

Takoma Park News



Important Dates

City offices and facilities are closed on the following dates:

New Year:
Monday, January 1
Monday routes will be collected on Tuesday.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day:
Monday, January 15
Monday routes will be collected on Tuesday.

President's Day:
Monday, February 19
Monday routes will be collected on Tuesday.

Public Hearings

**Montgomery County Council Hearing:
Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment**
Thursday, January 25, 7–9 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Rd.
Takoma Park, MD
Virtual attendance available: See City website for details.

Community Events

A Cat's Life Rescue Adoption Drive
Sunday, January 21, 1–3 p.m.
The Big Bad Woof
6960 Maple St. NW
Takoma DC

Mid-Winter Play Day
Sunday, February 11, 1–4 p.m.

Takoma Park Egg Hunt
Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m.
Ed Wilhelm Field

Takoma Park City Council Looks Toward Annapolis

by Eric Bond

On Wednesday, December 6, the Takoma Park City Council welcomed Maryland's District 20 delegation to the council chamber to discuss priorities in the 2024 Maryland General Assembly, which will convene on January 10. Senator Will Smith, Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, and Delegate David Moon joined the discussion live, with Delegate Lorig Charkoudian joining remotely from Austin, Texas, where she was attending the National Conference of State Legislators on Energy Security.

Delegate Charkoudian focused on climate justice, pedestrian safety, mental health, and food issues during her remarks, which she gave at the top of the meeting due to her short time window. She said that this year she is focusing on networked geothermal as a possible way to electrify entire neighborhoods efficiently. She expressed her commitment to the Vision Zero pedestrian safety goals. And she said that she will be working on legislation to reduce food waste and make sure that food insecure families are being fed.

Turning to the members of the delegation in the council chamber, Mayor Talisha Searcy emphasized that in April 2023, the council adopted five priorities to ensure that "our community advances a community of belonging; has a fiscally sustainable government; is environmentally sustainable; encourages community development for an improved and equitable quality of life; and has an engaged, responsive, and service-oriented government." She asked the delegation to consider how it can help

the City advance these priorities.

Several councilmembers followed the mayor's remarks with comments and queries.

Ward 5 Councilmember Cara Honzak said that the council specifically "supports legislative efforts to expand both public and private health insurance to people without legal documentation." She added that the council supports "legislative and budget initiatives that make childcare services more accessible and affordable." Honzak also said that municipalities like Takoma Park need additional funds to address community mental health service, citing the crisis intervention team that was put in place in Takoma Park during the pandemic, using funds from the American Relief Plan (ARPA).

Ward 1 Councilmember Shana Fulcher then told the state legislators that the city wants to "explore potential sources of new revenue streams for municipalities such as the authority to collect a sales tax, receive a percentage of sales tax collected in the jurisdiction, [and] receive a portion of revenue generated by alcohol and tobacco sales." She also said that the council is interested in seeing a change to calculations for homeowner and renter property tax credit programs.

Ward 2 Councilmember Cindy Dyballa asked the delegation to support legislation that prohibits deceptive recycling claims on packaging and products, to support the Responding to Emergency Needs



Photo by Eric Bond

Maryland Senator Will Smith, left, Takoma Park Mayor Talisha Searcy, center, and Delegate David Moon discuss priorities in the 2024 Maryland General Assembly at a council meeting last month. State Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins was also in attendance, while Delegate Lorig Charkoudian streamed in remotely.

CITY COUNCIL □ Page 3

Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment Moves Forward to the Montgomery County Council

On December 13, the City Council passed Resolution 2023-38, supporting the adoption and transmittal of the Planning Board Draft to the Montgomery County Council of the Minor Master Plan Amendment, with conditions. The vote was 6-1, with Ward 3 Councilmember Randy Gibson voting no. The resolution included conditions that address development scale on the Washington Adventist Hospital and University campuses, housing style diversity, and school limitations at Piney Branch Elementary School as well as recommendations related to changes to the City's rent stabilization policy and the inclusion of a housing resource list.

On December 14, the Montgomery Planning Board held Worksession #6 on the Minor Master Plan. The Board discussed each point in the City's resolution, making amendments and decisions as they worked through the documents. At the end of the discussion, the Planning Board took two votes:

- Vote to approve the Public Hearing Draft as the Planning Board draft and to transmit it to the County Council and County Executive. This passed with a unanimous approval.
- Approve listing the following properties to the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Properties: Heffner Park Community Center (42 Oswego Avenue); Krestview (7625 Carroll Avenue); and The Sligo Seventh-Day Adventist Church (7700 Carroll Avenue). This passed with a unanimous approval.

County Council Public Hearing

The Montgomery County Council will hold a public hearing on the Minor Master Plan on January 25 at 7 p.m. at Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Rd. The meeting will also be available via Zoom. If the facility is closed due to inclement weather, the hearing will be held on February 1 at Takoma Park Middle School.

The deadline to sign up to speak at the meeting is January 24, at 5 p.m. A sign-up link is available on the City of Takoma Park website on the Minor Master Plan Amendment page. The agenda is also available on that page, along with information about the scope and process of the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment.

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Building Community 3

Arts 5

Library 6

Recreation 8

At Your Service 10

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

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

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On the DOCKET

CITY COUNCIL

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly City Council agenda and committee calendar update by email can sign up by sending a message to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

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

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

(Meeting start times can change. Please check the agenda page on the City website to confirm the time.)

- Wednesday, January 10—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, January 17—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, January 24—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, January 31—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, February 7—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium

Closed Session/Administrative Notice Disclaimer

From time-to-time circumstances may require the City Council to meet in closed session or an administrative session to protect City interests and the interests of others. The Council, through staff, will make every effort to provide as much advance notice as possible of any administrative session or closed session. The City Council also reserves the right to adjourn an open meeting and proceed with an administrative session or closed session, with or without notice, pursuant to Maryland Code, § 3-104 of the General Provisions Article or Maryland Code, § 3-305 of the General Provisions Article, and any other applicable provisions of the Open Meetings Act..

CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Check the calendar on the City website for the most up-to-date information on Council and committee meetings, including links to access meetings and agendas. Visit takomaparkmd.gov and click on “Events and Meetings.” Most City boards and committees continue to meet on Zoom. Some are holding hybrid meetings (both in-person and over Zoom).

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, January 23, 7:30 p.m.
(Community Center, Hydrangea Room)

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Tuesday, January 25, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date/Time to be announced (Zoom)

POLICE CHIEF’S ADVISORY BOARD

Date/Time TBA (hybrid: in-person and over Zoom)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 18, 7 p.m. (hybrid: in-person and over Zoom)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND CERTIFIED COMMITTEE

Monday, January 8, 7 p.m.
(Community Center, Hydrangea Room and over Zoom)

Monday, January 22, 7 p.m.
(Community Center, Hydrangea Room and over Zoom)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Date/Time to be announced

ADA NOTICE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing is invited to contact Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 as early as possible.

CouncilAction

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

November 29, 2023

- Resolution 2023-36 Adopting the Public Space Management Plan

December 6, 2023

- Resolution 2023-37 Ratifying a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Takoma Park and AFSCME 3399
- Ordinance 2023-28 Amending the Annual Budget to Fund a Resolution of the Takoma Junction Project (FY 2024 Budget Amendment No. 2)

December 13, 2023

- Resolution 2023-38 Supporting the Planning Board Draft of the Minor Master Plan Amendment, with Conditions. (Councilmember Gibson voted no.)
- Resolution 2023-39 Authorizing the Use of FY22 State Revitalization Program National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (NED) Grant Award Funds to Ensure the Affordability of 7402 and 7406 Garland Avenue
- Resolution 2023-40 Adopting FY25 Budget Priorities
- Resolution 2023-41 Setting Forth Dates for the City Council’s Holiday Recess (December 14, 2023, through January 9, 2024)

Apply to Serve on City Boards and Committees (Deadline: January 10)

Current vacancies on boards and committees:

- Arts and Humanities Committee
- Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs
- Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Ethics Commission
- Grants Review Committee
- Recreation and Community Engagement Committee
- Sustainable Maryland Committee
- Tree Commission

The City Council welcomes residents with all different types of experience and knowledge to

apply to serve on boards and committees. Your experience living in Takoma Park and interacting with our community on a daily basis and/or working in your chosen profession can give you what you need to participate.

