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Interfaith Comedy



LIBRARY Page 6 Library **Classes** and **Programs**



RECREATION Page 8 Meet Jen Skillicorn



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Takoma Park News

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 63, No. 3 🔲 takomaparkmd.gov

Important Dates

Ward 5 Talk & Walk Sunday, March 3, 3–5 p.m. Meet at Dynamic Choice Salon 8004 Flower Ave.

Stormwater Resiliency Study Community Meeting Tuesday, March 5, 7 p.m. Held remotely via Zoom. Link and more information at takomaparkmd.gov

Let's Go Solar, TkPk! Tuesday, March 12, 7–9 p.m. Takoma Park Municipal Building 7500 Maple Ave.

Interfaith Comedy Stand-Up Show Thursday, March 14, 7:30 pm Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave.

Ward 2 Public Safety **Community Meeting** Tuesday, March 19, 7–9 p.m. Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave. (Virtual/Zoom option also available)

Tree Planting Saturday, March 23, 9 a.m.-noon **Circle Woods Cockerille and Poplar Avenues**

> **Annual Egg Hunt** Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m. Ed Wilhelm Field 2 Darwin Ave.

Takoma Park Fitness Expo Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Family Outdoor Movie Night Saturday, April 6-starts at dusk Ed Wilhelm Field 2 Darwin Ave.

Council Comments Ward 1 Highlights

By Shana Fulcher

I often take time to reflect on what makes Takoma Park great and what the future holds for us. Our city feels like the only fit for me, an optimist who sought an active community of politically engaged people with a commitment to the environment and social justice. I am proud of the people our community raises. I serve on the Subcommittee of Committees to appoint members to city committees and boards. As a Finance and Budget Committee member, I take a deeper look at our budget to make meaningful changes throughout the year.

Along with my city council colleagues, I set the city council priorities. This past fall, we narrowed our goals to better focus on the concerns of our residents. I would like to share the goals I find best reflect the objectives of Ward 1 constituents.

1. Further the city's racial equity work. The city council forwards Takoma Park's legacy to address equity by looking through an environmental justice lens. Recently, the Sustainable Maryland Committee presented recommendations on composting and electric vehicle (EV) charging, stating that we need to better

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Council Comments Ward 2 Highlights

By Cindy Dyballa

Ward 2 residents, across all walks of life, are very involved in and committed to our local civic life, from scouts to food pantries and city committees, and I'm grateful for it. Ward 2, which I have represented as city council member for six years, is in some ways a microcosm of the city, with a wide range of housing types and of residents, a small strip of businesses and eateries on New Hampshire Avenue, and plenty of open spaces. We share the practical concerns of others in the city, such as being a truly welcoming community for all; protecting Sligo Creek; taking climate action; improving our safety, both crime and traffic; and providing affordable housing. Council members as a team have several tasks: setting policy on issues that affect our community, approving an annual city budget, and overseeing the city manager who is responsible for city operations and staff. I also spend time helping residents find the best ways to address your local concerns, reaching out to engage as many residents as possible in our comminity, and writing a weekly email newsletter on city business.







Photos courtesy Shana Fulcher (Clockwise) Takoma Park Councilmember Shana Fulcher marches in the Takoma Park Pride Parade with her son. Councilmembers Cindy Dyballa, Shana Fulcher, and Cara Honzak hang out with Councilmember Honzak's daughter. Councilmember Fulcher poses with her Summer RISE Students, 11th and 12th graders engaged in careerbased learning.



Many issues cannot be addressed by our small city alone, so I'm active regionally on some issues that affect our community. I represent our city on the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. I am also a Maryland member of the Chesapeake Bay Local Government Ad-

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

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

Photo courtesy Cindy Dyballa

Takoma Park Councilmember Cindy Dyballa shows off a flower she picked up at a Takoma Park Play Day.

My contact information is at the end of this article.

Some of our council work is done in short-term subgroups. We are now drafting testimony for state bills of concern to the city and just wrapped up the city manager search committee.

visory Councilmand serve on the National League of Cities board.

Here's just a brief taste of what's coming up this spring on several issues I've focused on since I became a city council member.

Affordable housing. 1) The first senior housing in decades is in the early stages of proposal for New Hampshire Avenue in back of Grace Methodist Church, 2) the city's multifamily electrification/rehabilitation program combines both climate and housing goals, and 3) the proposed minor master plan raises important questions about renter protections that we will consider this spring. Our city's housing strategic plan lays out other steps we can take on this regionwide issue.

Climate. 1) This month we will consider a ban on gas-powered leaf blowers, to coordinate with Washington, D.C., and Mont-

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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 virtually 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, March 6– City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, March 13-City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, March 20–City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, March 27–City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Monday, April 1–City Council Special Meeting (budget presentations/work session), 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium
- Wednesday, April 3–City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium

CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Check the calendar on the city website for the most up-to-date information on council and committee meetings, including links to access meetings and agendas. 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 (simultaneously in-person and on Zoom).

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE Tuesday, March 26, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room)

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m. (virtual/Zoom)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room with virtual option)

ETHICS COMMISSION Monday, March 18, 6:30 p.m. (virtual/Zoom)

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE Tuesday, March 12, 6:30 p.m. (virtual/Zoom)

POLICE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE Tuesday, March 12, 9:30 a.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room)

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, March 18, 7 p.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room, with virtual option)

Recruitment for City Boards and Committees-**Consider Serving!**

The next appointments will be made in June. Apply by June 3.

The City Council welcomes residents with all different types of experience and knowledge and seeks diverse members to represent our community. 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 be a part of a board or committee.

Applications are being accepted now to fill vacancies and terms ending on a number of boards and committees. Appointments will be made in June. If you are thinking of applying, this is a good time to sit in on a meeting or two, to see if it is a good fit for you. *Residents of* Wards 4, 5, and 6 are particularly encouraged to apply.

We know there will be one or more vacancies in June on the following, but there will likely be other openings as well. Appointed members are eligible to receive a \$40 stipend per meeting attended.

- · Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs
- Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Ethics Commission
- Recreation and Community **Engagement** Committee
- Sustainable Maryland Committee
- Tree Commission

Contact Assistant City Clerk Irma Nalvarte for more information: IrmaN@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7214.

Engage with Your City Government!

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

The city council appoints the city manager,

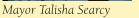
implements the policies set by the council, and prepares an annual budget for their consideration.

The Takoma Park City Council consists of seven members. Six of these members are elected by

ward, and one is elected at-large and serves as

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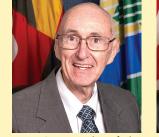








Randy Gibson (Ward3)

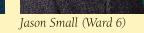




Terry Seamens (Ward 4) Cara Honzak (Ward 5)



CouncilAction





RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 p.m. (virtual/Zoom)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Monday, March 4, 7:00 p.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room with virtual option)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Thursday, March 14, 4 p.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room with virtual option)

ADA NOTICE

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

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

January 17, 2024

Resolution 2024-1 approved an employment agreement between the City of Takoma Park and Robert DiSpirito, City Manager.

January 24, 2024

- Ordinance 2024-1 amended the City Code to remove provisions regarding the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee. Councilmember Small voted against the ordinance. First reading of the ordinance was on January 17.
- Resolution 2024-2 appointed Catherine Goode (non-resident), Theodore Carter (Ward 2), Rickey Anderson (Ward 6), and Susan Comfort (Ward 2) to the Arts and Humanities Committee.

