October 10, 2–3:30 p.m. Intro to Managing Your Privacy

Concerned about privacy? Unsure about accepting cookies? Come learn some essential tips. We'll review how ads target us online, how to limit tracking,



where to find browser settings to better control how our information is shared. We'll also discuss some of the key features of password managers as a safe and secure option.

Thursday, November 7, 2–3:30 p.m. Everyday Uses of AI

Everyone is talking about artificial

intelligence, AI, already present in everyday tasks from voice assistants to customer service and healthcare. We'll look at common applications of AI across multiple industries and discuss ways you can take advantage of this influential technology.

For more information and to register,

go to the Takoma Park Recreation website: takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation. Click on ActiveNet to register for a class. As always, you are welcome to contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290 for more information.

RECREATION

■ From page 13

Zumba New Ave

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
6-week session
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
November 2–December 14
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

SPORTS

Adult Drop in Pickleball (Session 2)

The entire magic and success of pickleball is the way it has been set up to be a welcoming sport in an informal setting. You can show up to the courts and pick up a game. It doesn't matter what your age is or your experience.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
Mondays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
November 4–December 23
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30



Takoma Park Adult Volleyball Club (Session 2)

Join the Takoma Park Volleyball Club! Grab a friend or make a new one on the court. The club will meet weekly at the Takoma Park Recreation Center for pick-up games. Registration is required to participate. All skill levels are welcome.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 & up Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

November 6–December 18
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

55+ ACTIVITIES

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 (Back Activity Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Through December 12
(No class on November 28)
\$6

DROP-IN

Bingo

Come and try your luck and win a prize! This is a drop-in activity, once a month. No registration required. Host: Paula Lisowski

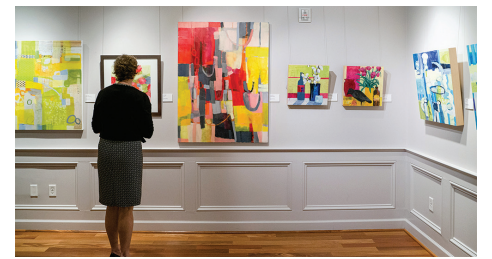
Takoma Park Maryland Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Tuesdays, noon-2 p.m.
October 22
Free

FITNESS

Enhance Your Fitness

Get 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 on Zoom
Ages 55 and up
Tuesdays, 9–10 a.m.
Through December 10
\$6



TRIP

Trip to Strathmore Art Gallery

We'll visit the Strathmore Mansion Art Gallery in North Bethesda, Maryland, to enjoy two art exhibits at this popular venue. ArtFlow: selections from three family's collections of art, artifacts, and ephemera of the African American, Caribbean, and African Diaspora. In the Company of Trees: a celebration of trees growing in forests, jungles, parks, and backyards across continents and terranes. Afterwards, check out the gift shop. Dress comfortably and wear comfortable shoes. A fair amount of standing and walking. Rain or shine. Registration is required.

Meet at Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Wednesday, October 23
12:30–3:30 p.m.
\$5

MONSTER BASH IS COMING!

Starting at Takoma Park Middle School, ending on Maple Avenue
Saturday, October 26, starting at 1 p.m.

All ages
Free

The City of Takoma Park Recreation Department will be hosting our annual Monster Bash on Saturday, October 26. Our events will commence with a Bash Kick-off at 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Middle School parking lot.

If you live or work along the parade route, we encourage you to participate in the festivities by decorating your front doors or windows and dressing up in a costume!



The **Bash Kick-off** at 1 p.m. will be a great opportunity to visit with neighbors, family, and friends while having fun. This will be followed by the **Costume Contest and Parade**. We will end our program with an **Award Ceremony and Celebration** along Maple Avenue. The parade will begin at approximately 2 p.m. on Piney Branch Road. We will then walk down Piney Branch Road to Philadelphia Avenue, then to Maple Avenue for the Awards Ceremony and a fabulous concert.

In the event of inclement weather, the Monster Bash will be moved to Takoma Park Middle School and the road closures will be lifted. To receive an update on weather conditions, please call our inclement weather line at 301-891-7101 ext. 5605.

We look forward to seeing everyone's cute, scary and creative costumes!

More information at takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation/monster-bash.