Appointed board and committee members are eligible to receive \$40 for each meeting attended. To apply, go to takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/.

Questions? Contact Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267.

Focus on the Recreation and Community Engagement Committee

The Recreation and Community Engagement Committee works collaboratively with City staff to support recreation programs and events that bring our diverse community together. Over the years we have been involved in the Winter Basketball League, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Celebrate Takoma, Play Day, the Children’s Garden, and other events and activities, including clean-ups of public spaces. A fun

group, we meet once a month, currently by Zoom. We are looking for Takoma Park residents who want to contribute ideas. No special expertise needed, just a desire to make Takoma Park an even better place to live. Apply by January 10.

Questions? Email City Clerk Jessie Carpenter, jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov, or Committee Chair Ellen Marcus, ellen@actsofpaint.com.

Engage With Your City Government!

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

of past meetings.

If you are unsure about which ward you are in, check the ward map and street directory, also available through the City Council page. On the next page, you will find contact information for the mayor and city council.

GOVERNMENT ☐ Page 3



Mayor Talisha Searcy



Shana Fulcher



Cindy Dyballa



Randy Gibson



Terry Seamens



Cara Honzak



Jason Small

Building COMMUNITY

Volunteer for Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

By Sean Gossard

Just months before his assassination, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. spoke to an Atlanta congregation on service saying, “Everybody can be great, because everybody can serve ... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

Monday, Jan. 15, marks the birthday of the country’s great civil rights leader and has grown into a day—and week—to take time volunteering around your community.

In Takoma Park and across Montgomery County and D.C., there are plenty of opportunities to give back through service.

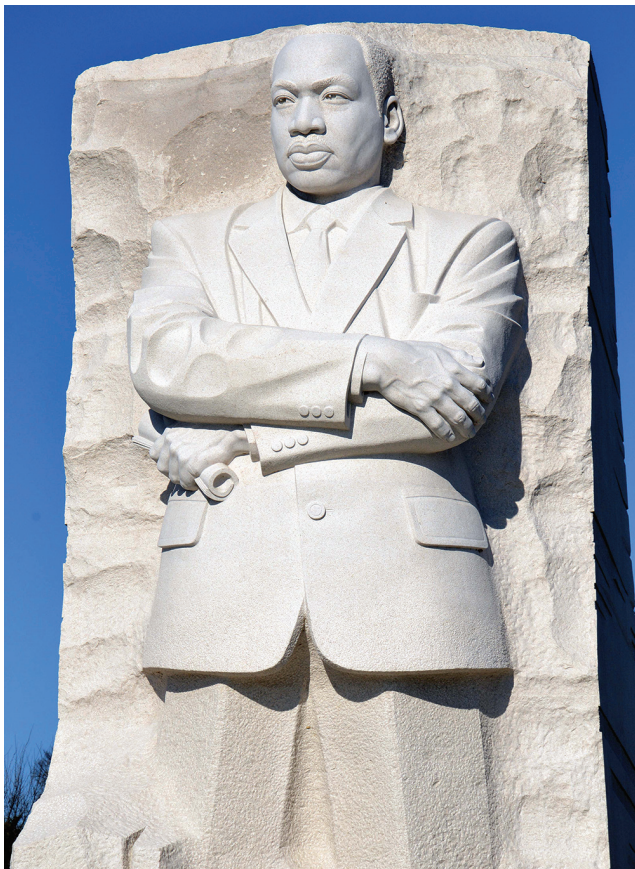
Here are just a few of the local organizations with which you can look to volunteer around Takoma Park:

Tommy’s Pantry—started in March of 2020 and named after the late son of Rep. Jamie Raskin—distributes shelf-stable food boxes, hygiene items, cleaning products, and fresh produce boxes once per month, offering support to local households facing hardship. For more, visit tommyspantry.org.

Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington has been around since 1983 as the collective health and welfare service of several local church congregations, according to its website. ACSGW distributes food, diapers and other necessities to the community. They also provide youth development, health and fitness and workforce skills. For more, visit acsgw.org.

The **Potomac Conservancy** will be holding a Potomac River cleanup for MLK Jr. Day of Service at Fort Foote Park on Saturday, January 13, 9–11 a.m. The group holds clean-ups throughout the year. For more information or to register, visit potomac.org.

The **Justice Arts Coalition** works to unite artists, advocates, and others who have been incarcerated to reimagine justice. The group hopes to build a nationwide collective to



increase opportunities for creative expression in carceral settings. For more, visit thejusticeartscoalition.org.

Small Things Matter was founded on the idea that small acts of kindness can make a big impact on someone’s life. Volunteers of all ages can help serve their community through either in-person or at-home activities like baking cookies, bagging rice and beans, or distributing food. The group also promotes youth literacy. Small Things Matter will be holding a Kindness Day in Honor of Tommy Raskin at Piney Branch Elementary School on Saturday, January 27, 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Feed the Fridge is an organization that is bringing nourishment where there is hunger while helping small, local restaurants stay in business. The group places refrigerators around the Greater D.C. area—including a location at the Takoma Park Community Center—and paying local restaurants to fill them with fresh meals daily. They also deliver meals to those who may not be able to travel easily. To donate, visit feedthefridge.org/#donate.

MANNA is another group working to eliminate hunger through food distribution, education, and advocacy. The group is always looking for volunteers ages 11 and up to help sort, pack, and distribute food at their Gaithersburg warehouse and throughout the community. Last year, over 12,000 volunteers donated more than 25,000 hours, according to the organization’s website. To volunteer, visit mannafood.org.

Meals on Wheels of Takoma Park/Silver Spring delivers healthy and delicious meals to homebound neighbors. Volunteers can help prepare fresh meals in their Takoma Park kitchen or get their deliveries to those who need them most. Visit mowtakoma.org for more.

Montgomery County will be holding an in-person event at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel to celebrate King’s legacy with a day of service and community engagement. The volunteer fair will go from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. and include projects like assembling Bags of Hope for community members in need and “Snow Day” boxes with Meals on Wheels for homebound seniors. There will also be craft kits for children in hospitals and decorating favor bags and keychains with Pop for a Cause.

For more on this event, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/MLK.html.

There are plenty of other amazing places to volunteer in and around Takoma Park. For more volunteering opportunities, visit volunteer.gov.

GOVERNMENT

■ From page 2

- Mayor **Talisha Searcy**: talishas@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 1 Councilmember **Shana Fulcher**: shanaf@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 2 Councilmember **Cindy Dyballa**: cindydy@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 3 Councilmember **Randy Gibson**: randallg@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 4 Councilmember **Terry Seamens**: terrys@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 5 Councilmember **Cara Honzak**: carah@takomaparkmd.gov
- Ward 6 Councilmember **Jason Small**: jasons@takomaparkmd.gov

You can follow news from the mayor and city staff on the city blog at takomaparkmd.gov. To receive news in your inbox, sign up for e-newsletters and alerts by going to the city website and searching for “sign up.” You can receive the Takoma Insider weekly e-newsletter, alerts for Council Agendas and Committee Meetings, police bulletins, and Takoma Arts updates.

In addition, several councilmembers maintain blogs or weekly e-newsletters with updates specific to council actions and their ward. Contact your councilmember to be added to their mailing list.

CITY COUNCIL

■ From page 1

from Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act, to invest in disaster relief and preparedness, and to support progress on climate solutions. Dyballa said that climate legislation should specifically support municipal construction projects and stormwater mitigation efforts.

For his turn, Ward Six Councilmember Jason Small mentioned the City’s commitment to housing and economic development and Vision Zero goals to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries.

“Specifically, we’re asking the D-20 delegation to pass legislation requiring the State Highway Administration to increase its responsiveness to the pedestrian and cyclist safety needs,” said Small.

He also emphasized that the City should have the authority to enact just-cause eviction laws and that he would like to see further support in terms of budget and legislation to “significantly increase the stock of affordable housing, including housing for the missing middle and for people with disabilities.”

Mayor Searcy then added a few requests. Echoing Honzak, Searcy mentioned the pilot program that brought two mental health counselors to the city. She said that the City needs additional space to “adequately implement and sustain” the program. Space has been allocated in the \$1.2 million capital project to renovate the community center, but that an additional \$200,000 would help ensure that this program finds space in the renovated building.