- Resolution 2024-3 appointed Charles Nolan (Ward 3) and Gregory Lebel (Ward 1) to the Board of Elections.
- Resolution 2024-4 appointed Tom Gagliardo • (Ward 1) to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs.
- **Resolution 2024-5 appointed Michael Miller** (Ward 1) to the Ethics Commission
- Resolution 2024-6 appointed Ken Simler (Ward 1) to the Recreation and Community Engagement Committee.
- Resolution 2024-7 appointed Melissa Klein (Ward 2) to the Sustainable Maryland Committee.
- Resolution 2024-8 authorized the donation • of a Falcon 3100 video camera trailer to the City of Takoma Park from the Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority, Inc.

Public NOTICES

Notice of Proposed Administrative Regulation to Provide Guidance for Compliance with Chapter 13.28 Traffic Calming Devices of the Takoma Park Code

An Administrative Regulation is being proposed to provide guidance for the interpretation of Chapter 13.28 Traffic Calming Devices of the Takoma Park Code. The regulation replaces Administrative Regulation No. 96-1. It addresses the process to request, evaluate, and advance new traffic calming measures by members of the public, elected officials, and City staff.

Pursuant to the requirements of the "Administrative Regulations Ordinance" (Authority: Chapter 2.12 "Administrative Regulations," of the Takoma Park Code), notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation must be publicly noted, allowing residents the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The proposed regulation is available for review at takomaparkmd.gov. To obtain further information about the proposed regulation, contact Daryl Braithwaite, Director, Public Works Department, 301-891-7615 or DarylB@takomaparkmd.gov. Written comments on the proposed regulation may be emailed to Clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The deadline for receipt of public comments is Friday, April 5, 2024.

Notice of Proposed Administrative Regulation to Provide Guidance for Compliance with Article X, Section 1003 Powers as to Sidewalks of the Takoma Park Charter.

An Administrative Regulation is being proposed to provide guidance for the interpretation of Article X, Section 1003 Powers as to Public Ways and Sidewalks of the Takoma Park Charter. The regulation replaces City Council Resolution 2015-32, pending the formal rescinding of the City Council Resolution. It addresses the process to request, evaluate, and advance new sidewalk installation by members of the public, elected officials, and City staff.

Pursuant to the requirements of the "Administrative Regulations Ordinance" (Authority: Chapter 2.12 "Administrative Regulations," of the Takoma Park Code), notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation must be publicly noted, allowing residents the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The proposed regulation is available for review at .takomaparkmd.gov. To obtain further information about the proposed regulation, contact Daryl Braithwaite, Director, Public Works Department, 301-891-7615 or DarylB@takomaparkmd.gov. Written comments on the proposed regulation may be emailed to Clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The deadline for receipt of public comments is Friday, April 5, 2024.

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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**: cindyd@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.

Takoma Park Election for Mayor and City Council–November 5, 2024

2024 is an election year for Takoma Park. Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. The Nominating Caucus will take place on Tuesday, September 10.

- Our election is *completely separate* from the presidential general election, which takes place on the same day.
- If you are already registered to vote at your current address, there is no need to register again.
- All residents ages 16 and above are eligible to register and vote for mayor and city council.
- Non-citizen residents may register with the City Clerk to vote in elections for mayor and council.
- This election will be vote-by-mail. Every registered voter will receive a ballot in the mail. Ballots may be returned to a Takoma Park ballot drop box or returned by mail.
- The Community Center will be open on November 5 for residents who choose to vote in person.
- Candidates who wish to have their name placed on the ballot must be nominated at the City Nominating Caucus on September 10.

Questions? Contact City Clerk Jessie Carpenter at 301-891-7267 or jessiec@ta-komaparkmd.gov.

Las Elecciones de la Ciudad de Takoma Park para Alcalde y Concejo–5 de noviembre de 2024

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.



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:

ኮታች ያስውን ይህን አዶ ይሏልፖ የዜና መጽሄቶች እርስዎ ራስዎ ናቸው በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይችላል ትርፖውን በመጠቀም በ ታኮማ ኮተማ ውስጥ ያስውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ. ጠቅ ካዴረማን በኋላ ለጽሑፉ አንናኝ ላይ, ይመልኩቴ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥማ ላይ ታነበለች የክሰባ አሞሌን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቅልቋይ ሳጥን. 2024 es un año electoral para la Ciudad de Takoma Park. El día de las elecciones es el martes 5 de noviembre. La Reunión Electoral de Nominaciones se llevará a cabo el martes 10 de septiembre.

- Nuestra elección *es completamente independiente* de la elección general presidencial, que se lleva a cabo el mismo día.
- Si ya está registrado para votar en su dirección actual, no es necesario que se registre nuevamente
- Todos los residentes mayores de 16 años son elegibles para registrarse y votar por un alcalde y miembro del concejo.
- Los residentes no ciudadanos Americanos pueden registrarse ante la Secretaria Municipal para votar en las elecciones para alcalde y concejo.
- Estas elecciones se votará por correo. Cada votante registrado recibirá una papeleta por correo. Las papeletas pueden ser devueltas por correo o colocadas en una buzón electoral de Takoma Park.
- El Centro Comunitario estará abierto el 5 de noviembre para los residentes que decidan votar en persona.
- Los candidatos que deseen que su nombre sea colocado en la papeleta electoral deben ser nominados en la Reunión Electoral de Nominación de la Ciudad el 10 de septiembre.

¿Preguntas? Para más información en español póngase en contacto con Irma Nalvarte, 301-891-7214 o IrmaN@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Offers "Open for Business" Grants

by Sean Gossard

Takoma Park is open for business! And to help those businesses, the city is offering local entrepreneurs grants to relocate or expand their shops in the city.

Using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the city has allocated \$119,157 to help local businesses.

"The city's been really lucky that we had some ARPA money to help support small business in a way we haven't before," said acting Housing and Community Development Director Ira Kowler. "We've been able to leverage the ARPA dollars into grant programs."

Applications for the grants opened at the end of January and will be available until the funds run out.

Grants are capped at \$10,000 per business. For ground-floor businesses outside of the Old Takoma commercial district, they may be funded at up to \$6 per square foot. Any Old Town businesses, and upperfloor businesses elsewhere in Takoma Park, may be funded at up to \$4 per square foot.

Businesses must be opening or expanding in Takoma Park, with an ownership deed or a signed lease of at least three years

Get Involved!

Ward 5 Talk & Walk

Sunday, March 3, 3–5 p.m.

Hosted by Councilmember Cara Honzak and the Ward 5 community—to be joined by City Manager Rob DiSpirito and Mayor Talisha Searcy. Meet at Dynamic Choice Salon, 8004 Flower Ave. Wear your walking shoes!

Stormwater Resiliency Study Community Meeting

Tuesday, March 5, 7 p.m. Held remotely via Zoom

The Low Impact Development Center has reviewed 20 flood-prone areas in Takoma



Photo by Eric Bond

Takoma Park residents Megan and Matt Bormet opened People's Book in 2023 with assistance from the Takoma Park Business Investment Grant. The city is once again taking applications for grants to help local businesses through it's Open for Business program.

for the property with a start date no earlier than Oct. 1, 2023; have not have received prior funding from the city; are in good standing with the State of Maryland; are in compliance with city, county and state regulations; and have a valid Use & Occu-

Park and will present their evaluation of the sites and initial recommendations for addressing stormwater impacts. Find the link and learn more on the Stormwater Resiliency Study webpage at takomaparkmd.gov.

