

Takoma Park News



May 2024

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 63, No. 5 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

Important Dates

Mayur Dance Company
Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Bike to School Day
Wednesday, May 8
Check with your child's school for details.

Bike to Work Day
Friday, May 17, 6:30–9 a.m.
Three pit stops in Takoma Park:
• Takoma/Langley Crossroads
• Old Takoma
• Sligo Trail at New Hampshire Avenue
Register at biketoworkmetrodc.com.

FTPML Book Sale
May 18, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
7505 New Hampshire Ave.

Memorial Day Holiday
Sunday, May 26 and Monday, May 27
City office and facilities will be closed, except police.
Monday collection routes will occur on Tuesday.

The Capitol Hillbillies
Friday, May 31, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Flower Avenue Together Block Party
Saturday, June 1, 2–5 p.m.
Erie and Flower Avenues

Family Outdoor Movie Night
Saturday, June 8, dusk
Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Ave.

Juneteenth Celebration
Wednesday, June 19, noon–6 p.m.
Lee Jordan Field,
7611 Piney Branch Road

Note: On Juneteenth, city offices and facilities will be closed, except police. Wednesday collection routes will occur on Thursday.

See more community events on page 16.

Council Comments

Ward 5 Together! ¡Juntos! Ensemble! Pamoja! አንድ ላየ!

by **Cara Honzak**
Ward 5 Takoma Park Councilmember

Change is on the march in Ward 5 and our surrounding neighborhood.

Just one block north of Ward 5, at Takoma Park's northernmost point, the new Purple Line station at Arliss Avenue is coming to life. Construction means that potholes and road detours are our daily reality.

For households with school-aged kids, the challenges are even more stark. Our Ward 5 kids are the only ones in the city whose public schools all sit beyond the Takoma Park borders. Silver Spring International Middle School or SSIMS (our home middle school) is on Wayne Avenue in Silver Spring, where a giant new Purple Line tunnel and an entire track—under heavy construction—runs alongside the main pathway from Takoma Park to the school. Rolling Terrace (our home elementary school) and our local Long Branch businesses along Piney Branch Road, have extremely limited points of entry, adding strain to daily life.

At our southernmost end, Washington Adventist University and the old hospital campus are also gearing up for change. In April, the Montgomery County Council voted to move forward with the Minor Master Plan Amendment. We, like all Takoma Park residents, are now eager to see the University's development proposal.



Photo by Eric Bond

Councilmember Cara Honzak (Ward 5) with young artists at the Takoma Park Earth Day event on April 20. Youth are creating images that celebrate inclusivity and diversity in our community. They will be entered into a sticker competition and will be displayed at the Flower Avenue Together Block Party on June 1.

Sligo Creek Parkway, which runs alongside our ward, is arguably our most treasured asset. With all this change underway, the watershed is impacted.

Ward 5 does not have any major city-owned public spaces, like a recreation cen-

ter, library, community center, or school. Rather, we are dependent on Montgomery Parks and its' collaboration with the City of Takoma Park and surrounding stakeholders, to regulate changes in our ward's rec-

WARD 5 □ Page 14

The Roadshow Stops to Meet Roscoe

Photos by Eric Bond



Mayor David Sander (Rancho Cordova, California), the current president of the National League of Cities (NLC), swung by Takoma Park in the early hours of Tuesday, April 16 for a quick tour of Takoma Park with Mayor Talisha Searcy and Ward 2 Councilmember Cindy Dyballa.

The NLC is crossing the country for a 100th Anniversary Roadshow to visit 100 member cities ahead of a City Summit in November. Mayor Searcy and Councilmember Dyballa related the lore of Takoma Park, including the legacy of a certain free-range rooster, during a quick chat before sending Mayor Sander off to his next city.

Docket 2

Arts 5

Library 6

Budget 9

Recreation 12

ECRMSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

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

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

On the DOCKET

CITY COUNCIL

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly City Council agenda and committee calendar update by e-mail 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. You do not need to register to comment in person.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Note: Meeting start times and listed agenda items can change. Please check the agenda page at takomaparkmd.gov to confirm the time and final agenda..

- Wednesday, May 1—The City Council will not meet** in order to provide time for staff to finalize the budget in preparation for first reading on May 8.
- Wednesday, May 8—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium**

Voting Session

 - First Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2025 Tax Rates
 - First Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2025 Stormwater Management Budget
 - First Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2025 Budget
 - Resolution Supporting Maple Community Association Juneteenth Celebration
 - Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing a Contract with NZI Construction Corp. for the Houston Avenue Stormwater Treatment Project
 - Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing the City Manager to Sign a Contract with Human Circuit for Technical Services for City TV

Work Session:

 - Memorandum of Agreement Between the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings and the City of Takoma Park
- to Provide an Administrative Law Judge or Retired Judge to Serve on Disciplinary Panels Convened Under the Maryland Police Accountability Act
- Wednesday, May 15—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium**

Voting Session

 - Second Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2025 Tax Rates
 - Second Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2025 Stormwater Management Budget
 - Second Reading Ordinance Adopting the FY 2025 Budget
 - Resolution Authorizing the City Manager to Sign a Memorandum of Agreement Between the Maryland Office of Administrative Hearings and the City of Takoma Park to Provide an Administrative Law Judge or Retired Judge to Serve on Disciplinary Panels Convened Under the Maryland Police Accountability Act

Work Session

 - Wrap Up of 2024 Legislative Session and Discussion of Legislative Priorities to submit to the Maryland Municipal League

CITY COUNCIL Page 16

Notice of Proposed Administrative Regulation to Establish Reservation Procedures and Requirements, Fees, Rules and Guidelines for the Use of Certain Public Facilities

An Administrative Regulation is being proposed to establish reservation procedures and requirements, fees, rules and guidelines for the use of certain public facilities in accordance with Takoma Park Code, Chapter 14.20 Public Space and Public Buildings. The regulation updates and replaces Administrative Regulation 2011-1. It addresses reservation procedures and requirements, fees, rules and guidelines, and programming priorities.