Senator Smith responded that the mental

health counseling program resonates with him because of work that he has done at the intersection of mental health and the criminal justice system.

Delegate Moon added that the \$200,000 request is reasonable and in alignment with the goals and values of the delegation, but he cautioned that 2024 is “heading into tight budget times.”

“The era of those pandemic surpluses is more or less over,” said Moon. He highlighted that there is already an underfunded commitment to the Blueprint for Maryland’s future, an education plan passed in 2021 that commits a \$3.8 billion increase to education every year for ten years.

Moon pointed out that transportation is taking cuts and that he is trying to “steer that towards unnecessary highway projects and preserve our Ride-on transit, Marc, and WMATA funding to the maximum extent possible along with our pedestrian safety upgrades on state highways.”

“I really do think the budget ... impacts all of our policies,” said Moon. “That’s the big story for the year that we’re heading into.”

Moon emphasized that Governor Wes Moore has reinstated the program—shut down under Governor Larry Hogan—to allow non-citizens to be licensed for child-care. He also mentioned the support of the District 20 team regarding bills that can bring more affordable housing to Montgomery County. And he reiterated Smith’s work on advancing bills that address mental health when it comes to the criminal justice system.

CITY COUNCIL □ Page 4



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:

ኮታቸ ያለውን ደህን ክፉ ይፈልጉ የዚህ መጽሔቱ አርስዎ ራስዎ ኖቸው በኢሉቱ ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ተርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታሪካዊ ክፍል ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀ ካደረግን በኋላ ስጽሑፁ አገኛላል፣ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥግ ላይ ታላቅሰዋል የአሰሳ አምሴን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን፡

City Council Unanimously Approves New Plan for Public Spaces

On November 29, the City Council unanimously adopted the Takoma Park Public Space Management Plan. Five years in the making, the plan lays out a comprehensive framework for how to manage the public spaces around the City, including parks, plazas, streeteries, sidewalks, roadways, and all the associated amenities.

The Plan presents 37 recommendations for adjustments to City policies, practices, and programs that would serve to fill existing policy gaps, improve equitable outcomes, and create more efficient, comprehensive management of the City’s public spaces. Below is a sampling of the recommendations that City staff are eager to begin working on:

Utilize the Project Evaluation Scorecard to inform priorities for project review and approval. This tool uses a comprehensive set of criteria to evaluate new capital infrastructure projects. Each project, upon initiation, would receive a score based on the criteria. The score, accompanied by a justification narrative to explain the rationale, would be used by staff to help prioritize projects, with special attention toward racial equity, environmental sustainability, and safety.

Continue to utilize the city’s Capital Improvement Program to close public space gaps and address priority safety and accessibility concerns. Aided by the Project Evaluation Scorecard, City staff are excited to expand opportunities to address gaps in access to local parks, accessible



The Laurel Avenue Streeter.

sidewalks, flood risk areas, and more!

Review existing resident infrastructure request processes through an equity lens, and consolidate them for clarity, ease of use, and equitable allocation of resources. The existing processes for residents to request new traffic calming measures (such as speed humps and intersection narrowing) and new sidewalks are confusing to understand. And they tend to favor efforts by well-organized resident groups, in support or opposition, instead of using safety data or concerns for vulnerable groups of people, like children or seniors. A revisited set of policies would offer

an opportunity to advance new infrastructure where it’s needed most urgently.

Establish and fund a need-based playground and park equipment evaluation process and replacement schedule based on existing conditions and equity. The playgrounds around Takoma Park come in a range of sizes, styles, and needs for updating. The wear and tear on equipment varies widely based on the volume of use, the styles of equipment, and even how shady or sunny it is in a location. The existing timelines for maintenance and updates also does not take into consideration

equitable distribution of appropriate playground facilities. This recommendation could yield a more systematic approach to upgrading or replacing playground equipment than currently exists.

Re-evaluate parking meter and parking permit fee rates to more closely align with the rates and policies of neighboring jurisdictions. Parking is a powerful tool to manage traffic, support local businesses, and encourage drivers to park in some areas and not others. However, the pricing and practice of many of the City’s parking management strategies have not been updated in over a decade. A re-evaluation would offer the City a chance to look at what’s working well and what needs to be updated.

Implement more green stormwater practices in public spaces. The Department of Public Works is already undertaking a Stormwater Resiliency Study to identify new opportunities to mitigate flooding in vulnerable areas around the City. Staff are eager to take those recommendations and identify additional funding and strategies to incorporate stormwater management infrastructure that nourishes the environment in addition to mitigating flood impacts.

To learn more about the newly adopted Public Space Management Plan, visit the City’s project page: bit.ly/publicspacemanagementplan.

Planning Division Project Updates

Maple Avenue Connectivity Project

- Feedback on the preliminary designs wrapped in December, and the consulting team is consolidating the feedback into a draft design to share with the public in the coming months.

Metropolitan Branch Trail Upgrade

- This project was awarded \$465,000 to create construction-ready designs.

New Avenue Bikeway–Section A

- The consulting team continues to work on the final construction-ready designs; this project has suffered from delays negotiating permits with public utility companies.

New Avenue Bikeway–Section B

- The consulting team continues to work on the final, construction-ready designs; this project has suffered from delays negotiating permits with public utility companies.

New Avenue Bikeway–Section D

City staff are seeking funding opportunities to advance the existing preliminary designs to final, construction-ready designs.

Find out more about these and other projects on the City website, takomaparkmd.gov. Search for “Planning and Community Development.”

CITY COUNCIL

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Delegate Wilkins said that she will continue this year to work on a bill that will provide undocumented residents with access to health insurance. Like Smith and Moon, she said that affordable housing will be a priority for her. She will work again on legislation that requires landlords to provide a reason if they decide not to renew a lease. Last year, she co-sponsored a bill “that put \$30 million in state funds to get people housed who are on [the housing voucher] waiting list.”

Wilkins also expressed her commitment to improving the health care, saying that she will “champion” legislation dealing with lung and breast cancer, particularly when it comes to making sure that insurance pays for additional diagnostic testing. She also mentioned that Black women are four times more likely to die in childbirth in Maryland. She wants to see a closer look at the data so that those deaths can be averted.

Finally, Wilkins expressed her commitment to the Blueprint, mentioned earlier by

Moon.

“I want our constituents to know that we are fully committed to ensuring that the Blueprint for Maryland is funded; that our schools do meet the goals that we set out in the Blueprint, which includes early childhood education expansion, which includes raises for our teachers, which includes expanding our community schools, and so many other important provisions.”

Following these main remarks, members of the council and delegation continued to discuss issues in the upcoming General Assembly. In addition to the conversation among City Councilmembers and the Delegation, several residents spoke. The complete meeting can be watched on the City of Takoma Park’s YouTube page.

You can follow the Maryland General Assembly at mgaleg.maryland.gov. Each member of the District 20 Delegation can be followed through the site (search on name). In addition, Senator Will Smith, Delegate David Moon, and Delegate Lorig Charkoudian have websites (willsmithformaryland.com, davidmoon.us, and lorig20.com).

Tenants → Owners



Interested in owning your apartment building with your neighbors? If so, you may be eligible for assistance in the purchase of the building and in making needed repairs to extend the life of the home!

Contact the Housing Division:



Email:
housing@takomaparkmd.gov
Phone:
301-891-7119



Are you looking for the latest news from the Takoma Park city government?

Watch City Council meetings, public forums, and special local events on Takoma Park City TV online or in high definition on RCN channel 1060, Comcast’s Municipal Broadcast Network 997; or in standard definition on channels 13 (RCN Comcast) and 28 (Verizon). Also, find City TV on YouTube and Facebook..

The ARTS



iMusical Takes the Stage in Takoma Park

Friday, January 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
Free performance

What's going to happen during the iMusical performance at the Takoma Park Community Center?

No one is sure yet, including the actors since they will be improvising a live musical based on audience suggestions. The performance is free and no tickets or reservations are required.

"We've never hosted a performance like this one before in our *Takoma Park Arts* series so we're very excited about it," said Brendan Smith, the City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities coordinator. "I've

been to improv comedy shows, but I didn't know improv musicals were a thing until I heard about this talented group."