Provide Feedback on Flower Avenue Bike Lanes

Due by Wednesday, March 6 at 6 p.m.

Following up on a February 7 public meeting, the Montgomery County Department of Transportation is taking comments on the Piney Branch Bike Lanes and Flower Avenue Separate Bike Lanes projects. For more information and to find a link to make comments, go to montgomerycountymd.gov/ dot-dte/bikeways/. pancy Certificate.

"There's a lot of expenses that go into growing or moving a business," says Kowler. "The more flexible getting the money to people, the easier it is to use."

The funds will come with no restrictions

Join the Chesapeake Conservation and Climate Corps

Applications due by Thursday, March 7

The City of Takoma Park Public Works Department is proud to announce that it has been approved as a host organization for the 2024-2025 Chesapeake Conservation & Climate Corps Program facilitated by Chesapeake Bay Trust. Local youth, ages 18-25, are highly encouraged to apply for this exciting opportunity to step foot into a green career! The city will have one open full-time position from August 2024–August 2025 that includes a stipend of \$31,200. The Corps member will have the opportunity to work on several cross-disciplinary programs that all align with the city's long-term trajectory on their use and can be applied where most needed, "whether to support capital expenditures and hard costs related to new business fit-out, existing tenant improvements, or serve as a one-time subsidy to offset cost of lease," according to the city's website.

The grant program is the outgrowth of the city's recent Business Investment Grant (BIG) program. The grant helped several businesses, including Cielo Rojo, a regionally recognized fine casual Mexican restaurant that has expanded to a new, larger location; Muoi Tieu, a former Vietnamese food truck that opened its first permanent location in the former home of Mark's Kitchen; and People's Books, a locally owned bookstore in Old Takoma. It also helped A Plus Medical, a medical services provider in the Takoma-Langley Crossroads, and Healing Practice Center, a new wellness practice that has opened in the Professional Building on the Washington Adventist site.

For more information contact the City's grants coordinator at grants@takomapark-md.gov or 301-891-7235.

toward the achievement of Maryland's 2050 emissions reduction target. Specifically, the Corps Member will support four programmatic work areas hosted within the City of Takoma Park Public Works Department:

- Commercial and Residential Energy
 Programs
- Tree Takoma
- Environmental Restoration

• Stormwater Management Program Tasks will be varied in nature and will include in-office work, fieldwork, and participation in partner meetings and community events.

To apply, visit cbtrust.org/chesapeakeclimate-corps.

GET INVOLVED 🗌 Page 7



Community into Session: March 12th, 2024 | 7:00-9:00 PM City Auditorium - 7500 Maple Ave.



For both renters AND home-owners! Learn about solar co-ops, community solar, RECs, tax incentives, & more!

(Scan for more info)



takomaparkmd.gov/sustainability

<mark>dorothye@takoma</mark>parkmd.gov or (301) 891-7623

Tanto para inquilinos como para propietarios. Más información sobre cooperativas solares, energía solar comunitaria, incentivos fiscales y mucho más.



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The ARTS

Interfaith Comedy Mixes Laughs with Tolerance

Interfaith Comedy Stand-Up Show Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave. Free Event

In an age of polarization and angry debate, the comedians of Interfaith Comedy are sharing laughs with a side of understanding about various religions.

Five comedians from different religious backgrounds will share their talents in a free stand-up show on March 14 at the Takoma Park Community Center in the *Takoma Park Arts* series organized by the City's Arts and Humanities Division. No tickets or reservations are required.

Comedian and producer Carmiya Weinraub, who is a modern Orthodox Jew, created the group to reduce prejudice through laughter. The comedians make lighthearted jokes only about their own religion.

ligion. "I wanted to create a space to amplify performers whose voices aren't often heard in the wider community, including Muslim and Orthodox Jewish



comedians, and put these voices in front of audiences that might not see them otherwise," Weinraub said. "Our group has both observant and non-

observant members of different religions so we highlight many aspects of living a life influenced by religion whether you were just raised that way or currently practice." The stand-up sets are followed

by a Q&A where the comedians and audience members can share stories or anecdotes about their

religious experiences. Weinraub will be

performing at the Takoma Park Community Center with PT Bratton (Baptist and Pentecostal), Riva Riley (raised Hindu and currently atheist), Shahryar Rizvi (Muslim), and Fish Stark (Unitarian Universalist).

The group also is seeking Buddhist and Catholic comedians to expand their reach.

"Interfaith Comedy is making a difference," Weinraub said. "In today's world, audiences really appreciate a show filled with positivity and connection, and that is what we give them."

Don't Miss More *Takoma Park Arts* Events

Please join us for more FREE *Takoma Park Arts* events at the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave.

No tickets or reservations are required. You can sign up for our e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/arts to get details about all of our events.

Capitol Tap and District Tap Friday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.

With a repertoire including historical tap dances from Bojangles, Eddie Brown, and Buster Brown to contemporary works, Capitol Tap and District Tap will offer an energetic performance for all ages.

Mayur Dance Company Anjali-An Offering Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.

With intricate rhythmic footwork and lyrical movements, dancers from the Mayur Dance Company will perform classical dances from the Odissi tradition which originated in Hindu temples in India.

The Capitol Hillbillies Friday, May 31, 7:30 p.m.

The Capitol Hillbillies will raise the roof with their rousing mix of barrelhouse blues and jug band music from the 1920s and 30s. Don't miss it!





Takoma Park News

Send submissions to: Editor: Eric Bond • editorbond@gmail.com | Assistant Editor: Sean Gossard • TPNewsEditor@takomaparkmd.gov Questions: Donna Wright Communications Director • donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov | Eric Bond • editorbond@gmail.com www.takomaparkmd.gov The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov.

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Takoma Park Maryland Library 7505 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 205

This is the library's interim location during reconstruction of the library at Maple and Philadelphia Avenues. There is plenty of parking as well as access to public transportation—not to mention free Wi-Fi.

Library and Computer Center Hours

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

Weather-related closures:

Please check the city website before venturing out in inclement weather! To protect our most vulnerable patrons and staff, the library encourages everyone to continue to wear a mask while in the library; masks are optional in City facilities now.

You can borrow an internet hotspot.

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 and Books-to-You programs continue.

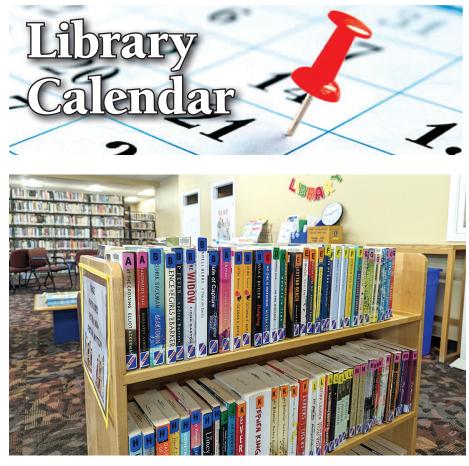
Email librarytakomapark@ gmail.com to order Books-to-Go or Books-to-You. Please note: if you are picking up a Books-to-Go order, please call the library's main number, 301-891-7259. The Books-to-You service is only available for Takoma Park residents.

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



ldiomas!

Spanish and English conversation group Thursday evenings

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. In person at the library's interim location. All levels; language beginners are welcome. Every Thursday, 6:30–7:30 p.m. Registration is encouraged, and 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. 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 March 5, with the Beech Tree Puppets. 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 10:30am. ¡Canciones y juegos en español! Join the in-person 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.