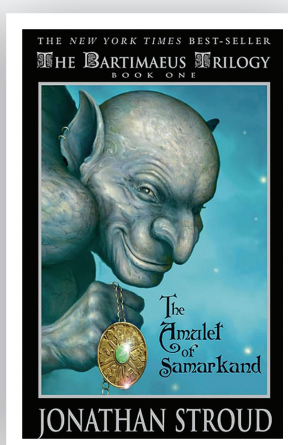
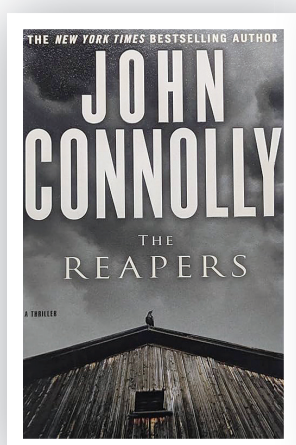
SPOOKY

■ From page 6

The Amulet of Samarkand, by Jonathan Stroud. This one is pretty creepy. Most of the action happens at night in a very moody, rainy London, following a teenaged magician apprentice who has gone rogue and summoned a powerful djinni named Bartimaeus ...

For adults: This selection has both fiction and nonfiction, because sometimes nonfiction is the spookiest of all.

Mexican Gothic, by Silvia Moreno Garcia. The first word that comes to mind when I think of this book is "moody." The setting is dark and foggy and cloistered,



with secretive characters and an underlying sense from the reader that the protagonist needs to find a way out. This is a great spooky season read, especially if you like Shirley. And speaking of ...

The Haunting of Hill House, by Shirley Jackson. It's a classic for a reason—talk about atmospheric. This is a ghost story of the highest caliber.

I'll Be Gone in the Dark, by Michelle McNamara. I have a complicated relationship with true crime, but I knew that I would like this book as soon as I read Gillian Flynn's introduction where she notes that the genre inherently profits off of people's traumas and that McNamara recognized this, treating the material with all due respect and care for the victims and their families. That doesn't mean it's not terrifying, it just means that she's seeking to expose the Golden State Killer instead of sensationalizing them, of which she does a fantastic job.

The Reapers, by John Connolly. I love this whole series, and one of the things I especially love is that even though it's a series with recurring characters, many of the books can stand alone. *The Reapers* is definitely one of those books, and it centers on two of the supporting characters (Louis and Angel) rather than the main one (Charlie Parker). If your idea of spooky involves Spanish moss taking over the South, this may be a good one for you.

Hopefully this will help kick off your spooky season properly, but also, feel free to email me if you want more recommendations!

Last, remember that there is a Best Literary Costume category in the costume contest at Monster Bash! The prize is, predictably, bookish.

At Your SERVICE



Halloween Safety Tips

At the end of the month, little witches, ghosts, and goblins will roam our streets in search of treats. Halloween is an exciting time for children of all ages, but we want to make sure they understand how to keep themselves safe, whether they are with their parents or out with friends.

Before Trick-or-Treating

- Make sure your child's costume is bright and reflective since it will become dark outside during their trick-or-treating. If it's not, consider putting reflective tape or striping on their costumes.
- Make sure children's shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough that they don't find themselves tripping.
- Put your child's name, address, and phone number somewhere on them, especially for little ones, in case they get separated from you.
- Review "Stop-Drop-Roll" with your child in case their costume does come in contact with fire.

During Trick-or-Treating

- Use a flashlight to see and be seen.
- Stay in a group, walk slowly, and communicate about where you are going.

- Only trick-or-treat in well-known neighborhoods to homes that have a porch light on.
- Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
- If no sidewalk is available, walk at the farthest edge of the roadway facing traffic.
- Never cut across yards or use alleys.
- Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat.
- Obey all traffic and pedestrian regulations.
- Always walk, never run across a street.
- Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks.
- Remove any mask or item that will limit eyesight before crossing a street, driveway, or alley.
- Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing trick-or-treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will.
- Never consume unwrapped food items or open beverages that may be offered.
- No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an adult at home. Please be safe and have a Happy Halloween from the Takoma Park Police Department!

Weekly Crime Reports

To enhance transparency and keep our community well-informed, the Takoma Park Police has expanded their communication initiatives. In addition to the regular daily news releases and community advisories, the department has introduced a comprehensive weekly crime report that is disseminated to the community.

Unlike the selective nature of news releases or advisories, this weekly report aims to provide residents with a broader understanding of the overall crime landscape within the city. It includes details on incidents that may not typically be featured in the daily updates, offering a more inclusive and detailed perspective on the safety and security of our community.

POLICE Page 16

Get Boosted!

By Claudine Schweber, Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee

COVID-19 Is Still Here

This is not a Halloween trick—it's reality! There's been a COVID-19 surge in infections. Emergency room visits and hospitalizations due to the virus have increased. But here's the good news: mRNA vaccines for people 12 years and older have been developed and approved—with emergency use authorized by the CDC for the same vaccines for children 6 months to 11 years old. Get protected with a simple booster shot!

Update Your Emergency Contact List

Fall is also the time to update your emergency contact list. Make sure the people are still willing and able to be your emergency contact.