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 www.takomaparkmd.gov. To obtain further information about the proposed regulation, contact Gregory Clark, Director, Recreation Department, 301-891-7227 or GregoryC@takomaparkmd.gov. Written comments on the proposed regulation may be emailed to Clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The deadline for receipt of public comments is Friday, June 7, 2024, 2023.

Council Action

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

MARCH 6, 2024

- **Ordinance 2024-4** authorized a contract for the Brashear's Run stream restoration.

MARCH 13, 2024

- **Resolution 2024-9** calling for hostage release, bilateral ceasefire, and humanitarian aid in Gaza.
- **Ordinance 2024-3** amended the Takoma Park Code to ban combustion engine-powered leaf blowers (first reading of the ordinance took place on March 6, 2024).
- **Ordinance 2024-5** approved a contract with Mayoka Services, LLC for the stabilization of the vacant Washington McLaughlin School site at 6501 Poplar Ave.

APRIL 3, 2024

- **Resolution 2024-10** authorized the city

manager to sign a collective bargaining agreement between UFCW Local 400 (representing police officers) and the City of Takoma Park.

- **Resolution 2024-11** authorized submission of Safe Streets and Roads for All grant application.

APRIL 10, 2024

- **Resolution 2024-12** authorized the City Manager to execute Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (NED) grant documents for multifamily building improvements.
- **Resolution 2024-13** authorized the City Manager to execute Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development National Capital Strategic Economic Development Fund (NED) grant documents for Richardson School of Music.
- **Ordinance 2024-6** authorized an agreement for renewal of SADA Systems Google Workspace.

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

ENGAGE Page 3



Mayor Talisha Searcy



Shana Fulcher (Ward 1)



Cindy Dyballa (Ward 2)



Randy Gibson (Ward 3)



Terry Seamens (Ward 4)



Cara Honzak (Ward 5)



Jason Small (Ward 6)

Apply Now to Serve on City Boards and Committees June 3 Application Deadline

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. Appointed members are eligible to receive a \$40 stipend per meeting attended.

Applications are being accepted now to fill vacancies. Appointments will be made in June. *Residents of Wards 4, 5, and 6 are particularly encouraged to apply.*

There may be vacancies on the following committees:

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

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

Public NOTICES

Rent Stabilization Allowance: Annual Rent Increase Set at 3.4% Effective: July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

The City of Takoma Park law (*City Code Chapter 6.20 Rent Stabilization*) maintains the affordability of rental units by limiting the number and amount of rent increases charged for a specific rental unit. Generally, the rent may be increased only once in any given 12-month period.

Beginning July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, the Rent Stabilization Allowance is 3.4%. Landlords are required to comply with Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization law and cannot increase the rent on occupied units any higher than this allowance.

Multi-family rental units and rental condominium units are subject to Rent Stabilization. Rent increases are limited to the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index published by the Department of Bureau of Labor Statistics for the period of March 2023 through March 2024.

Pursuant to the City Code, a two-month written notice must be provided to the tenant(s) before a landlord can legally increase the rent. (*City Code Chapter 6.20.050(C) Notice of Annual*

Rent Increases).

Please note that the following units may be exempt from Rent Stabilization upon application to the City. The exemption is not automatic and must be approved by the City.

- Rental units leased to tenants under the Housing Choice Voucher Program.
- Any rental facility where the rents are regulated under contract by a governmental agency that controls the rent levels of not less than one-half of the rental units in the rental facility and restricts the occupancy of those rental units to low- and- moderate income tenants.
- Newly constructed rental units for a period of five years after construction.

If you have any questions regarding your rent or need more information about the requirements of the City's Rent Stabilization law, please contact Jean Kerr, Housing Specialist at 301-891-7216 or 240-672-1023 or email jeank@takomaparkmd.gov.

ENGAGE

■ From page 2

prepares an annual budget for their consideration.

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

Top Out Time at the Library!

Exciting things are happening on the Library/Community Center construction site! We have firewalls up, and the slab has been poured. We are still working on some utilities and stormwater infrastructure, but work is progressing, and soon the building's frame will start to come together.

A few staff offices have been temporarily moved to accommodate framing work as Doyle Construction joins the new steel frame to the existing building, but no service interruptions are expected for residents. In May, the frame will be completed, and we will have a topping-out ceremony to commemorate the placement of the last piece of structural steel. Having the frame in place is a big step, and we are looking

forward to celebrating the milestone.

After the frame is in place, Doyle Construction can start to fill it in with walls and utilities and all of the features that are going to make the new Library and Computer Center and the revitalized Community Center a beautiful, comfortable, and accessible place for all residents to enjoy.

In the meantime, the Takoma Park Maryland Library is still open at 7505 New Hampshire Ave., which is also providing space for Recreation Department staff. Come visit us, check out a book, and sign up for one of the wonderful Recreation programs.

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 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)

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, May 9, 7:30 p.m. (virtual/remote)

(Community Center Hydrangea Room, with virtual option)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room, with virtual option)

TREE COMMISSION HEARING

Wednesday, May 8, 7 p.m. (virtual/remote)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Thursday, May 9, 4 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room, with virtual option)
Thursday, May 23, 4 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room, with virtual option)

ETHICS COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 14, 7 p.m. (virtual/remote)

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 p.m. (virtual/remote)

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.

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, May 20, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room, with virtual option)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 16, 7 p.m. (virtual/remote)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND CERTIFIED COMMITTEE

Monday, May 6, 7 p.m.