Based at the Washington Improv Theater, iMusical has performed at the Kennedy Center, theater spaces across the D.C. area, and comedy festivals in Philadelphia and New York. Founding director and accompanist Travis Ploeger created the improv group in 2006 after moving from New York City to D.C.

"I wanted to create an improvised musical not to satirize the genre but to celebrate it, having warmth and poignancy as well as comedy," he said. "I had seen Washington Improv Theater perform in festivals in New York, and I knew they would be a fantastic artistic partner for this idea."

After auditions, it took several months to develop the style and techniques for the first iMusical show which opened in 2006. Cast members have changed over the years with dozens of actors devising new musicals for every performance. The only original cast members that are left are Ploeger and Mark Chalfant, the artistic executive director at the Washington Improv Theater.

At the beginning of a performance, the group of about six actors will ask a question to the audience and receive suggestions usually related to the theme of the show. Then they will improvise a musical with piano accompaniment by Ploeger or musical director Michael O'Connor.

"Since I've been doing this show since

2006, we've had hundreds of audience suggestions, and it all becomes a blur after a while," Ploeger said. "The most memorable suggestion for me generally is from the last performance we did!"

The group's performances at the Kennedy Center have been a highlight.

"The production value and ethic there is so high, and filling their space with an enthusiastic crowd and getting the chance to share what we do best is really hard to top," Ploeger said. "Not many people get to say that they get to live out their artistic dreams on a regular basis, but Washington Improv Theater has let me do that now for a long time and I'll never forget it."

More *Takoma Park Arts* Events

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

Friday, February 9 at 7:30 pm
Franglais: Chanson, Jazz and Swing

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



their mesmerizing blend of jazz and gypsy swing. They are joined by other

talented musicians, usually a soloist and a bassist.

Friday, February 23 at 7:30 pm
***Soul of Langston* One-Man Play by Daron Stewart**

Soul of Langston sketches the life of American playwright, poet and civil rights activist Langston Hughes. Hughes went on from being a "busboy and poet" to become "Harlem's Wonder" who helped establish the Civil Rights movement through the Harlem Renaissance.

Daron Stewart takes the bittersweet wit and wisdom of Langston's poetry, fused with jazz and blues, and translates it into an inspiring story of resilience and persistence in a dynamic one-man play.



Takoma Park News

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The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov.



LIBRARY

Library and Computer Center Hours

Library and Computer Center hours

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

January holidays: The Library and Computer Center will be closed on January 1 for New Year’s Day and on January 14 and 15 to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.

Weather-related closure: Please check the City website before venturing out in inclement weather!

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

To protect our most vulnerable patrons and staff, the Library encourages everyone to continue to wear a mask while in the library, even though masks are optional in City facilities now.

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

Books-to-Go is continuing and **Books-to-You** (delivery for Takoma Park residents only) is back. Email librarytakomapark@gmail.com to order. Please note: if you are picking up a Books-to-Go order, please call the library’s main number, 301-891-7259.

Programs and Events

A Note about Program and Event

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

Language Exchange! ¡Intercambio de Idiomas! The Spanish and English conversation group meets on Thursday evenings, 6:30–7:30pm.



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

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

No formal classes, just casual conversation.

Lots of mistakes expected and encouraged. The group meets in person at the library’s interim location. All language levels are welcome. Registration is encouraged, but you can drop in whenever you wish.

Crochet and Cozies (all-ages program).

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

Neighborhood Circle Time. Join Ms. Kati and/or Ms. Verónica every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. for Circle Time, indoors in our interim library. We sing songs and have fun with fingerplays and rhymes. We 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 January 9, with Franklyn Johnson-Williams on the

drums! Jumpstart With the Arts is made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. No program on January 2.

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

Chess for Kids, Sundays at 11 a.m. Caregivers and kids are invited to play. Bring a chessboard and pieces if you like, but we have plenty. Players of all levels are welcome. There will be group instruction once a month. This is scheduled before the Library opens, so registration is important. No program on January 14.

LEGO Club. Come in and play with LEGOs on Sunday, January 7, 1–3 p.m.

Kids Art. In January it’s so nice/ while slipping on the sliding ice/ to sip hot chicken soup with rice! (Apologies to Maurice Sendak!) We won’t have hot soup at Kids Art in January, but we’ll have snowy-day-themed crafts to inspire us.

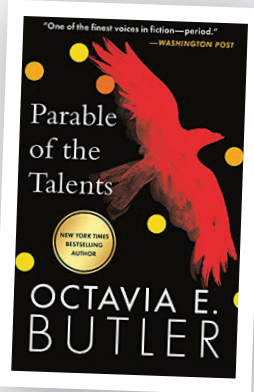
Sketch Club. After school art! Thursdays, 4–5:30 p.m. Join Dave Burbank and stretch your imagination and drawing skills. Registration is encouraged so that you can be notified of any changes, but is not required. No Sketch Club on January 4.

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

FTPML News

Book Group. The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) Book Group will be reading *Parable of the Talents* by Octavia Butler on January 11 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave. All are welcome. Please email ftpmlbook-group@gmail.com for more information.

Fundraiser! The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library is having a fundraiser on Friday, January 12 at the VFW Post 350, 6240 Orchard Ave., 7–9:45 p.m. Headlined by the Airport 77s and the Magmatics, this event will bring enthusiastic supporters of the Library and members of the Friends together, having fun and socializing, while also raising money for an important cause. Donations will be solicited at the door, food will



be available, and drinks will be sold by the VFW at very reasonable prices. Raffle tickets will be sold for you to win donations by local businesses.

Come socialize with friends and neighbors, hear some great music, and support our library. Over the past year Friends funding has supported multiple activities, including Spanish Circle Time, Jumpstart for the Arts, our WinterQuest and Summer-

Quest reading programs, author visits, our annual Solstice Celebration, and much more!

Please check the Friends’ website, ftpml.org, for more information.

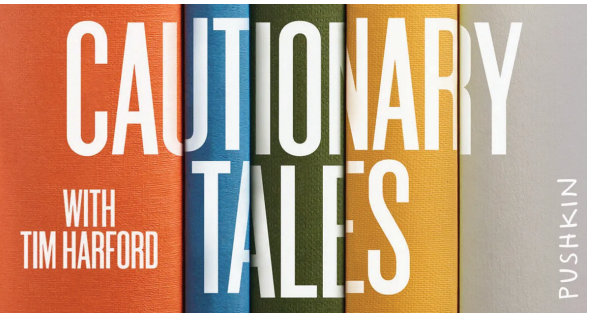
Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library board meetings take place on the fourth Monday of each month at the Library. Please see ftpml.org for details.

Listen to this!

by Christine Heidebrecht

Cautionary Tales with Tim Harford

This podcast features well-crafted stories from history, both known and unknown, with disastrous consequences that cause us to reevaluate and learn from our mistakes. I love this podcast because I don’t think we talk about our failures enough, and by doing so, we’ve allowed a false narrative to develop that if you are going to achieve anything you can never fail, causing analy-



PODCAST



REVIEW

sis paralysis or worse—never trying in the first place. By admitting our failures and our hubris we give ourselves space to learn and grow, hopefully without disastrous consequences!

Christine Heidebrecht is executive assistant to the City Manager.

Director’s column

Answering a Ridiculous Question with Library Sources—or What Happens When a Librarian Enters the Group Chat?

by Jessica Jones

Many of you are probably in group chat or text situations, probably with varying degrees of enthusiasm. They can be useful for many things, like staying in touch with old friends, making group outing plans, and coordinating care for a loved one. I like to use them for informal polling. Actually, several bits from my previous articles have been vetted through group chats, like “Can I drag George R. R. Martin for never finishing *A Song of Ice and Fire*?” Group chat said: Yes. And I did! In last month’s column. I stand by it.

I also like to use group chats to ask ridiculous questions, like, “Which direction should the end of the toilet paper roll go?” so I can spend the next several minutes following the descent into incivility. (The correct answer is “Over the top.”) I realized, however, that I rarely cite library sources in these debates. This is a gross oversight on my part that I fully intend to rectify by subjecting readers to a serious response to a silly question right now, using books in our collection as my sources.