Be aware and be prepared. If you have an emergency preparedness question, reach out to tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301- 891-7126.

Important Dates

National Faith & Blue

Saturday, October 12, 2–5 p.m.
Corner of Sligo Creek Parkway and Maple Avenue

Join Takoma Park Police and faith-based leaders for our National Faith & Blue community block party. Bring your family and friends for an afternoon of fun and community bonding. Thousands of LEGOS, giveaways, refreshments, and raffle prizes. Keep what you build! More information at takomaparkmd.gov/police.



Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day

Saturday, October 26, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
7500 Maple Ave.

The Takoma Park Police Department will be participating in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. This campaign allows the public to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Bring your medications to the Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Ave. (first-floor lobby or outside).



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, residents looking to dispose of excess and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications can visit the safe and secure permanent drop-off location at the first floor lobby, by the Police Department office, 7500 Maple Ave. The collection site is open

24-hours-a-day, seven days a week. Drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked. The Takoma Park Police Department will collect and store all items and then safely dispose of them through accepted practices.

Items that CANNOT be left are liquids, inhalers, aerosol cans, regular household ointments/lotions, needles/sharps, and/or thermometers.

More information at takomaparkmd.gov/police. If you have questions, please contact Cathy Plevy at cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov.

Throughout October

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

We are collecting care packages for victims, survivors, and families affected by domestic violence. We're collecting essential items for domestic violence shelters to support survivors on their journey to safety and healing. Your contribution can change lives. Here are some ideas:

- **Kits for men/teen boys:** men's grooming products, toiletry items, and comb/brush.
- **Kits for women/teen Girls:** feminine products, toiletry items, and comb/brush.
- **Make-up kit:** small compact mirror, make-up, and comb/brush.
- **Kits for kids:** toiletry items, stuffed animal, book, comb/brush, coloring book and crayons.
- **Kits for babies:** baby wipes, toiletry items for babies, stuffed animal, children's book, baby blanket, onesie, and hairbrush for infants.
- **Kits for toddlers:** toiletry items for young children, stuffed animal, book, coloring book and crayons, and comb/brush.
- **School supplies kits:** backpack and school supplies (notebooks, pens, pencils, coloring pencils, markers, lined loose leaf paper, binders, ruler, calculator, pen/pencil bag, etc.)
- **Winter kits:** coat, hat, scarf, gloves, pack of tissues and Chapstick

We will be collecting items September 30–November 1. More information at takomaparkmd.gov/police.



Community ACTIVITIES

The HalfSmokes

Friday, October 4, 7–10 p.m.
VFW Post 350 in Hell's Bottom
6420 Orchard Ave.

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. No cover charge.

Takoma Park Street Festival

Sunday, October 6, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Old Takoma on Carroll Avenue (Maryland) and Carroll Street (D.C.)

The popular Takoma Park Street Festival returns for its 43rd year of music, vendors, food, and fun in Takoma Park. Festivalgoers will enjoy the day exploring over 165 vendors booths, live music from 18 local bands, food trucks, and more. Takoma's unique shops, restaurants, and cafes are all open and welcoming visitors. More information at mainstreettakoma.org.

Historic Takoma's Reading Room

Sunday, October 6 and 20, 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.

The Green Way Vol. 12

Sunday, October 6, 5 p.m.
7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

The Green Way Reading Series is a monthly literary event, curated by Simon Shieh and Takoma Park's Poet Laureate Taylor Johnson. The series centers emerging and established poets and artists in interdisciplinary, intergenerational and cross-regional dialogues. October brings Sasha Marvin, a writer, performer, and urban and architectural designer from Southeastern Virginia, and Ama Codjoe, author of *Bluest Nude* and finalist for the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Poetry. More information at peoplesbooktakoma.com.

Nature Stories

Saturday, October 19, 2–4 p.m.
Opal Daniel's Neighborhood Park
7515 Hancock Ave.

Nature's Stories is a nature, art, and storytelling event hosted by the Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School. All children in attendance will have the opportunity to make multiple nature crafts and go on a scavenger hunt. This is followed by a very special invitation to create a story together as a group and using newly made crafts. Every child will go home with a nature-themed

book, thanks to a generous donation from Kind Cotton. There is also a playground at the park and light snacks and drinks will be available.

Halloween Costume Swap

Sunday, October 20, 2–4 p.m.
Fulfillery
7006 Carroll Ave.

Ongoing

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Sundays, year-round, 9 a.m.–1 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. More information at takomaparkmarket.com.

Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesdays through November,
10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.