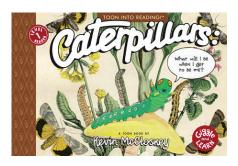
Chess for Kids—New time! Sundays at **noon**. Caregivers and kids are invited to play. Bring a chessboard and pieces if you like, but we have plenty. Players of all levels are welcome, there will be group instruction once a month. Please register if you want to receive updates.

LEGO Club. Come in and play with LEGOs! Sunday, March 3, 2 to 4pm.

Kids' Art - On Sunday, March 10th, join us for making hand crafted art, 2–4 p.m.

WinterQuest is wrapping up! 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!

Coming soon!



Author event—April 23 at 6 p.m. Meet author and illustrator Kevin McCloskey. Author of the *Giggle and Learn* series. He will read and sign his latest book, *Caterpillars: What will I be when I get to be me?* Sponsored by Politics & Prose.

Friends News

Did you know that the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) has two book groups? For information on joining the Friends and news on events, go to www.ftpml.org. This spring, the Big Book Club will be reading The Marble Faun, by Nathaniel Hawthorne. On March 6, we will meet in the Azalea Room at 7:30 p.m. for a speaker and discussion of this classic work. The Azalea Room is in the Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave. Copies of the book are available at the library front desk, and, as this novel is in the public domain, it can be found online on many platforms including Hoopla and Freading. Email ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com for more information. The Friends Book Group will discuss Octavia Butler's novel, The Parable of the Talents at the next Friends' Book Group meeting on Thursday, March 14 at 7:30 pm in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave. Email ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com for more information. Copies are available at the Library front desk, and as an audiobook on Hoopla.

In other Friends' news, we are starting



up a Fixit Clinic! A Fixit Clinic is an allages, do-it-together activity where people bring their broken household things and learn how to assess, disassemble and repair them instead of sending them to the landfill. We hope to fix toys, bikes, clothing, computers, phones, kitchen equipment, small electronics, jewelry, and whatever else you might bring.

But first, we need volunteers: handywomen, handymen, handyfamilies, handyeveryone! Tinkerers and tinkers! Sewists and knitters! Makers of all kinds! Volunteers should fill out the webform at https://bit.ly/4baWDyZ.

Go to the Friends website (ftpml.org) for updates on when the clinics will be taking place.

Looking ahead: the Friends' twice-yearly book sale will be taking place in May. Details to come!

Are We There Yet? With Ann Faison

There was a time when Googling "childhood loss and trauma" would just yield results about catastrophes in faraway places like Rwanda and Kosovo. But search engines are better now, understanding of trauma is far deeper, and there's robust research developing on what happens to children when a family member dies.

Ann Faison is an artist, grief specialist and author, who lost her own mother at age 14. She now hosts *Are We There Yet?*, a podcast about adolescent and childhood grief. Segments range widely from interviews with survivors, young and much older, therapists, and parents who had to help their own children navigate a family

death on top of their own grief.



A few segments range beyond deaths in the family to experiences like coming out as trans or non-binary as a young person.

Faison's podcast, website, and newsletter contribute to bringing this too-long "secret" topic out into the light.

Found wherever you get your podcasts, but be aware that there are a couple of podcasts by this name, so search with both the title and the host's name.

Director's column

I got my DNA ancestry results back, now what?

By Jessica Jones

More than 30 million people have submitted DNA samples to AncestryDNA and 23andMe, and many people have *feelings* about consumer DNA testing. Whether the concerns are about privacy and cybersecurity, accuracy of the reports, or the potential discovery of family secrets, there are many facets to this topic that could warrant an article here.

That said, this month's article assumes that there are readers out there who have opted to voluntarily participate in DNA testing. For those folks, they may be wondering what to do next with the wealth of information they now have about themselves and their families of origin. We have many Library resources to help readers understand and investigate their results.

First, I would like to highlight that we actually have a librarian on staff with a scholarly background in biology and genetics—Rebecca Brown—who was consulted for this article to contribute insight and ensure accuracy.

One of the most exciting reports for many people utilizing these services is the ancestry and ethnicity component. How is this information determined, and how accurate is it?

23andMe's page about determining ancestry through DNA says that they compare a user's sample to thousands of people with "known ancestry" and look for DNA markers that match. This can be fairly accurate ... but only to a point. There are margins of error built into these reports, and in the past, 23andMe would even allow users to change the "sensitivity" of a report to block out the less certain matches. To that end, Rebecca Brown says that, unless you know that you have a proven match to a specific ethnicity, any result of less than 2% is likely unreliable. So, that 1% of ancestry assigned to Iran or Norway or Papua New Guinea could be inaccurate.



Also, political borders are fluid, and they may not accurately capture a person's heritage. While many ancestry services say they can identify Ashkenazi Jewish heritage, not all Jewish peoples are Ashkenazi. Sephardic or Yemenite Jewish descent, for example, would be missed, and they have their own rich histories, traditions, and languages.

Conversely, a person could get a report back where they think that something is missing. Many people believe they have Indigenous American ancestry and are surprised to find it "missing" from their DNA reports. Or, alternately, they may find Indigenous ancestry and lead us into a whole side conversation about why blood quantum is problematic and who has the right to claim Indigenous heritage (*ahem* Senator Warren, who handled this not gracefully at all).

We also can't talk about ancestry composition accuracy without acknowledging historical and political factors that can influence results. Some of the most compelling episodes of shows like *Finding Your Roots* with Henry Louis Gates Jr. are the ones that delve into ancestries shaped by enslavement and diaspora. DNA testing can help to draw connections between gaps in the historical record and places of origin, and they may even help to identify DNA relatives in communities of origin.

For people with enslavement, forced migration, and adoption in their backgrounds, DNA testing may be the only way to begin finding your roots, and the reality is that we may not always find something that brings us answers. The historical record is political in its omissions as much as its inclusions, and there may very well be a gap between a DNA report and the historical record.

I am intentionally not tackling the issues of surprise relatives in DNA reports in depth because I don't have the space to cover it with the sensitivity it deserves. I will briefly say that this can happen for so many reasons, each of which are unique to the families involved. If this has happened to you or your family, I would first want to acknowledge how complicated this information may be for you to process, and I would say that it is okay to process it in your own time and in your own way.

While DNA can be tricky to interpret, the data do not lie: DNA testing is a "don't ask questions you're not ready to get answers to" situation. None of us asked to be here, on Earth, and a person's existence is not up for debate. Please be kind when handling sensitive or surprising information.

But, back to the lighter side, here are some of the library's resources to help you explore your DNA ancestry reports!

Pronunciator: Culture and language are so tightly linked, and learning some of a language from your report could be a fun way to feel more connected to those roots. Pronunciator offers instruction in 315 different languages, so the odds are that you will find something close to a result on your ancestry report. From Igbo and Yoruba to Cantonese, Dzongkha, Urdu, Pashto, German, and French, Pronunciator is a fantastic resource for linguistic and cultural connection.

Oxford Reference: This is a great place

GET INVOLVED From page 4

Learn about Sunny Opportunities at Go Solar TkPk

March 12, 7–9 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave.

This information session will educate all residents—both renters and homeowners about obtaining solar energy for your home. It will feature details on the upcoming solar co-op campaign with Solar United Neighbors, offer information on community solar from Neighborhood Sun, and information on clean energy options overall.