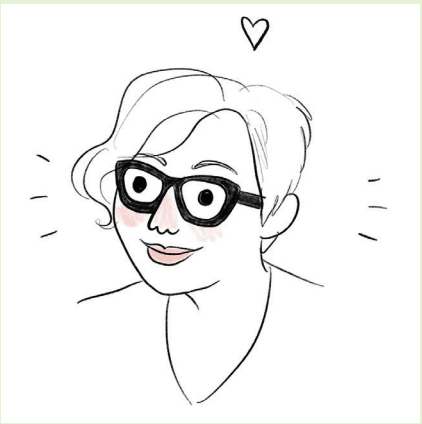
The question: Is a hot dog a sandwich?

First, I considered what I assumed would be the authority on this topic, which is *Hot Diggity Dog: The History of the Hot Dog*, a title that can be found in our children’s nonfiction section. This title was great at providing some context — did you know that both Germans and Austrians claim credit for the hot dog? Immigrants brought the hot dog with them to the United States in the 1880s, and they sold them as cheap street food. (Sylver, 2010) It didn’t take long for people to realize that bread would improve hot dogs, but does the book call it a sandwich? No. It does not.

However, the book also states that a hot dog can also be a corndog or pigs in blankets. (Sylver, 2010) As a result, we will need to update our definition of the hot dog to be a frank in a bun, which may inherently cause it to become a sandwich? I kept reading.

Next, I consulted *A History of Food in 100 Recipes* and its section on sandwiches, in hopes that their definition of a sandwich would provide some clarity. It did not. It states both that sandwiches have two pieces of bread, but that they could also be one piece of bread with something on top ... but is a hot dog on *top* of the bread, or *in* it?

Sidenote: the history of the sandwich is not terribly surprising, which is to say, the English stole it from someone else. In this case, the peoples of the Eastern Mediterranean got there first.



(Sitwell, 2013)

Then I consulted *The New York Times Cook Book, Revised Edition*. In the index, “Sandwiches” is listed as an umbrella term, under which I found an entry for ‘smørrebrød.’ (For the proper pronunciation, please consult library staffer Phil Shapiro, who spent enough time in Denmark as a child to be able to pronounce the impossible, “Rød Grød med Fløde.”) Claiborne says the following about smørrebrød, “Lunch in Denmark is a selection of delicious sandwiches called smørrebrød ... These sandwiches do not usually have tops, for they are too fat.” (Claiborne, 1990) (emphasis added) If only one piece of bread is required for a dish to be considered a sandwich, then the bun in which a hot dog frank should be sufficient to cement the hot dog’s sandwich status.

Or, as folded bread ... is a hot dog a taco? Feel free to try to convince me either way, but don’t forget to cite your sources. For a word on that, we go to our final and most authoritative source: *The Joy of Cooking*. The Rombauer Becker family has kept this classic up-to-date for four generations, and the latest edition, by Irma Rombauer’s great-grandson John Becker and his spouse Megan Scott is bigger and better than any previous edition. *Joy* is explicitly clear that the hot dog is a sandwich, and their chapter, “Sandwiches, Tacos, and Burritos” (Bless them for using the Oxford comma!) begins with an apologia for including all the tasty things that are served on bread or breadlike foodstuffs in that chapter. (Becker and Scott, 2019) Hot dogs are right there in that chapter, on pages 143-144. Since a hot dog is clearly neither a taco nor a burrito, it must, therefore, be a sandwich. In true *Joy* style, they refer you to the page with recipes for MAKING YOUR OWN bratwursts (page 509, if you want to attempt this), which we all know are just fancy hot dogs.

Now I need to go fire up the grill ...

Works Cited:

Becker, John and Scott, Megan, et al. (2019) *The Joy of Cooking, revised and updated*. Scribner.

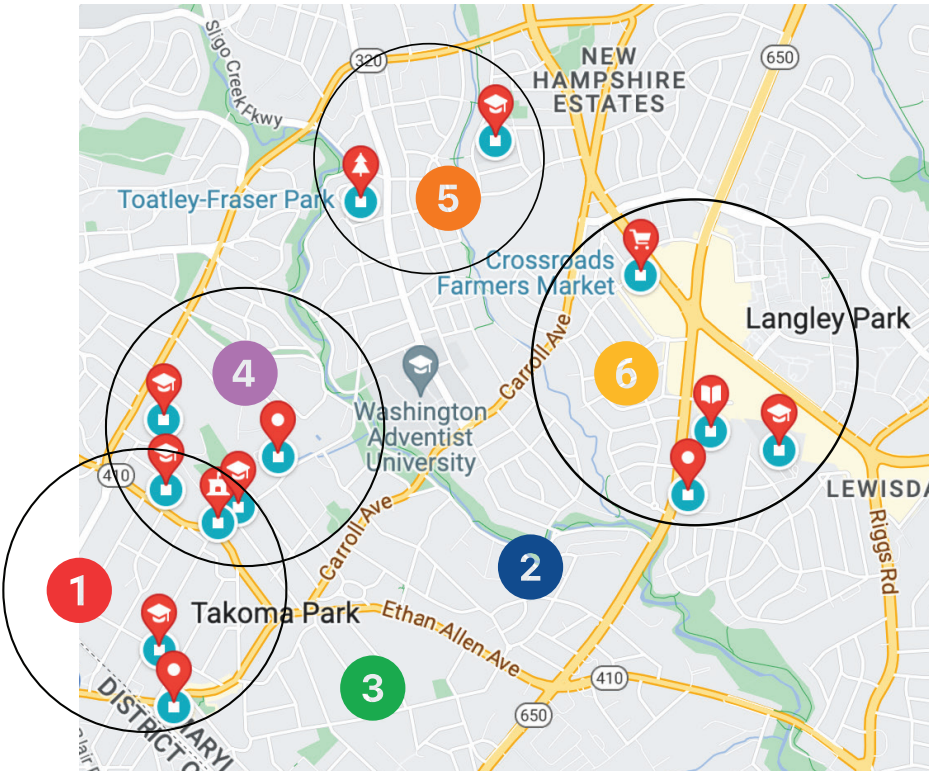
Claiborne, Craig. (1990). *The New York Times Cook Book, Revised Edition*. Harper & Row, Publishers.

Sitwell, William. (2013). *A History of Food in 100 Recipes*. Little, Brown and Company.

Sylver, Adrienne. (2010). *Hot Diggity Dog: The History of the Hot Dog*. Dutton Children’s Books.



Library Outreach Initiatives 2022-23



- Outreach initiatives included:
- Tabling public events to share information about library services.
 - Facilitating programs on-site and off-site (some programs met monthly and even weekly).

Veronica’s Corner

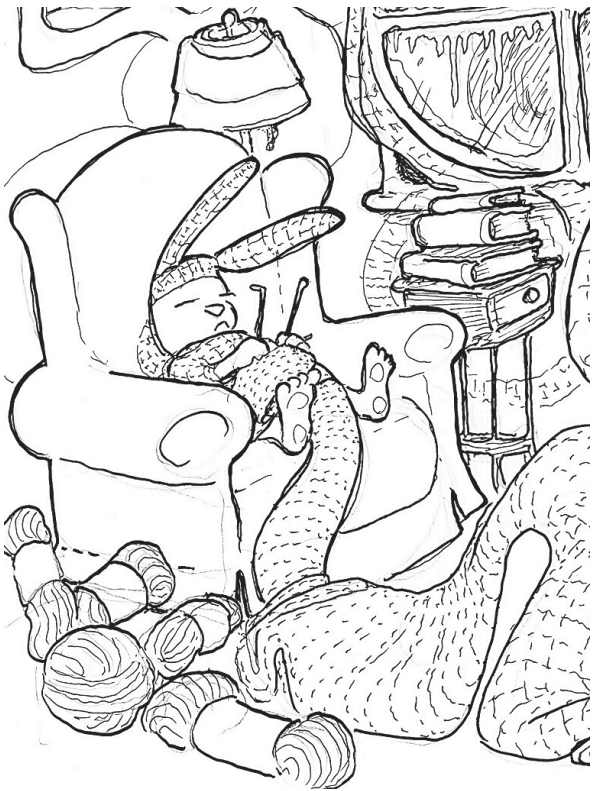
We covered two-thirds of Takoma Park in outreach initiatives in the past two years. We traveled across the city—to Wards 1, 4, 5, and 6—to facilitate programs and share information about library services.