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 ክፍ ይፈልጉ የዚህ መጽሔቱ አርከም ራስዎ ፍቸው በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ተርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታኮማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀ ካደረጉን በኋላ ስድራው አንገኝ ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥን ላይ ታኮማን የአሰሳ ክፍሉን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልጭሎ ሳጥን.

Community Quality of Life Grant Program Now Accepting Applications

The City of Takoma Park's **Community Quality of Life Grants Program** provides financial support for specific programs, projects, and events that improve the quality of life for City residents by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences. Nonprofit organizations serving residents of Takoma Park are encouraged to apply for funding to support Arts, STEM, or STEAM programs that will take place between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025.

- Awards will range from \$5,000 to \$10,000, with a total of \$50,000 available in the grant pool.
- The deadline for applications is 11:59 p.m., Friday, May 10, 2024. Grantees will be announced prior to July 1, 2024.
- Visit the Community Quality of Life Grant Program page at takomaparkmd.gov for more details on eligibility and to apply.

Questions? Email the City's grants coordinator at grants@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7235.

Building COMMUNITY



Photo by Ryan Kelly.

Prepare for a summer of biking with a check-up. Bike Werks will be at the Crossroads Farmers Market (pictured) and the Takoma Park Farmers Market on select dates to look over bikes and make minor repairs for free. Bike Werks will also be out on Bike to Work Day. For details, see bit.ly/bikerepairTKPK.

May Is Bike Month!

by Kaysi-Ann Webley,
Special Projects Coordinator

Get ready to dust off your bikes and join us as we pedal our way through the month of May! This month-long celebration is packed with exciting activities and events aimed at promoting cycling as a fun, healthy, and sustainable mode of transportation.

Bike Month isn't just about riding on two wheels; it's about embracing a lifestyle that benefits both individuals and our community as a whole. Cycling not only improves our physical health by providing a low-impact form of exercise but also contributes to

cleaner air and reduced traffic congestion. By choosing to bike, you're not just taking care of yourself—you're also helping to create a more vibrant and sustainable city for everyone.

Throughout May, there are a variety of bike-related activities for all ages and skill levels.

- **Sunday, May 5: National Ride a Bike Day.** What a great opportunity to join up with family and friends for a bike ride.
- **Wednesday, May 8: Bike to School Day.** Students and parents are encouraged to ride to school together and learn about proper helmet fitting and basic bike safety.

BIKE MONTH Page 10

Bike Better Safety Tips

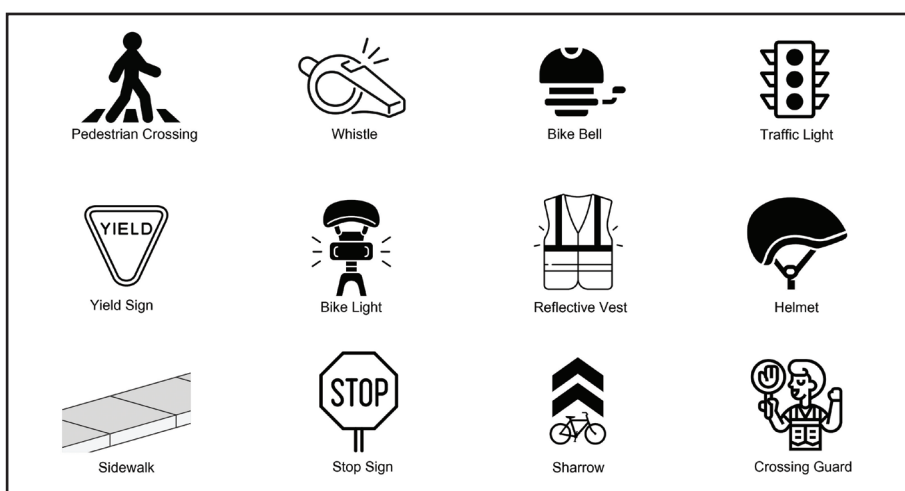
Use these tips to learn the basics of safely riding your bike in traffic and sharing the road with cars.

- Every bike ride begins with putting on a **properly fitting helmet**.
- **Ride a bike that works.** Ensure there is adequate air in your tires, as well as that your brakes, cranks and chain are in good condition.
- Always **ride with the flow of traffic**. Keep as far to the right as practicable.
- Always **ride in a straight line**. Do not swerve between parked cars.
- **Follow the same rules as motorists**, including yielding right-of-way and signaling.
- **Stay visible.** Wear bright clothing and remember that if you can't see your reflection in bus, truck, or car mirrors, the drivers can't see you.

Drivers: remember to share the road! People on bicycles have the same rights and responsibilities as people behind the wheel of a vehicle.

Safe Routes to School Scavenger Hunt

How many of these safety items can you find on your route to school or work? These will help keep you safe as you walk or bike to where you need to go.



The Takoma Park Minor Master Plan Amendment Is Approved

By Takoma Park Planning Division

On April 2, the Montgomery County Council approved the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan proposed by Montgomery Planning, following community input and debate at both the city and county levels. The plan intends to preserve and expand affordable housing and advance economic development and employment opportunities in a section of Takoma Park from the Takoma Park Community Center in the west to the Erie Center and Washington Adventist University and the former Washington Adventist Hospital site in the east.

"As the Minor Master Plan acknowledges, both the City and County will need to ensure adequate protections for residents at risk of displacement. We are pleased that the plan explicitly calls out the right to return for existing residents and will continue to ensure that existing policies such as rent stabilization, Tenant Opportunity to Purchase laws, and City and County tenant displacement laws appropriately meet the needs of our residents," stated Mayor Talisha Searcy.