Anne Street at University Boulevard East

The 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. All federal nutrition benefits (SNAP, WIC, Senior/WIC FMNP) are accepted and matched dollar-for-dollar with Crossroads' Fresh Checks—up to \$50 each week. More information at crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org.

Takoma Spark Open Mic

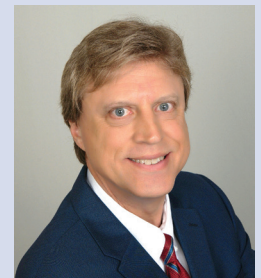
Tuesdays, 7–9:30 p.m.
School of Musical Traditions
7112 Willow Ave.

Hosted by Rob Hinkal of ilyAIMY 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.

Takoma Jazz

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

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



Questions, concerns, or ideas?

Reach out to
City Manager Rob DiSpirito
robertd@takomaparkmd.gov
or 301-891-7202.

POLICE

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To sign up, visit takomaparkmd.gov/police and search for "weekly crime reports."

Avoid Election Season Scams

With the 2024 election just a month away, many people are getting a lot of text messages claiming to be from political parties and candidates.

Scammers are taking advantage of polit-

ical passion by tricking people into handing over their personal information. Some messages could be meant to trick people into giving them money under the guise of a donation to a political cause.

The three most common election season scams are political donation scams, fake surveys/polls, and voter registration scams. If it's an unsolicited text, don't respond, don't click. If you are inclined to donate to a campaign, you can reach out directly to the local election offices.

Coming in November

Coat Drive

Do you have coats, gloves, or scarves that you don't need anymore? Donate them! The Takoma Park Police Department, in partnership with Adventist Church, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, and others will be collecting clean, gently used warm coats, gloves/mittens and scarves in any size, from infant to adult.

Beginning November 4, a large box will be in the lobby of the Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Ave. More information at takomaparkmd.gov/police.



THREE COMMON ELECTION SEASON SCAMS

POLITICAL DONATION SCAMS	FAKE SURVEYS/POLLS	VOTER REGISTRATION SCAMS
<p><small>Cybercriminals reach out to you by phone, email or social media posing as a political action committee (PAC) to steal money or personal information.</small></p>	<p><small>Fraudsters contact you by phone, email or social media pretending to be a political volunteer asking you to take part in a survey/poll.</small></p>	<p><small>Scammers, posing as election officials, contact you by phone, email or in-person. They ask you to update your voter registration or tell you that you can register to vote over the phone.</small></p>
<p>RECOGNIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They call you unexpectedly and rush you into making a donation. • They ask for personal or financial information. • The website doesn't provide any contact information. 	<p>RECOGNIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They use questions that ask for personal or financial information. • They ask questions about controversial topics to get you fired up. • They offer compensation/prizes for participation and ask you to purchase gift cards to process shipping charges and/or taxes for the prize. 	<p>RECOGNIZE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They say they need your personal information to confirm your voter registration or to help you register. • The communication comes from someone other than your state or local election official. • They ask you to pay to complete your voter registration paperwork.
<p>RECOVER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you made a donation or shared your financial information, contact your bank or financial institution to close or change any compromised accounts. • Report the scam. Visit FightCybercrime.org to find out where to report. • If you provided personal information, go to annualcreditreport.com to check your credit report for unusual activity. 	<p>RECOVER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit IdentityTheft.gov from the Federal Trade Commission to create a personalized plan for recovery. • Report the scam. Visit FightCybercrime.org to find out where to report. • If you provided personal information, go to annualcreditreport.com to check your credit report for unusual activity. 	<p>RECOVER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow the Identity Theft Victim Recovery Checklist by The National Center for Victims of Crime. • Report the scam. Visit FightCybercrime.org to find out where to report. • If you provided personal information, go to annualcreditreport.com to check your credit report for unusual activity.

For more recovery tips and resources, visit FightCybercrime.org

CybercrimeSupport.org | FightCybercrime.org | ScamSpotter.org
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In Memoriam: Leo Mangum

It is with a heavy heart that the Takoma Park Police Department announces the passing of Leo Mangum on August 8. A longtime resident of Geneva Avenue and the property and evidence manager with the department, Leo had spent 20 years as a Montgomery County police officer, a service of which he was quite proud. Leo had a distinguished career, serving many years as a Montgomery County Police Academy instructor, where he taught many on the Takoma Park force how to be police officers. Leo was also proud of his service in the Air Force, and was a fixture at the Silver Spring Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post, where he served as a bartender.



Leo's infectious personality and openness brought joy to his colleagues, his friends, and his family. He touched so many in a meaningful and sincere way. He is survived by his daughter, Michelle, and his grandsons, Jayden and Jordan. Leo joins his wife, Noelle, who passed last year.

Thank you for your service, Leo. We miss you.