Cubrimos dos tercios de Takoma Park en esfuerzos de alcance a la comunidad. Viajamos por toda la ciudad—a los Distritos 1, 4, 5 y 6—para facilitar programas y compartir información de nuestros servicios bibliotecarios.

WinterQuest continues!

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

This year’s theme is “Wicked Weather.” It’s one of those wicked weather days where it feels like winter is in a terrible mood. No wonderland of snow, the sky outside your window is a grey mess, constantly changing its mind between ice and rain. Likewise the winds can’t agree on if they want to blow east, west, or back up into the clouds to start over again. The poor trees whip and nod in the disagreeable nonsense, tapping at the window as if they would like to come inside until the whole thing is over. There’s something eerie about it. Sleet ticks against your window, clawing to get in. Icicle fangs grow



all over everything. In short, this is a day for saying “nope” to winter and making your world as cozy as can be. Read an adventure book to get started. WinterQuest will continue until the Spring Equinox, March 19.

TOT

DANCE

Combo Tot

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

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

YOUTH

CAMP GUIDE
COMING SOON!

Registration opens online and in person at noon on the following dates:
Current Scholarship:
February 14
TP Residents:
February 21
Non-Resident: February 28



DANCE

Ballet & Stretch

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

Takoma Park Community Center
(Auditorium)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 5–12
Saturdays, 12:30–1:15 p.m.
January 6–February 10
Resident: \$85 / non-resident: \$95

Hip Hop Dance

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

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

SPORTS

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.
January 27–March 16
Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$120



Fundamentally Sound Basketball Camp

For spring break, join us for a basketball camp that will focus on the skills needed to elevate your performance. By the end of the camp, you will understand the fundamentals of the game and how to apply them in game situations. Prior basketball experience is not required, just a good attitude! Participants should bring a non-perishable lunch and water bottle. Additional paperwork required prior to the start of camp. Morning and afternoon care is available for an additional fee. Instructor: Greg Harris
Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 6–12
1-week session
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
March 25–March 29
Resident: \$220 / non-resident: \$250
Morning care: 7–9 a.m.
Afternoon care: 4–6 p.m.
Resident: \$45 / non-resident: \$55 each

TRIPS

Fun Days

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

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades K–5
Monday, January 29: National Children's Museum
Wednesday, April 10: National Zoo
Monday, April 22: Rollingcrest Splash Pool
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Resident: \$55 / non-resident: \$65

TEEN

DROP-IN

Teen Lounge

Welcome to the Teen Lounge, where teens can get a quick snack, do their homework, participate in fun activities, or simply kick back with friends after school in a safe environment. Youth in grades 6–12 are encouraged to come to the lounge after school! Various afterschool programs may be held in the lounge throughout the school year and will be announced accordingly. Enrollment on ActiveNet is FREE but is required to visit the lounge. Students will need to register once every school year. Registration forms can be picked up from the Takoma Park Community Center or completed online via ActiveNet. The Teen Lounge is closed on non-school days, including holidays and weekends.

Takoma Park Community Center
(Teen Lounge)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
MCPS School Days
Monday–Friday, 3–6 p.m.
Free

DANCE

Afterschool Hip Hop Dance @ TPMS

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

DRAMA & THEATER

Teen Playwrights

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

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

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

2024 Summer Youth Employment Youth Interest Meeting

Do you know a young person looking for summer employment? Each summer the City of Takoma Park partners with local businesses and nonprofit organizations to provide meaningful job opportunities for teens! The program welcomes teens ages 16–21 (must be 16 by June 1, 2024).

Participants must also be Takoma Park residents. Registration and attendance is required in order to participate in the Summer Youth Employment Program; sign up today at: bit.ly/tkpkSYEPIInfo. For more information, contact Haven Rhodd at 301-891-7284 or HavenR@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Community Center
500 Maple Ave.
Ages 16–21
Wednesday, February 21
6:30–8:30 p.m.
Free

Teen Money Management

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

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

TRIPS

Teen Trip—Monster Mini Golf

School's out early, so we're going out to have fun! The Teen Program will be going to Monster Mini Golf in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Teens will be able to enjoy glowing mini golf, a laser maze, and even mini bowling! Food will not be provided, so teens will need to pack a bagged lunch. There are also nearby restaurants if purchasing lunch is preferred. Teens will meet in the Teen Lounge at 1 p.m.—the bus will be departing at 1:30 p.m., so please be on time! Space is limited, register today. You must be registered by Wednesday, February 28. No exceptions!

Takoma Park Community Center
(Meet at Teen Lounge)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 7–12
Friday, March 1
1–6 p.m.
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

Teen Spring Break Trip—Arcade

Join the Teen Program for a day of arcade fun at Dave & Buster's in Gaithersburg, Maryland! Teens will be able to enjoy various arcade games and maybe win a few prizes! Must bring a bagged lunch and/or spending money. Teens will meet in the Teen Lounge at the Takoma Park Community Center at 11:30 a.m. The bus will be departing at 11:45 a.m., so be sure to be on time! You must be registered by Monday, March 25. No exceptions!

Takoma Park Community Center
(Meet at Teen Lounge)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 7–12
Wednesday, March 27
11:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

RECREATION

■ From page 8

ADULT

FITNESS



Boot Camp

A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunche,s and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour. Drop-ins are welcomed. Instructor: Jeremy Sherron

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.
January 16–February 29
Resident: \$105 / non-resident: \$125
Drop-in: \$10

Zumba New Ave.

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
January 27–March 2
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70
Drop-in: \$12

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 will 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 will 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.
January 27–March 2
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70



SPORTS

Adult Softball League

The Takoma Park Adult Softball League is a fun and exciting recreational program for competitive adults of all skill levels. Games will be played on Sundays. Team registrations must be composed of at least 50% Takoma Park residents to qualify for Resident Team fee. Roster limit: 15. All games are double headers. There will be no games on Mother's Day or Memorial Day

Location TBD
Ages 16 and up
8-week season, double headers
April 7–June 9
Resident teams: \$700 / non-resident teams: \$800

Adult Drop-in Pickleball

Join other “new” players for Adult Drop-in pickleball. The entire magic and success of pickleball is the way it has been setup to be a welcoming sport in an informal setting. Meaning, you can show up to the courts and pick up a game. It doesn't matter what your age is; you can just play. That is the beauty of DROP IN play.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
Mondays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
November 13–December 18
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

55+ ACTIVITIES

ART

Art and Crafts with Alice

These classes cover a variety of quick art and craft projects. Have fun and learn a new skill such as decorating vases, painting ceramic tiles, and creating table decorations and holiday projects. Enjoy the supportive and relaxed atmosphere. Instructor: Alice Sims

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

DROP-IN

Bingo

Come try your luck and win a prize! This is a drop-in activity; no registration is required. Host: Paula Lisowski

Takoma Park Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Tuesdays, 12–2 p.m.
January 23, February 27, and March 26
Free

FITNESS

Enhance Your Fitness

A great total body workout using low-impact aerobic movement and gentle resistance training. This class focuses on increasing strength, balance and flexibility through stretching, breathing, core training and proper posture alignment using standing and seated exercises including warm-up and cool down routines. Instructor: Adriene Buist



Bill Angelis is excited about the upcoming futsal season.

Spotlight on Coach Bill

The upcoming season for Futsal is right around the corner. Excitement is in the air for the January 21 start date. This year we have great coaches across the league and want to continue to build on the success that the program has had over the years. One of these great coaches is Bill Angelis, whom we are excited to highlight!

How long have you coached? I have been a volunteer coach for 22 seasons. 20 seasons with Takoma Soccer and two seasons of futsal for the Takoma Park Recreation Department.

Why did you decide to coach? I became involved in coaching when my daughter and her friends decided to play soccer in elementary school.

What do you enjoy the most about coaching? I see coaching as an opportunity to let the kids express their individuality. I meet the players where their skills are and then work with them from there. My goal is to help all of the kids develop strong confidence in themselves. I feel that this is important not only in soccer but in life as well.

What are some things that you try to instill in the kids that you coach? I treat

the soccer field like it's a classroom. Soccer is only a means to teach the players about learning from the field and taking it to their studies and life.

What are your hobbies? I have lots of things keeping me busy. My hobbies are the outdoors; astronomy; teaching science, math, art, and reading; going to the gym; keeping faith; and running. All of these hobbies help me to maintain a healthy mind, body, and positive spirit.