"The City remains confident in how these issues have been addressed throughout the development of the plan, including the already strengthened plan language around no-net loss of affordability and in-

crease in minimum MPDU [moderately priced dwelling unit] percentages," she continued. "We look forward to continuing to work with the County to identify the critical funding needed to address longer-term equity priorities in the Plan area such as existing residential property infrastructure, incentivization of additional affordable housing production, and enhancement of local school infrastructure."

Minor Master Plan Amendment highlights:

Land Use, Zoning and Housing

- For compatible future development flexibility, the plan allows residential and commercial mixed-use zoning for properties on and around Washington Adventist campus and along Maple Avenue.
- Zoning codes have been updated for greater uniformity and compatibility with Montgomery County.

Improved Connectivity

- The plan incorporates a well-lit, walkable green promenade from the Takoma Park Municipal Building to the Washington Adventist campus.
- The plan will prioritize opportunities for a micro-mobility hub for better multi-modal access.

MASTER PLAN Page 11

Takoma Park Code Enforcement

Lead May Be a Quiet Danger in Your Home or Yard

I recently received a courtesy notice alerting me to flaking and peeling paint on my house. Why is this a problem?

The following information from the Environmental Protection Agency might be helpful.

Older Homes and Buildings

If your home was built before 1978, it is more likely to have lead-based paint. In 1978, the federal government banned consumer use of lead-based paint, but some states banned it even earlier.

Lead-based paint is still present in millions of homes, normally under layers of newer paint. If the paint is in good shape, the lead-based paint is usually not a problem. Deteriorating lead-based paint (peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking, damaged, or damp) is a hazard and needs immediate attention.

Lead-based paint may also be a hazard when found on surfaces that children can

chew or that get a lot of wear-and-tear, such as

- windows and windowsills
- doors and door frames
- stairs, railings, banisters, and porches.

To reduce sources of lead exposure in older homes and buildings:

- Inspect and keep all painted surfaces in excellent shape and clean up dust frequently with a wet cloth or paper towel.
- Consult a certified lead professional before beginning renovation, repair, or painting projects. Renovation, repair or painting activities can create toxic lead dust when painted surfaces are disturbed or demolished.
- Avoid tracking lead dust into the home by wiping and removing shoes before entering the home and placing dust mats both inside and outside of entryways.
- Learn if you have a lead service line.

LEAD Page 14

Older Homes are More Likely to Contain Lead-Based Paint



The ARTS



Dancers Bring Ancient Odissi Dance Traditions to Life

Mayur Dance Company:
Anjali-An Offering
Friday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
Free Performance

With intricate rhythmic footwork, lyrical movements, and elaborate costumes, the dancers of the Mayur Dance Company perform classical dances from the ancient Odissi tradition inspired by ancient Sanskrit texts and Hindu temple carvings in India.

Odissi dance, which explores religious stories and ideas emanating from the Indian state of Orissa, was suppressed during British colonial rule but has remerged since India's independence in popular performances that merge traditional dance, music, and poetry drawn from ancient Sanskrit literature.

The Mayur Dance Company will hold a free performance on May 3 at the Takoma Park Community Center as part of the City of Takoma Park's Takoma Park Arts series. No tickets or reservations are required, and donations will be accepted. Limited parking is available in the police station parking lot at the Community Center or at Piney Branch Elementary School next door.



"We seek to celebrate cultures from across the world in our Takoma Park Arts events, so we're proud to host the Mayur Dance Company in their first and only performance in Takoma Park," says Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith. "We hope this performance will attract a new audience to experience an ancient dance

tradition."

Starting as young as 4 years old, students in Mayur's classes progress in their training with the most talented students joining the professional dance company. Founded in 2008 in Potomac, the group has performed at the Kennedy Center, Wolf Trap, the Smithsonian, the International Odissi Festival in India, and many other venues. You can learn more at mayurdance.org.

In their performance in Takoma Park, the dancers will share both classical and contemporary Odissi dances with protracted hand gestures, distinctive postures, and nuanced torso movements. The dancers depict and embody the physical and spiritual attributes of various Hindu deities and tell stories about them from South Asian folklore and Hindu mythology, says Mishka Mukherji, Mayur's assistant artistic director and a company dancer.

"We find the Odissi vocabulary is so rich and expressive that this dance form invites us to explore and expand the visual and narrative possibilities with more varied points of view," says Mukherji.

The company's elaborate costumes are designed by Mayur's founder and artistic director Sukanya Mukherji, and they are tailored by small, specialized *darzi* tailor shops in India.

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, and donations are accepted. Sign up for our e-newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/arts to get more information about all of our upcoming events. Join us and celebrate the arts!

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

The Capitol Hillbillies have been raising the roof with their rousing mix of barrelhouse blues, hot jazz, and jug band

music for almost 40 years at venues across the D.C. area. They embody the spirit of New Orleans with steam-engine energy

and carnival charm in rollicking shindigs that explore the roots of American music spanning blues from the Delta to Chica-

go, jug band and old-time music, Cajun and Appalachian tunes, early country and gospel, and a tantalizing taste of bluegrass.

Juels Bland
Friday, June 14, 7:30 p.m.

Juels Bland is a local singer-songwriter, acoustic guitarist, and pianist who has played at clubs and venues across the East Coast. His music and lyrics evoke rich soulful tones in an uplifting concert where he will play his own songs and some covers.



Takoma Park News

Send submissions to: Editor: Eric Bond • editorbond@gmail.com | Assistant Editor: Sean Gossard • TPNewsEditor@takomaparkmd.gov
Questions: Donna Wright Communications Director • donna@takomaparkmd.gov | Eric Bond • editorbond@gmail.com
takomaparkmd.gov

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



LIBRARY

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

Library and Computer Center hours:

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

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

Memorial Day holiday: the library and computer center will be closed on Sunday, May 26 and Monday, May 27. Have a safe holiday!