This will be an interactive event for anyone

to start your research into a place's history and culture. It's a high-level view of a number of topics, and our subscription includes online access to such volumes as The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium (for people with Turkish, Greek, Cypriot, and even southern Slavic results), Encyclopedia of the Dead Sea Scrolls (for people exploring Middle Eastern and Jewish results), Encyclopedia of African American History, 1619-1895: From the Colonial Period to the Age of Frederick Douglass (for people of African descent looking to evaluate and navigate the historical record in the Americas), and The Oxford Companion to Irish History (because there are a lot of people with Irish ancestry out there, and a big reason is their fraught relationship to English colonialism).

The Stacks: The "stacks" are what we call our physical bookshelves and holdings, and there is so much information in there on ... almost anything, really, but here some of the highlights for learning more about ancestry and culture:

Cookbooks: The best gateway to a new culture is often food! We have a lot of cookbooks, and I'm always happy to help guide people to my favorites.

Histories: In the Dewey Decimal system, histories are in the 900s, and we have **a lot** of them. Search our catalog, email us, or ask someone at the reference desk for information about specific places or periods in history.

Science: Interested in learning more about the science of DNA and genetics? We have books for that, like *Who We Are and How We Got Here: Ancient DNA Revolution and the New Science of the Human Past, by* David Reich, and *A Crack in Creation: Gene Editing and the Unthinkable Power to Control Evolution, by Jennifer A. Doudna and Sam*uel H. Sternberg

Here's to lifelong learning and the joy of indulging our curiosity.

be invited to "adopt" the tree that you plant. Come to plant a tree, stay to pull ivy!

Join the City Nature Challenge

Friday, April 26, 1–3 p.m. Circle Woods (Poplar and Circle Avenues)

Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m.–noon Stuart Armstrong Garden (Philadelphia and Holly Avenues)

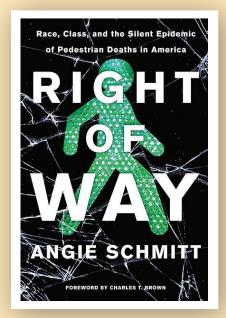
The City Nature Challenge is a friendly competition form of a bioblitz—an opportunity to observe and document plants, insects, animals, and fungi on a particular site.

In April 2023, the city hosted the first City Nature Challenge event. While the city is new to hosting, some of our residents are veterans of the project are active in documenting living organisms through the iNaturalist website.

What We're Reading

By Ma'isah Bateman Housing and Community Development Planning Intern

Takoma Park's Housing and Community Development division engages in a monthly book club. In January, our choice was **Right of Way: Race**, **Class and the Silent Epidemic Pedestrian Deaths in America**, in which sustainable transportation expert Angie Schmitt presents the stories of various traffic violence victims. Schmitt skillfully illustrates how our choices as urban planners and policy makers



in this realm can either fortify or dismantle existing societal disparities.

Key Facts from *Right of Way*

- Pedestrian deaths account for approximately 16% of all traffic fatalities in the United States. This underscores the urgent need to address pedestrian safety as a critical public health issue.
- Black and Hispanic pedestrians are disproportionately represented among traffic violence victims, as are individuals from low-income communities.
- Urban planning decisions predict pedestrian safety outcomes. Infrastructure deficiencies, such as inadequate crosswalks and poorly designed streets, contribute to higher

risks for pedestrians, especially in marginalized neighborhoods.

A central theme is the plea for a more inclusive urban planning strategy. Schmitt's compelling examples underscore the imperative of considering societal equity in every step of our community development initiatives.

The narratives shared in "Right of Way" underscores the importance of considering the needs and experiences of all community members, especially those who are disproportionately impacted by systemic inequalities. interested in, thinking about, or planning for solar. If you require language interpretation, please email Takoma Park Sustainability Manager Dory Estrada in advance: dorothye@ takomaparkmd.gov.

Ward 5 Zoom Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 7–8:30 p.m.

Discuss Ward 5 concerns with Councilmember Cara Honzak. For more information, contact Councilmember Honzak at carah@takomaparkmd.gov.

Tree Planting

Saturday, March 23, 9 a.m.–noon Circle Woods (Poplar and Circle Avenues)

Join the City of Takoma Park in planting 50 trees at Circle Woods. After nearly two years of invasive plant removal we are ready to plant the next generation of trees. You will This event took place over one weekend, in 482 cities across 46 countries. Participation in the annual event has been steadily growing since 2018. The D.C. Metropolitan area ranked fifth worldwide for participants and ninth for the number of species logged.

This event is a fun way to get out and explore our natural world and meet neighbors! Click here for more information on how to join the 2024 City Nature Challenge: citynaturechallenge.org.

Coming in April: Details about Earth Month and Budget Season.

Find details about weekly city council meetings on page 2 and information about other city and community events on pages 1 and 12.

RECREATION

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

TOTS

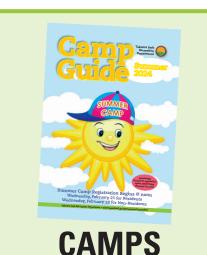
DANCE

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, 12:15–1 p.m. April 7–May 19 Resident: \$125 / non-resident: \$145

YOUTH



Registration is already open for our spring & summer camps, be sure to claim your spot!

CAMPS

Spring Break Camps

Fundamentally Sound Basketball Camp

Fundamentally Sound Basketball Camp will focus on the skills needed to elevate your performance. By the end of the camp you will understand the fundamentals of the game and how to apply them in game situations. Prior basketball experience is not required, just a good attitude! Participants should bring a non-perishable lunch and water bottle. Additional paperwork required prior to the start of camp. Beforecare and aftercare available for an additional fee. Instructor: Greg Harris

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SPRING & SUMMER CLASS REGISTRATION

Opens at noon, online & in person on the following dates Those with 2024 scholarship: March 8 Takoma Park residents: March 15 Non-residents: March 22

and labeled water bottle. **Registration is required.** Space is limited, sign up early. **Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp.**

Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave. Ages 6–12 Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. March 25–March 29 Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170

Summer Camps

Camp Takoma

Explore a new adventure each week with games, crafts, indoor and outdoor activities and trips related to each theme. Select the weeks with themes that peak your interest and fit your schedule! AM & PM Care available for additional fee.

Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave. 6–12 years Eight 1-week sessions June 24–August 16 Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170 *4th of July Week: resident: \$120 / nonresident: \$140

Dance Camp

This is a two-week camp that focuses on dance technique, team building, and performances. Campers will learn ballet, jazz, modern and hip-hop dance styles. They will also participate in a performance at the end of each session to display their newly learned skills. We will also enjoy other activities including games, arts and crafts, and meditation because all work and no play is no fun! This camp fills fast and only has 25 spots, so register early. We can't wait to dance with you! Beforecare and aftercare are available for an additional fee. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave. 6–12 years 2 Week Sessions Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. **Session 1**: July 15–July 26 **Session 2**: July 29–August 9 Resident: \$595 / non-resident: \$625 per session Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170 *4th of July Week: resident: \$120 / nonresident: \$140

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. April 13–May 18 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, 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. April 13–May 18 Resident: \$85 / non-resident: \$95

EXTENDED CARE

2024–2025 School Year Childcare Registration opens soon!