What excites you about the upcoming season? Futsal season is a unique time to work on details in quality, skills and the understanding of the players special recognition of the sport of futsal

Any suggestions for this year's coaches? My suggestion for anyone interested in coaching is to make the time fun and meaningful, be patient, recognize individual skills, teach and sportsmanship and kindness to the highest degree.

Want to see Coach Bill and all our great coaches in action? Come out to see some of these futsal games! We have three age divisions (7-8, 9-10, and 11-12). Games are played on Sundays at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave.), noon–6 p.m.



TP Rec coaches are on the ball.

A Winter Guide for Pedestrians, Cyclists, and Motorists!

Weather forecasters predict a cold and snowy winter. With that in mind, here are some essential tips to keep you safe and sound during the upcoming El Niño winter.

With a focus on pedestrian, cyclist, and driver safety, these pointers aim to prepare you for the unique challenges that winter weather brings. Whether you're walking, biking, or driving, adopting these proactive measures will enhance visibility, reduce risks, and contribute to a secure and enjoyable winter for all. Let's work together to ensure a season of safety on our city streets!

For Pedestrians

Visibility is Key: Wear bright and reflective clothing, especially during low-light hours. Carry a flashlight if possible.

Sidewalk Awareness: Watch for icy patches and walk carefully. Use designated crosswalks to ensure drivers see you.

Footwear Matters: Choose sturdy, slip-resistant shoes or boots to prevent slipping on icy surfaces.



For Cyclists

Lights and Reflectors: Ensure your bike has functioning lights and reflective materials for increased visibility.

Slow Down: Reduce your speed in icy conditions to maintain control of your bike.

Brake Carefully: Be gentle on the brakes to avoid skidding. Consider winter tires for better traction.

For Drivers

Increase Following Distance: Roads may be slippery, so give yourself extra space behind the vehicle in front of you.

Clear Snow and Ice: Keep your vehicle's windows, lights, and mirrors clear for optimal visibility.

Watch for Pedestrians and Cyclists: Be vigilant, especially at intersections and crosswalks. They may be harder to see in winter conditions.

General Tips for All

Stay Informed: Be aware of weather forecasts and road conditions before heading out.

Plan Ahead: Give yourself extra time to reach your destination, considering potential delays due to weather.

Stay Warm: Make sure your extremities are protected. Remember to keep fingers and toes as warm as possible and to avoid exposing skin, even on your face.

Keep an Emergency Kit: Carry essentials like a flashlight, blankets, and a charged phone in case of unforeseen circumstances.

Remember, safety is a shared responsibility. By following these tips, we can ensure a safer winter and festive season for everyone in our community.

Let It Snow! But Then Grab a Shovel!

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

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

Would you be willing to help out your neighbor? If your neighbor needs some assistance clearing off their sidewalk, offer to give them a hand after you finish clearing yours.

The City has regulations regarding snow removal. Residents have until noon on a day snow has fallen and accumulated in the night or until 9 p.m. on the day in which it has accumulated. Commercial establishments will need to keep their sidewalks clear between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. The full width of your sidewalk must be clear unless full-width clearing is not feasible, in which case at a minimum a continuous three-foot-wide path of the paved sidewalk must be cleared.

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



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

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

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



(Scan here)



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

RECREATION

■ From page 9

Virtual
Ages 55 and up
Tuesdays, 9–10 a.m.
January 9–March 12
\$6

Rhythmic Drumming

Cardio Fitness Drumming lets the rhythmic beat move you through tapping and drumstick clapping while standing and/or sitting to exercise your mind and body. No drumming experience required. Instructor: Dance Solutions

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Activity Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Tuesdays, 1:15–2:15 p.m.
January 9–March 12
\$6

Yoga for 55 plus

This yoga class is about the gentle flow of yoga poses modified to an individual's needs, depending on their balance level.

Improve balance, flexibility, posture and stamina and energize mind and spirit for better health and well-being. No experience needed. Students must bring their own yoga mats. Instructor: Sarita Lama

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Tuesdays, noon–1 p.m.
January 9–March 12
\$6

SPORTS

Pickleball Open Play

Join other new players for pickleball practice and play in the gymnasium. This activity is geared toward beginners. Two courts and limited paddles available. Drop-in.

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

At Your SERVICE

Community Police Academy

The Community Police Academy begins on Tuesday, March 5. Be on the lookout in January for an application to register.

The Community Police Academy is a 12-week program held on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The classes cover topics such as patrol, traffic enforcement, use of force, criminal investigations, firearms, and crime analyses. The presentations are slide show/lecture style and are given by officers, detectives, and civilians of the Takoma Park Police Department. There are multiple opportunities for hands-on learning through equipment demonstrations, practical scenarios, field trips, and ride-alongs with patrol officers.

The Takoma Park Police Department believes that educating the community will result in gaining their understanding and support. Through implementation of the Community Police Academy, the community gains new insight into how law enforcement officers perform their duties. The success of any law enforcement agency depends largely upon the amount of cooperation and support it receives from the community it serves.

To hear what others have said about the Academy, please visit the City website (takomaparkmd.gov) and search for "community police academy."

The Community Police Academy is free to the public. Seats are limited to the first 25 students and are filled on a first-come-first-served basis. The Takoma Park Police Department encourages all applicants to be able to commit to the full 12 weeks to get the most out of the program.

If you are interested in learning about the Takoma Park Police Department and local government, you are 16 years of age or older, and live or work in Takoma Park, you may apply. The applicants may not have any serious misdemeanor or any felony offenses.

Any questions about the Community Police Academy can be directed to Police Public Information Manager Cathy Plevy, at 301-891-7142 or cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov.

Essentials Drive for Montgomery County Animal Shelters

Through January the Takoma Park Police Department is collecting new and gently used bath towels, beach towels, bathroom rugs, hand towels, washcloths, and blankets to help the Montgomery County Animal Shelters. We are also collecting beds, toys, and unopened food. Please bring your donations to the Takoma Park Police Department lobby, 7500 Maple Ave., will get them to the animal shelters.

NOTE: For the safety of the animals, please do not donate fitted sheets, items with zippers or snaps, and/or other fabrics with rips or frayed edges.

Know Your Winter Storm and Extreme Cold Terms:

Freezing Rain: Rain that freezes when it hits the ground, creating a coating of ice on the roads, walkways, trees, and power lines.

Sleet: Rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes moisture on roads to freeze and become slippery.

Winter Storm Watch: A winter storm is possible in your area.

Winter Storm Warning: A winter storm is occurring or will soon occur in your area.

Blizzard Warning: Sustained winds or frequent gusts to 35 mph or greater and considerable amounts of falling or blowing



snow (reducing visibility to less than a quarter mile) are expected to prevail for a period of three hours or longer.

Frost/Freeze Warning: Below-freezing temperatures are expected.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

If someone you know is elderly or dependent on life-sustaining or health-related equipment, such as a ventilator, respirator, or oxygen concentrator, you should make plans now to ensure their needs are met during severe winter weather and possible power outages.

- Help them stock a home disaster kit, including a flashlight and extra batteries, a battery-operated radio, bottled water, non-perishable foods, essential medicines, and extra blankets or sleeping bags.
- Check on them after a storm or power outage. Register them as a special needs customer with their utility companies so they will become a priority customer. Notify others who could provide help such as neighbors, relatives, nearby friends, and local emergency responders, such as the fire department.
- Have a list of emergency numbers readily available.
- Have a standby generator or an alternative source of power available. Be aware of the safety rules for use.

Caring About Residents Every Day (CARE) Program

CARE is a program directed at our residents who live alone with special needs, or just need to be checked on each day. Residents who register will call the police department once each day between noon and 5 p.m. If they don't call, we will call them. If they don't answer, we will send a patrol officer to check on their welfare. This program is to protect those in need and bring a sense of peace to those friends and relatives who care, but who are not close enough to check themselves.

For more information and to register, visit takomaparkmd.gov/police and search for CARE under Services & Programs.