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

Books-to-Go (pick up at the library) and **Books-to-You** (delivered—for Takoma Park residents only) continues. Email librarytakomapark@gmail.com 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 that we can prepare accordingly. Registration, however, does not guarantee a seat, so participants are encouraged to arrive early.



Crochet and Cozies, all ages welcome. Join us at 10:30 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, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes,

dance, and do movement exercises. We read a book in the middle of the program. And we close with bubbles!



Alison Crockett

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 May 7, with jazz singer/songwriter Alison Crockett. Jumpstart With the Arts is made possible by the generosity of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

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

Family Chess. Join us on Sundays

at noon to play this ancient strategy game. Caregivers and kids are invited. 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. No chess on May 26.

LEGO Club. Block time on your calendar for fun with LEGOs. Sunday, May 5 at 2 p.m.

Kids' Art: Next Kids' Art will be May 12 at 2 p.m. Come make a cute bug hotel!

Storytime Yoga Sundays, May 5 and June 9 at 10:30 (before the library opens to the public for the day). Join children's yoga Instructor Mariela Gómez and enjoy meditation, movement, and songs in active, family-friendly yoga for children under age 5 with their grown-up. This program uses music, yoga play, props, and stories to help children establish a connection with their caregivers while benefiting from active movement and mindfulness. You must register for this program, and at this time, there is a waitlist that you can register for at tinyurl.com/Storytime-Yoga.

Coming Soon! Yard Dramas will be returning in June to the Crossroads Farmers Market located on Anne Street at University Boulevard E., in Takoma Park. The market meets weekly on Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Yard Dramas will meet on select day—to be determined. These are sponsored by Maryland State Arts Council. We are looking for teen and adult volunteers—please email Verónica Rivera-Negrón at veronican@takomaparkmd.gov for details.

Director's column

The Joy and Comfort of Re-Reading

by Jessica Jones

Over the years, I have tried to whittle my personal library down into something that isn't a complete nightmare to move. My back still twinges a little when I look at everything, but it is, in fact, much smaller than it was even five years ago. As difficult as it is to let a book go, I knew that there needed to be a better way for me to figure out what to keep.

The criteria I settled on to evaluate titles are 1) Do I want to be able to lend this to a friend? or 2) Will I re-read this? If the answer to either question was “yes,” then the book is still with me.

I love re-reading. My favorite books are ones that can be revisited over and over again, like a good friend, with lots of opportunities to glean new meanings, notice more details, and gain different perspectives.

Behold, to the left, my “shelfie” (a “selfie” of my shelves)

All of the books mentioned below are ones that can be found somewhere in the shelfie. The books I re-read tend to fall into one of the following categories:

Epic fantasies, i.e., long, world-building tomes with maps and character glossaries in the front. Books on my shelves falling into this category are mostly series, and they include *The Song of Ice and Fire* (George R. R. Martin's impressively elaborate practical joke), Raymond Feist's *The Riftwar Saga*, Jacqueline Carey's *Kushiel's Legacy*, and Weis and Hickman's *The Death Gate Cycle*. One-off, or standalone epic fantasies that I've retained include Neil Gaiman's *Ameri-*



can Gods and Victor LaValle's *The Changeling*. Neither of the latter two have maps in them, but I think they are pretty epic.

Literary fiction, or the books with recognized literary merit that really requires multiple reads to fully appreciate. *Pachinko*, by Min

Jin Lee, is an epic, but it is definitely not a fantasy; it is a historical novel spanning multiple generations of a Korean family that are trying to make a home for themselves in Japan. Erin Morgenstern's *The Starless Sea* is so dense that it really is a pleasure for me to revisit; I always find new things in it. Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible* is another longer book that I keep coming back to; it's told from the point of view of five different characters, and they are all different and interesting.

These titles don't necessarily have to be long books either - some of them are quite short, like Louise Erdrich's *Tracks*, or some of my favorite short story collections, like Lesley Nneka Arimah's *What It Means When a Man Falls from the Sky* and Carmen Maria Machado's *Her Body and Other Parties*. Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony* is not

a long book, but it's so beautiful and impactful.

Comfort reads, or books that I basically just want to live in. I re-read Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time* almost every year, and every few years I'll go back and read the rest of the series. *The Martian* by Andy Weir is such a fun re-read, too, because the story is paced so well and really draws me in. Becky Chambers's *Wayfarers* series is some of my favorite science fiction because I appreciate that it's not totally dystopian, and I love seeing healthy conflict resolution modeled in a non-clinical setting.

Am I a little unhooked for including murder mysteries and horror here? Yes. But, I maintain that these genres are their own form of escapism, which I am all about when the real world is ***gestures widely***. Mariana Enríquez's short story collections are creepy in the best possible way. The same goes for John Connolly's Charlie Parker mystery series, because who doesn't love a scary northern woods setting? (Lots of people, but I digress.)

I would really love to hear about books that our readers enjoy revisiting! Feel free to tell us about your favorite books the next time you visit. Or, you could even send us a “shelfie.”



Friends News

Friends Book Sale and Annual Meeting

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) is holding its twice-yearly book sale on Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. 7505 New Hampshire Ave.

Donations of books will be accepted at the library through May 14. Please donate popular fiction and nonfiction, including biographies, memoirs, histories, cookbooks, art books, and kids books. Please do not donate textbooks, old manuals, yearbooks, or books that have been stored in a basement. Please bring your donations in boxes, if possible.

sible.

On May 20, the Monday following the book sale, the Friends will be holding their annual meeting at the library. The speaker will be Marc Mauer, an expert on criminal justice reform and the author of several books on incarceration, race, and sentencing. Refreshments will be served.

The Friends support many library programs and events, with thanks from the library staff and the community. If you are interested in joining, visit ftpml.org for more information.