Current scholarship awardees: April 10 Takoma Park residents: April 17 Before- and after-school childcare opportunities for socializing, unwinding, and releasing energy. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Participants 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 for all days.** 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 Wednesday, April 10—National Zoo Monday, April 22—Rollingcrest Splash Pool 8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m. Resident: \$55 / non-resident: \$65

TEENS

CAMPS

Just Teen Camp

Just Teens camp provides an enriching, fun experience for teens! Each week, teens can expect to participate in indoor and outdoor games, crafts, sports, and other activities, including a field trip each Friday. Check out the weekly themes below and join in on the fun! **Beforecare and aftercare is not offered for this program.**

Takoma Park Community Center Teen Lounge 7500 Maple Ave. Grades 6–12 Four 1-week sessions in July Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170 *4th of July Week: resident: \$120 / nonresident: \$140

On Stage Camp: Matilda!

In this camp, everyone is a star! This year, we will be tackling material from the Broadway hit *Matilda!* Our two-week camp is designed to allow participants the opportunity to dive into performance and design/construction aspects of theatre by working on an abridged production. We'll start each day with physical, vocal, imagination, and focus building warmups. Here's what we'll be doing: creating and developing characters, rehearsing scenes/songs, blocking/choreographing musical numbers, learning music, scene painting, constructing props and costumes, playing drama games, getting to know the theatre space and theatre terminology. No beforecare or aftercare is available for this camp. Instructor: Gretchen Weigel

Heffner Park Community Center 42 Oswego Ave. Ages 8–12 2-week session Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. July 1–July 12 (no camp on July 4) Resident: \$645 / non-resident: \$675 Materials Fee: \$40

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: \$45 / non-resident: \$55 Beforecare: 7–9 a.m. Aftercare: 4–6 p.m. Resident: \$45 / non-resident: \$55

Spring Break Camp: LEGOmania

Come experience different cultures of the world with Takoma Park Recreation! Join us as we go "All Around the World" for a week, taking time to learn and experience different cultures. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Must bring a lunch, snacks

New Ave Adventure Camp

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave. 6–12 years Eight 1-week sessions Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m. June 24–August 16 options at two locations: 7500 Maple Ave. and 7315 New Hampshire Ave.





OPEN NOW claim a spot on these fun trips!

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, these are

Visual Arts Camp

Campers have fun and express themselves with color, shape, and design. They sharpen their drawing skills, explore new media, and exercise their imagination with these inspiring art projects. Each week a different theme/focus. No beforecare or aftercare is available for this camp. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman

Takoma Park Community Center

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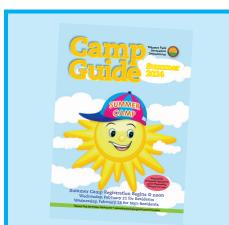
For a full list of our classes and to register visit bit.ly/TPRDActiveNet (case sensitive).

RECREATION

RECREATION

From page 8

(Art Studio) 7500 Maple Ave. 11–14 years Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m. June 24–July 19 Resident: \$310 / non-resident: \$340



CAMPS Registration is already open for our spring & summer camps, be sure to claim your spot!

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 hiphop 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 Road. Grades 6–8 Wednesdays, 3:30–4:30 p.m. April 3–May 22 Free

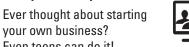
DROP-IN

Teen Lounge

Welcome to the Teen Lounge! Where teens can get a guick 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 vear and will be announced accordingly Enrollment on ActiveNet is FREE but 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.

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Entrepreneurship



Even teens can do it! Entrepreneurship for teens is an interactive virtual class that centers around a growth mindset, entrepreneurial skills, and business startup. This class is taught by our Teen Money Management instructor, Tyronda Boone of Zoey & Zander. The Zoom link will be sent the week before class starts.

Virtual Grades 6–12 8-week session Mondays, 6–7 p.m. April 8–June 3 Free

ADULTS

FITNESS

Zumba New Ave.

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium) 7315 New Hampshire Ave. Ages 16 and up Saturdays, 9–10 a.m. April 13–May 18 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 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

Meet the Instructor Jen Skillicorn

Jen Skillicorn is a new yoga instructor

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. April 13–May 18 Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

SPORTS



2024 TP Adult Summer Basketball League

Join our Adult Basketball League this summer! Put together your winning team and go against other area teams in order to win the league championship. Teams will be provided uniforms. Games are played at Takoma Park Middle School on Wednesdays and/or Thursdays at 6 or 7 p.m.

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

55+ ACTIVITIES

DANCE

Hip Hop Move N' Groove

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Back Room) 7513 New Hampshire Ave. Ages 55 and up Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. April 4–June 6 \$6

Line Dance

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary. Instructor: Barbara Brown

Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave. (Gymnasium) Ages 55 and up Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m. April 2–June 4 \$6



Zumba Gold

Active older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity. The design of the class introduces easy-tofollow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Instructor: Yesika Flores

RECREATION 🗌 Page 10



Takoma Park Community Center (Teen Lounge) 7500 Maple Ave. Grades 6–12 On days that Montgomery County Public Schools are in session Monday–Friday, 3–6 p.m. Free at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, and she is delighted to offer classes to the Takoma Park community!

Jen found yoga after college when she started taking yoga classes with her sister. After a number of years of practicing, she decided it was time to reinvigorate her practice and committed to taking a 200hour yoga teacher training through Lighthouse Yoga Center.

In Jen's approach to teaching, she likes to make space for students to take a break from the busyness of their daily lives and demanding schedules and to-do lists to nourish their mind, body, and spirit in a safe, non-competitive, and supportive environment.

Her classes are energizing, grounding, playful, and renewing. She works towards providing students with experiences and and into their daily lives to contribute to making the world a kinder, more compassionate world.

Her class 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.

Come join Jen on your mat! See class details in this newsletter, register online or in person.

WARD 1 ■ From page 1

support EV charging through all parts of the city. One project that we are eager to make meaningful progress on is a new recreation center. Our current center was built in 1958. It is outdated and Ward 1 residents have described it to me as "an embarrassment." Our city has a flawed past which includes how we have treated the Black community. Creating a modern recreation center in Ward 6 is a meaningful step towards equality of services. We know that our city is diverse, and we are working to do better by making it a place where everyone feels a deep sense of belonging.

- 2. Establish the City's long-term fiscal sustainability strategy. We are working to bolster our Equipment Replacement Reserve. Currently, funds directed toward that program are inadequate when taking into account our goals of environmental sustainability and electrification of city vehicles. We are developing a responsible process to delay purchases, when possible, in a manner that doesn't overwhelm future budgets.
- **3. Improve transportation planning, design, and implementation** to create a safer, more environmentally sustainable, and more racially and economically eq-



Councilmember Fulcher and her husband Kevin Dwyer visit Koma Coffee on Flower Avenue.

uitable community for all residents-

including pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicle occupants—implementing the recommendations from the Complete Safe Streets Committee is an important part of this goal. Traditionally, we have given priority to cars and not considered pedestrians or bike riders in transportation planning. Our city is focused on safety for pedestrians and bike riders and creating a pleasant environment. I currently represent Takoma Park on the Council of Government's National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board where I look for opportunities to follow City successes in securing grants.

4. Plan and prepare for development in the city and region while maintaining the special character and economic and racial diversity of Takoma Park—Ward 1 constituents likely first think about the Old Takoma area, stretching from Lost Sock Coffee in Takoma D.C. to Suds Laundry in Takoma Park, Maryland. I am fortunate to live walking distance to this amazing eclectic business community. We also have two additional thriving business centers, Takoma Langley Crossroads and Long Branch, that have their own flair. The three business associations of Takoma Park have distinct issues and strengths that our Housing and Community Development work to support. We work to keep all of the businesses in Takoma Park, big and small, in mind when developing policies.