Protect Your Pets:

Winter is a time we should pay close attention to the safety of our pets. Here are some tips:

- If your pet goes outdoors, be aware of the temperature. Pets can get frostbite very easily on the ears, tail, and paws.
- When walking your dog, check the paws to make sure that ice is not building up between the toes and that salt from the road is not irritating the skin.
- If your dog is a swimmer, keep it on a leash around open water or unstable ice. Hypothermia can set in quickly and the dog may be unable to get out of the water.
- Before you start your car, you should honk the horn to make sure that a cat has not decided to nap in a warm spot under the hood of the vehicle, or underneath the vehicle.
- If you have left your holiday decorations up after Christmas, keep ornaments out of reach of your pets. Remember that poinsettias, holly, mistletoe, and other plants can be toxic if ingested.



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department
tpvfd.org



Thank You!

Thanks to all who supported the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department by purchasing your Christmas tree from us during our annual fundraiser. A special thank you to Everett. This past summer Everett had a lemonade stand and donated the proceeds to benefit TPVFD. One night during the tree sale, Everett setup a hot chocolate stand at the Christmas lot to again support his local fire department.

FIREHOUSE ☐ Page 12



Don't Get Skimmed!

by Claudine Schweber, Takoma Park
Emergency Preparedness Committee

A skimmer is a card reader that can be disguised to look like part of an ATM. When you slide your card into an ATM that has a skimmer attached, you're unwittingly sliding it through the counterfeit reader, which scans and stores all your information from the magnetic strip as well as capturing your PIN from the keypad.

Watch where you shop. Restaurants, bars, and gas stations seem to be the places where credit card incidents happen most frequently. Retail store self-checkouts and ATMs, especially stand-alone ATMs (those that aren't at the bank) are also places where skimmers can be found.

Check ATMs before using them. At ATMs, skimmers often place a pin-sized camera within view of the keypad to steal your PIN. Or, they place a fake keypad on top of the real one to record your keystrokes. To protect yourself, wiggle the card slot or keypad for loose-fitting

attachments and check for tape and/or sticky glue residue on any part of the ATM, bulkiness on the card insert area or the PIN keypad, anything hanging from the ATM

When you're using an ATM, cover your hand as you type your PIN to keep a camera from catching a view of what you're typing. If the keys seem hard to push, eject your card and use another ATM. Use a bank-operated ATM, which is less likely to have a skimmer, rather than an ATM at a store or gas station.

How to Report a Credit Card Skimming Loss

Contact your bank or credit card issuer to let them know that your credit card information has been compromised. Call first, then follow up in writing. If only your credit card information has been stolen, you won't be liable for any fraudulent charges.

Place a fraud alert on your credit report. This forces businesses to confirm

SKIMMED ☐ Page 12

Community ACTIVITIES

Correspond with Incarcerated Artists

Monday, January 15, 6–8 p.m.

Justice Arts Coalition
7112 Willow Ave, Takoma Park

Join The Justice Arts Coalition in gathering to respond to recently received art and mail from incarcerated artists in JAC's network. All materials, directions for the letters, and music will be provided. Pre-registration encouraged. Reach out to ava@thejusticeartscoalition.org with any questions.

Local Author Reading: Rick Stack, We Who Grieve

Monday, January 15, 6–8 p.m.

People's Book
7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

We Who Grieve, which is intended to be a comforting companion for those in the throes of grief and for their supporters. With this work, Rick Stack hopes to add empathy to a world sorely in need of more. This event is in-person and free to attend.

A Cat's Life Rescue Adoption Drive

Sunday, Jan. 21, 1 – 3 p.m.

The Big Bad Woof
6960 Maple St. NW
Takoma DC

A Cat's Life Rescue (ACLR) will be back at The Big Bad Woof with a bunch of highly adoptable kittens and cats. There are opportunities to adopt or foster. You can also volunteer your time or donate money to their cause. A Cat's Life Rescue is dedicated to helping feral cats, domesticated cats and the humans that care for them. A Cat's Life Rescue, 501(c) (3) organization, exists to provide a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program, adoptions, and medical care for cats, as well as education and therapeutic programs to the public.

Mid-Winter Play Day

Sunday, Feb. 11, 1 – 4 p.m.

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

Takoma Park Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m.

Ed Wilhelm Field

Each Spring the Takoma Park Recreation Department hosts an egg hunt at Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School). This free event is always an egg-citing time! Egg Hunt age categories include: 2 years and younger, 3-4 years, 5-6 years, and 7-8 years. Don't

forget to bring your basket to collect all the eggs. Each age group will have one golden egg hidden among the eggs. We will have games, crafts, and a special visit from Mr. Bunny.

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Every Sunday, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

6931 Laurel Ave.

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

Historic Takoma Reading Room

Sundays (first and third)

7328 Carroll Ave.

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

of each month. historictakoma.org

Takoma Spark Open Mic

Tuesdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m.

School of Musical Traditions
7112 Willow Ave.

Hosted by Rob Hinkal of ilyAIMY and sponsored by Institute of Musical Traditions. Signup starts at 6 p.m. Performance slots are two songs or 10 minutes. All musical genres, poetry & all abilities/ages welcome. No amps or drum kits. The evening is also live-streamed on the Rob's Open Mics Facebook and YouTube channels. No refreshments on site, but you are welcome to bring in your own food and non-alcoholic beverages (please support our local restaurants!). For updates, follow Rob's Open Mics on Facebook, or visit www.ilyaimy.com/robsopenmics.

Takoma Jazz

Saturdays, 7 – 10 p.m.

Takoma Station Tavern
6914 4th St NW
Takoma DC

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



FIREHOUSE

■ From page 11

Host Your Child's Birthday Party with TPVFD!

For your next birthday, consider our space at the TPVFD. We provide the party room, tables and chairs and our party crew assists during the entire party. There is a kitchenette with a microwave, sink, and a full-size refrigerator with freezer. You can bring in food and drinks, have it catered, or delivered. As many as 45 children can attend, along with adults. Each child receives a plastic fire helmet to wear during a half-hour fire station tour. Children go

home with the helmet and a goody bag.

The suggested donation is \$100 per hour (three hour minimum). Note that alcohol is not permitted.

For more information, contact us at latpvfd@gmail.com or 301-938-8518.

Be Alert to Carbon Monoxide

- Carbon monoxide, also called CO, is a toxic gas that you cannot see or smell. You may be exposed to unsafe levels of CO in the following ways:
- Using poorly maintained or improperly vented fireplaces, woodstoves, heating equipment, ovens, water heaters, or other appliances.

- Using a gas stove, grill, or oven to heat the home.
- Running a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove, or other gasoline or charcoal burning device inside your home, basement, or garage or near a window.
- Running a car or truck inside a garage attached to your house, even if the garage door is left open.

Watch for Symptoms of CO Poisoning

- Breathing CO can cause headaches, dizziness, weakness, nausea, vomiting, chest pain, and confusion.
- If CO levels are high enough, you may become unconscious or die.
- Seek medical help and get outside to fresh air if you think you may have CO poisoning and are feeling dizzy, light-headed, or nauseated.

What Can You Do?

- Install a battery-operated CO detector in your home and check or replace the battery when you change the time on your clocks each spring and fall. If the detector sounds leave your home immediately and call 911.
- Make sure all fuel-burning appliances, fireplaces, and wood stoves are properly vented.
- Have your heating system, water heater and any other gas, oil, or coal burning appliances serviced by a qualified technician every year.

- Only use generators outside, more than 20 feet away from your home, doors, and windows.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Consider Volunteering at Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department

The fire/rescue service and emergency medical service offer exciting challenges and a valuable, rewarding way to serve the community. In return for your commitment of one evening per week, we offer training that will always be in great demand—and the opportunity to help your neighbors when they need it most.

The Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service is a combination service in which approximately 1,000 career firefighters and 1,000 volunteers serve side by side. Career and volunteer personnel take the same training courses and are held to the same standards while on duty. Here in Takoma Park, we work closely with the career personnel assigned to Station 2.

Your first step is to schedule an orientation meeting with our membership committee. Please email: tina.willey@montgomerycountymd.gov for details.

Also please visit the volunteering section on our website: tpvfd.org/volunteer.



SKIMMED

■ From page 11

your identity before approving applications in your name.

Alert the Federal Trade Commission.

They often work to break up large credit card skimming rings. Your complaint will help catch the thieves.

Be prepared! Visit the Emergency Preparedness Information page on the City website (takomaparkmd.gov).