Friends Book Group's Scarlet Selection for May

by Tim Rahn

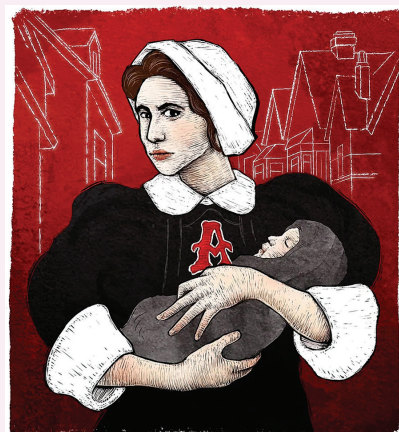
The Friends Book Group will be discussing Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* on Thursday, May 18, 7:30–9 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center, at 7500 Maple Ave.

In an 1850 review of the novel, critic Evert Duyckinck called *The Scarlet Letter*, "a psychological romance." Most contemporary readers will likely remember *The Scarlet Letter* as required reading in high school. The story and the characters are an indelible part of the American psyche.

The story opens with the image of Hester Prynne leaving the prison gate and walking with her infant, Pearl, to the pillory with the scarlet letter A sewn to the breast of her dress. After she is locked in the pillory, the Rev. Arthur Dimmesdale publicly queries Hester about the father of the child, but Hester will not reveal the name. This stubbornness continues to the final pages.

Hawthorne, a descendant of the Puritans who founded Massachusetts, never draws any moral conclusions in the novel. He does not tell us if what Hester did was a sin. We do see the dignity of Hester and the maturation of Pearl against the pious self-righteousness of the townsfolk. We also see the downfall of others.

"In *The Scarlet Letter*," wrote the



critic Edwin Whipple, also in 1850, "we have a complete work, evincing a true artist's certainty of touch and expression in the exhibition of characters and events, and a keen-sighted and far-sighted vision into the essence and purpose of spiritual laws."

If you are interested in joining the discussion and you do not receive Friends Book Group announcements, write to ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com for details on joining. Subsequent book group meetings will be on July 11, September 12, and November 14 at 7 p.m. in the Community Center on Maple Avenue. In September, the selection will be *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame. Selections for July and November will be announced as they are finalized. Both books are available at the library and as ebooks and audiobooks on Hoopla, Freading, and many other ebook and audiobook platforms.



Friends' Fixit Clinic

The Friends have held two successful Fixit Clinics so far! Please check the Library calendar or the Friends' website (ftpml.org) for information about future Fixit Clinics, where you can bring items like small appliances, lamps, radios, bicycles, clothing, etc., and learn to fix them. Volunteers are needed—please email fixittakoma@gmail.com for details.

Listen to This!

by Jessica Jones

Handsome

I listen to a lot of podcasts by comedians, because they tend to be fun and conversational, and *Handsome* is exactly that—it's almost like listening in on a bunch of friends, if those friends all had comedy specials watched by millions of people. *Handsome* brings together Tig Notaro, Fortune Feimster, and Mae Martin to discuss a question submitted by a public figure or celebrity. So far, questions have come from the likes of Kenan Thompson, Elliot Page, and Jamie Lee Curtis. It's relatively new, but all three podcasters are pros, and while I wouldn't say it's "polished," per se, the tone leans more ridiculous than awkward (in the best way). These lovely humans of the LGBTQIA2S+ spectrum are a great time. Available on all podcast platforms.



PODCAST
REVIEW

Chessmania in the Library

by Anne LeVeque

For the past year, the Library has been hosting Family Chess sessions every Sunday at noon, right when the Library opens. Chess has experienced a resurgence in popularity, thanks to shows like *The Queen's Gambit* and pandemic isolation leading to lots of online and at-home gaming, including chess. Chess.com reports that many of their tournament participants are under 21, leading to great optimism for the future of the game. Our Family Chess group has a chess teacher come in once a month for instruction. Check the Library calendar for details.

Chess is a very old game, dating back to 7th century CE India. It has evolved, most substantially in Persia (now Iran), but also in medieval Europe, to the game we know today. Depending on where you look for the information, more than 2.015×10^{21} possible games exist—not an infinite number, but a darn big number! Or it might be 10^{120} games. Again, a Very Big Number. The Library has a few books about chess,



in both the adult nonfiction section and the juvenile collection.

Recently, the Library acquired a chessboard decal for a table in the adult area of the Library. The pieces are kept behind the circulation desk and anyone can borrow them. We're hoping that more people will want to play chess whenever the mood strikes them. We know we can't compete with the outdoor tables at DuPont Circle, but we can try!

The Family Chess program is supported by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Thank you!

El rincón de Verónica

Libros sobre la naturaleza

por Verónica Rivera-Negrón

Quienes crecimos en un país distinto al que habitamos, añoramos, entre otras cosas, el paisaje natural de nuestro lugar de origen.

En mi caso, extraño las montañas verde esmeralda y las playas azul turquesa de Puerto Rico. Tal vez tus ojos añoran sierras majestuosas, valles inmensos o volcanes imponentes.

Quizás, como yo, has aprendido a valorar los árboles frondosos, cerros, ríos y caídas de agua de Maryland. O quizás no. Tal vez la nostalgia de tu tierra es demasiada y sueñas con la posibilidad de volver, ya sea de visita o para siempre.

Sea cual sea tu sentir, está bien, abrázalo, pero siempre ten presente que tienes derecho a tener una vida tranquila y gozosa sin importar en donde te encuentres. Y que la naturaleza posee la capacidad de brindarnos calma y consuelo sin importar la latitud. Somos dichosos de vivir en una zona rodeada de tanta vegetación en donde al caminar podemos respirar aire fresco y conectar con la naturaleza.