5. We are inclusive of youth in many ways. Sixteen- and 17-year-olds have voting rights in our municipal elections. We have a Youth Council, which is often the committee with the most applicants and one that our city's staff is always excited to work with. At my most recent meeting with the Youth Council, they were working on an "I Voted" sticker, in collaboration with our Election Board and Communications Department.

I continue to learn more about our community every day. I always work from a place of empathy and openness to having my position adjusted by others. Whether we have already had a conversation or we haven't yet been introduced, my door is always open and I want you to reach out. Please email me anytime, and I invite you to collaborate in person. ShanaF@takomaparkmd.gov

WARD 2 ■ From page 1

gomery County; 2) we will hear stormwater management policy recommendations from consultant Low-Impact Development Center (LIDC), and 3) our sustainability manager just briefed council on our progress toward our greenhouse gas emissions goals and sustainability programs. The city's climate action framework lays out other steps for our community.

Public safety. Crime prevention, pedestrian and bicycle safety, and traffic management have grown in importance since I started. Please join a Ward 2 community meeting with our city police on March 19 (7–9 p.m.) at the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center. Our procedures for requesting traffic calming in neighborhoods are changing, and I've asked for attention to several areas in our ward.

Fiscal Sustainability. April will be very busy as we review the city manager's proposed budget and make spending and property tax decisions that balance city services, budget, and revenues. I'll be looking for your input on this, as well as other issues.

It's an honor and a privilege to serve Ward 2 and the city. I want to continue to expand the number and diversity of residents engaged in our community and in local government. And I want to hear from Ward 2 residents. You can email me cindyd@takomaparkmd.gov or call 240-320-6494 with comments or questions. Contact me to join the list for my weekly email newsletter.



Photo by Eric Bond

Councilmember Dyballa stands in front of a Montgomery County Champion Tree in her back yard, a willow oak more than 100 feet tall.

RECREATION

From page 9

Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave. (Gymnasium) Ages 55 and older Fridays, 10–11 a.m. April 12–June 7 \$6

DROP-IN

Bingo

Come try your luck and win a prize! This

cool down routines. Instructor: Adriene Buist

Virtual Ages 55 and older Tuesdays, 9–10 a.m. April 2–June 4 \$6

SPORTS

Pickleball Summer Camp Intermediate

Welcome to Forever Young's 2024 Intermediate Summer Camp for adults 55+. The 2024 camp is Pickleball for



Fitness Expo

Come join us for an exciting day that will include demonstrations from our fitness classes as well as presentations from our local community health and wellness organizations. The expo will kick off at 10 am. For additional information or if you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or Vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov

Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave. All ages Saturday, April 6 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Free

is a drop-in activity; no registration is required. Host: Paula Lisowski

Takoma Park Library 7505 New Hampshire Ave. Ages 55 and up Tuesday, noon–2 p.m. March 26 and April 17 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 Intermediate Players. You'll enjoy a week of pickleball designed to expand your skills and knowledge while having fun. This camp is for players who have some experience playing the game with other players or had some training such as taking a beginners class and are familiar with some basic knowledge of rules, etc. Before registering please see camp details in the 2024 Spring/Summer (April to June) Forever Young newsletter to be distributed the first week in March. To see the newsletter on-line go to: takomaparkmd. gov/government/recreation

Takoma Park Recreation Center 7513 New Hampshire Ave. Ages 55 and up 1-week Session Monday–Friday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m. August 19–August 23 Resident: \$95 / non-resident: \$105

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual Egg Hunt

Get your baskets ready and join the Takoma Park Recreation Department for an egg-citing time! There are four age categories: 2 and under, 3–4, 5–6, and 7–8. Games will begin at 10 a.m. and the hunt will begin at 11 a.m. SHARP—don't miss out! Don't forget to bring your basket to Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School) for a morning of fun. We will be collecting the eggs at the end of the event to reuse next year.

Ed Wilhem Field 2 Darwin Ave. Ages up to 8 Saturday, March 30 Starting at 10 a.m. Free

Family Outdoor Movie Night

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

Ed Wilhelm Field 2 Darwin Ave. All ages Saturday, April 6 Movie starts at dusk Free

At Your SERVICE



Spring Forward for Daylight Savings Time!

Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour before you go to sleep on Saturday, March 9 as March 10 is when Daylight Savings begins. Some appliances may not update automatically, so give your microwave and oven a little nudge, too!

Ward 2 Public Safety Meeting

Tuesday, March 19, 7-9 p.m. Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave.

The Takoma Park Police Department will be holding a community meeting to discuss public safety issues in Ward 2. Police Department staff will be providing an update on recent incidents in Ward 2 and provide an overall overview of crime stats and trends and security measures put in place to address these trends. The meeting will be in-person and via Zoom.

Find the registration link on the Police page at takomaparkmd.gov. If you have questions in advance of the meeting, please send them to Police Public Information Officer Cathy Plevy at cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov, with the title, "Ward 2 Public Safety Meeting.

The Community Police Academy Is Cancelled

It is with regret that we must announce the cancellation of the Community Police Academy scheduled for the spring. Unfortunately, we did not receive the minimum number of attendees required to proceed with the program.

We remain committed to fostering positive relationships between the police department and all members of our community and are exploring alternative approaches to the community police academy. Please stay tuned for updates on future initiatives and events aimed at promoting community involvement. Thank



March is Women's History Month

And March 8 is International Women's Day. We salute every strong and empowering woman today, with special recognition to the women of the Takoma Park Police Department. Thank you for your contributions to the community, your families, and the police profession.

main pillars. Through these efforts, we aim to enhance trust, improve policies, leverage technology, reduce crime, prioritize officer training and education, and ensure officer safety and wellness. You can find our 2023 report by visiting the police page on the city website and clicking on "Community Policing."

Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Dav

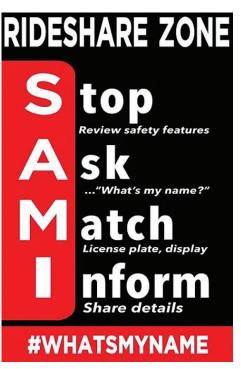
The Takoma Park Police Department is participating in the Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day on Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This campaign allows the public to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Collection boxes will be set up in the first-floor police lobby of the municipal building, or outside (weather permitting). Prescription, overthe-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 dropoff location at the City of Takoma Park Police Department, 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.

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



Ride Share Safety

In March 2019, Samantha Josephson, a 21-year-old senior at the University of South Carolina, tragically lost her life to a fake Uber driver. In her memory, her parents set up the #WhatsMyName Foundation. Rideshare safety matters - remember the SAMI method: Stop (have a plan) Ask (what's my name?) Match (the make/model/license plate) Inform (share details with friends/family)

Join the Team!

We're Hiring Crossing Guards. Interested in becoming a Crossing Guard for the City of Takoma Park Police Department? Please apply today and be a part of a great team.

We're Hiring Communications Officers. Interested in becoming a police dispatcher? This position is responsible for receiving and dispatching emergency and non-emergency calls for service. This position requires the ability to do the following

you for your continued support

Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations 2023

The Takoma Park Police Department's policy directives require investigations of all complaints against the Department or its employees, and that annual statistical summaries of such investigations by the internal affairs function be made available to the public. You can find the 2023 report by visiting the police page on the city website and clicking on "Submit a Complaint or Compliment."