Los buscadores de espacios públicos de las jurisdicciones más cercanas (DC, el Condado de Montgomery y el Condado de Prince George) revelan que: ¡tenemos más de 1,300 parques alrededor!

¿Sabías que según la organización Trust for Public Land el 100% de los residentes de Takoma Park viven a no más de 10 minutos caminando de un parque público? Esta ciudad mide 2 millas cuadradas y tiene 26 parques accesibles para la comunidad.

Honrando y celebrando la oportunidad de convivir aquí, te comparto una lista de libros sobre la naturaleza y los beneficios que nos brinda estar conectados con ella. Si bien, la mayoría de éstos están dirigidos a niños, también serán entretenidos para adultos. Todos los puedes encontrar en nuestra biblioteca.

Con lenguaje e imágenes simples, ideal para bebés: *En el cielo, en el mar* de Giovanna Zoboli y Philip Giordano.

Sin palabras, para invitarnos a observar: *Silencio* de Nívola Uyá (puntos de bono por haber sido impreso en material eco amigable).

Para notar las maravillas que ocurren a nuestro alrededor: *Con calma: 50 historias de la naturaleza* de Rachel Williams y Freya Hartas (también disponible en inglés como *Slow Down: 50 Mindful Moments in Nature*).

Por autores indígenas (recordemos que tenemos mucho que aprender de la armonía

Get Ready to Vote ... or Run for Office

Once the Maryland primary election is over on May 14, our thoughts turn to the November general election and City of Takoma Park election for mayor and city council.

Two Separate Elections on November 5, 2024

- Presidential General Election
- City of Takoma Park Election

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

City Nominating Caucus: Tuesday, September 10

Takoma Park residents interested in running for mayor or city council should plan to attend the nominating caucus on Tuesday, September 10. A candidate must receive a nomination and a second to that nomination to have their name placed on the ballot. Watch for notice of a candidate information session to take place in June. Anyone interested in running for office is welcome to contact the city clerk at clerk@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267.

Takoma Park Vote-by-Mail

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

- Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave., lower-level parking lot)
- Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave.)

Absentee Ballots

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



City Election Calendar		
Activity	Date/Time	Location
Nominating Caucus	Tuesday September 10 7:30 p.m.	Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave.
Ballots mailed to voters	October	
Ballot return by secure Drop Box	Daily until November 5. (Box is closed and sealed at 8 p.m. on November 5)	Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave. (lower level) Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ballot return by US Mail	MAIL EARLY (must be postmarked by November 5 or earlier)	
Election Day in-person voting	Tuesday, November 5 7 a.m.–8 p.m.	Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Ave
The Board of Elections reports election certification	Wednesday, November 13	Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium 7500 Maple Ave
Mayor and Council are sworn in	Monday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.	Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium 7500 Maple Ave

Election Day Voting

The Community Center will be open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. on election day for residents who prefer to vote in person or residents not yet registered. Remember that only the Takoma Park Election for mayor and city council will take place at the Community Center. *To vote in the presidential election on November 5, you will go to your regular precinct polling place.*

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

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

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

- are a resident of the City of Takoma Park;
- will be at least 16 years old on Election Day;
- do not claim the right to vote in another municipality;
- have not been convicted of buying or selling votes; and
- are not under guardianship for mental disability or if you are, you have not been found by a court to be unable to communicate a desire to vote.

Ranked Choice Voting

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

Una vez que terminen las elecciones primarias de Maryland, nuestros pensamientos se dirigen a las elecciones generales de noviembre y a las elecciones de la ciudad de Takoma Park para alcalde y concejo municipal.

Dos elecciones separadas el 5 de noviembre de 2024

- Elecciones generales presidenciales
- Elecciones de la ciudad de Takoma Park

La elección de Takoma Park para alcalde y concejo municipal es independiente del proceso de elección presidencial de Maryland. Recuerde votar en AMBAS elecciones si es elegible.

Reunión de Nominaciones de Candidatos: martes, 10 de septiembre

Los residentes de Takoma Park interesados en postularse para alcalde o concejo municipal deben planear asistir a la reunión de nominaciones de candidatos el martes 10 de septiembre. Un candidato debe recibir una nominación y una segunda nominación para que su nombre se coloque en la papeleta de voto. Esté atento al aviso de una sesión informativa para candidatos que tendrá lugar en junio. Cualquier persona interesada en postularse para un cargo puede comunicarse

con la Secretaria Municipal al clerk-takomaparkmd.gov o al 301-891-7267.

Voto por Correo de Takoma Park

La Junta Electoral de Takoma Park enviará una papeleta de voto por correo de la elección de la ciudad a cada votante registrado activo. Puede devolver la papeleta por correo en el sobre prepago adjunto o depositar la papeleta en un buzón oficial de papeletas de Takoma Park en una de las dos ubicaciones:

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

Las papeletas se enviarán por correo en octubre.

Papeletas de Voto en Ausencia

Si espera estar fuera de la ciudad hasta el día de las elecciones y desea que su papeleta se envíe a una dirección que no sea su residencia en Takoma Park, envíe esa solicitud a la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal.

Votación el Día de las Elecciones

El Centro Comunitario estará abierto de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m. el día de las elecciones para los residentes que prefieran votar

Calendario Electoral de la Ciudad		
Actividad	Fecha/Hora	Ubicación
Reunión de Nominaciones de Candidatos	martes, 10 de septiembre 7:30 p.m.	Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park 7500 Maple Ave.
Se envía papeletas por correo a los votantes	Octubre	
Papeletas depositadas en un Buzón Electoral	Diario hasta el 5 de noviembre 5. (el buzón electoral se cierra a las 8 p.m. el 5 de noviembre)	Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park 7500 Maple Avenue (nivel inferior) Centro de Recreación de Takoma Park 7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Papeleta enviadas de regreso por correo postal	ENVIAR POR CORREO TEMPRANO (pero a más tardar el 5 de noviembre con matasellos)	
Votar en persona el Día de las Elecciones	martes, 5 de noviembre, 7 a.m.–8 p.m.	Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park 7500 Maple Ave.
Junta Electoral de Takoma Park reportan la certificación electoral	miércoles, 13 de noviembre	Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park Auditorio 7500 Maple Ave.
Juramentación del alcalde y miembros del concejo municipal	lunes, 18 de noviembre, 7:30 p.m.	Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park Auditorio 7500 Maple Ave.