Community Policing Report 2023

The Takoma Park Police Department is committed to fostering strong relationships with the community we serve. In alignment with the President's Task Force on 21st Century Community Policing, we have structured our initiatives around six

Polar Bear Plunge

Takoma Park Police teamed up with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and raised \$2,800 for Maryland Special Olympics at the Polar Bear Plunge. According to Maryland State Police, "With more than \$4 million raised, it's a new record." Special thanks to Capt. Holmes, Trevor, Tina, and Ariel for plunging on February 2 for a wonderful cause! Their teeth were chattering but their hearts were warmed knowing they were supporting incredible athletes. Thanks for going the extra mile to create a memorable and impactful experience.



- Communicate clearly and effectively
- Handle multiple activities simultaneously while maintaining attention to detail
- Remain calm and objective
- Independently analyze situations and quickly identify appropriate action
- Provide effective customer service
- Work effectively with an ethnically and culturally diverse staff and community

To learn more about these positions and to apply, go to takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/recruitment/.

Community ACTIVITIES

The HalFSmokes

Friday, March 1, 7–10 p.m. VFW Post 350 in *Hell's Bottom* 6420 Orchard Ave.

Hear all your 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. Featuring award-winning and long-time favorite Washington-Baltimore area musicians Billy Coulter (vocals/ guitar), Bill Williams (vocals/guitar), Arch Alcantara (vocals/bass) and Rich Nagel (vocals/drums). Open to the public. No cover charge—donations greatly appreciated. TheHalFSmokes.com.

Historic Takoma Reading Room

Sunday, March 3 and 17, 1–4 p.m. Historic Takoma 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. Find out more at historictakoma.org.

Stormwater Resiliency Study

Third Community Meeting Tuesday, March 5, 7 p.m. Held remotely via Zoom

The Low Impact Development Center has reviewed 20 flood-prone areas in Takoma Park and will present their evaluation of the sites and initial recommendations for addressing stormwater impacts. Find the link and learn more on the Stormwater Resiliency Study webpage at takomaparkmd.gov.

Montgomery County Job Fair

Friday, March 8, 6–8:30 p.m Long Branch Community Recreation Center 8700 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring

Daylight Savings Time begins

Sunday, March 10 Set your clock ahead one hour.

Greg Rekus and Teething Veils

Monday, March 11, 7–9 p.m. Takoma Park Gazebo 7035 Carroll Ave.

Songwriter Greg Rekus from Winnipeg delivers his own brand of punk-infused folk music guaranteed to get even the most stoic



Teething Veils will be performing at the Takoma Park Gazebo on Monday March 11 with Greg Rokus. Photo by Rafa Cruz.

Stores Next Door

Wednesday, March 13, 5:30–7:30 p.m. Long Branch Community Center 8700 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring

Hosted by Discover Long Branch, this event features activities for families of the Long Branch community to suggest improvements to the commercial area. Local restaurants of Long Branch will feature their food and drinks for free.

Interfaith Comedy Stand-Up Show

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave.

In an age of polarization and angry debate, the comedians of Interfaith Comedy are sharing laughs with a side of understanding about various religions. Five comedians from different religious backgrounds will share their talents. No tickets or reservations are required. Free.

Weed Warrior Workday

Sunday, March 17, 1–3 p.m. Long Branch Stream Valley Park, Unit 1 Between Piney Branch Road and Carroll Avenue

Weed warriors will focus on non-native, invasive vines. Please wear long pants that cover your ankles, long sleeves, and sturdy, closed-toed shoes. Bring gloves, pruners, small folding hand saws and/or loppers if you have them. Gloves and tools are available to borrow if you don't have your own. No power tools or machetes allowed. Please bring water to drink. This workday is pre-approved for Montgomery County Public School Student Service Learning hours. Volunteers must be 16 years or older to join this event. All volunteers must register online. More information at https://bit.ly/48tPvew

Cultural Heritage Concert Series: Irish American and Greek American

Wednesday, March 20, 11 a.m.–noon Long Branch Community Recreation Center 8700 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring

Montgomery County Recreation, in partnership with Carpe Diem Arts, is staging a Cultural Heritage Concert Series, thanks to a grant provided by the National Endowment of the Arts. Featuring performing artists include Seán Heely, Abbie Palmera and Karpouzi Trio (Spyros Koliavasilis, Margaret Loomis, Len Newman).These concerts are intergenerational and free to the public. They aim to offer highquality, diverse concerts to residents.

Tree Planting

Saturday, March 23, 9 a.m.–noon Circle Woods Cockerille and Poplar Avenues

Join the City of Takoma Park in planting 50

trees at Circle Woods. After nearly two years of invasive plant removal we are ready to plant the next generation of trees. You will be invited to "adopt" the tree that you plant. Come to plant a tree, stay to pull ivy!

Spring Break

March 23–April 1 Montgomery County Public Schools

Annual Egg Hunt

Saturday, March 30, 10 a.m. Ed Wilhelm Field 2 Darwin Ave.

Healthy Homes Fair

Saturday, April 6, noon–5 p.m. D.C. Armory

2001 E Capitol St. SE, Washington, D.C.

Join the Department of Energy and Environment and Electrify DC, a leading nonprofit dedicated to home electrification, at the inaugural Healthy Homes Fair, a fullday expo and interactive learning experience for 1,000+ home renovation professionals, career seekers, homeowners, and renters. Takoma Park is a co-sponsor of this fair. More information at doee.dc.gov/event/ healthy-homes-fair. Free.

Family Outdoor Movie Night

April 6—starts at dusk Ed Wilhelm Field 2 Darwin Ave. (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)

Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family! The movie will be a family-friendly "G" or "PG" rated hit. The Recreation Department will provide one small bag of popcorn per person and water. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged. Free.

Takoma Park Earth Day/Arbor Day

Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park Playground

Because there is no Planet B! Snowcones, art, games, guided tree walk , EV showcase. More information at takomaparkmd.gov/ sustainability. Free.

ONGOING

Takoma Park Farmers Market

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

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

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. Free.

of concertgoers out of their seats. Teething Veils (guitarist/vocalist Greg Svitil) plays soft, reflective songs for solo acoustic guitar and voice. More information at veilsofteeth.com. Free.

Let's Go Solar, TkPk!

Tuesday, March 12, 7–9 p.m. Takoma Park Municipal Building Auditorium 7500 Maple Ave.

Community information session for both renters and home-owners. Learn about solar co-ops, community solar, renewable energy certificates (RECs), tax incentives, and more. More information at takomaparkmd.gov/ sustainability. Free.

55+ Nature Book Club

Friday, March 19- 6–7:30 p.m. Sligo Avenue Neighborhood Park Activity Building

500 Sligo Ave, Silver Spring (with Zoom option)

This first meeting will introduce the group, talk about club expectations, share ideas and vote for our first book. You may attend this meeting in-person or virtually. A Zoom link will be sent prior to the date. Hosted by Montgomery County Parks. Register and learn more at montgomeryparks.org/ event/55-nature-book-club/. Get your baskets ready and join the Takoma Park Recreation Department for an egg-citing time! There are 4 age categories: 2 and under, 3–4, 5–6, and 7–8. Games will begin at 10 a.m. and the hunt will begin at 11 a.m. SHARP. More information at takomaparkmd. gov/recreation. Free.

Takoma Park Fitness Expo

Saturday, April 6, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave.

This exciting day will include demonstrations from Takoma Park Recreation fitness programs as well as presentations from local community health and wellness organizations. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or Vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov. More information at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation. Free.



Questions, Concerns, or Ideas?

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