City Manager Presents Proposed FY25 Budget

On April 3, Takoma Park City Manager Robert DiSpirito presented his proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY2025), which begins on July 1, 2024.

No Tax Rate Increase Proposed

The proposed budget keeps the real property tax rate at 55.22 cents per assessed valuation, despite a drop in revenue from other key sources. Throughout April, the City Council has been reviewing and discussing the budget, holding work sessions, and listening to public comment.

The council is expected to vote on the budget on May 8 and 15 (check takomaparkmd.gov for updates about the budget and council action as the budget goes through the reconciliation and voting process).

Once the budget is adopted, it can only be changed through the budget amendment process. This is sometimes necessary to reflect changes that occur throughout the fiscal year.

Transitions and Challenges

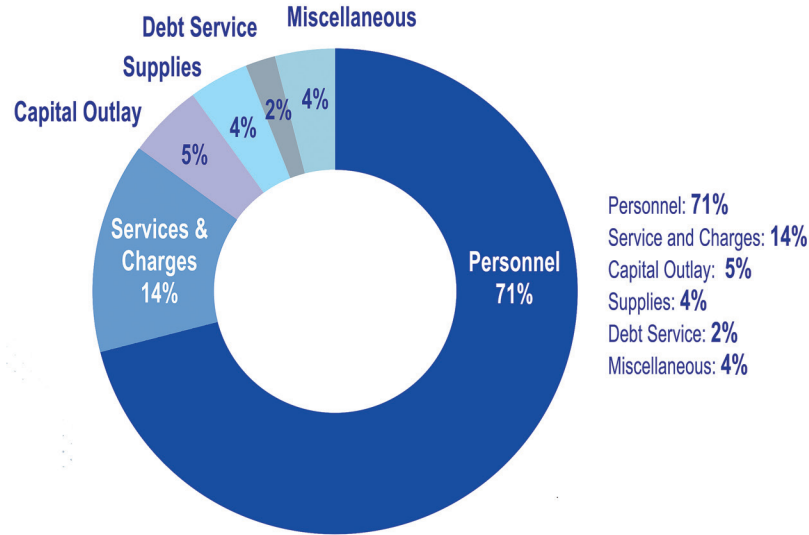
Manager DiSpirito has titled the draft budget "A Bridge Forward," stating that Takoma Park faces several realities that will reduce city revenue and increase expenses. Proposed expenditures for FY2025 are \$32,245,760 versus projected revenues of \$30,586,928. This is a difference of approximately \$1.6 million. The proposed budget intends to cover the deficit by assigning \$206,997 in interest from the Library Bond Reserve and about \$1.4 million from the Unassigned Reserve Fund.

Manager DiSpirito is identifying this as a one-year measure to fill the gap, while maintaining city services, fully funding reserves at the council policy level of 17%, and holding the line on the real property tax rate. DiSpirito has voiced his commitment to developing strategies over the next year to begin to return the city to a more solid and sustainable financial footing.

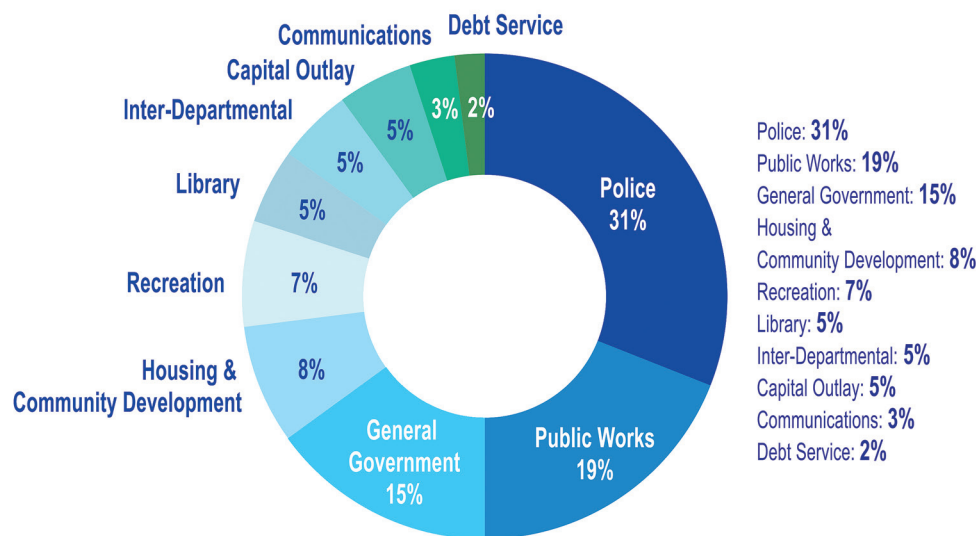
Manager DiSpirito cites the following financial challenges that the city will face in FY2025:

- The ongoing impact of unavoidable **higher inflationary expenses** on capital improvement projects and the procurement of necessary equipment, commodities, and services
- The **dwindling balance** remaining in the city's account containing the federal **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)** fund
- The **increased cost of employee compensation** (salaries, wages, and benefits) resulting from the implementation of two new multi-year employee collective bargaining agreements (AFSCME and UFCW Local #400) as well as needed adjustments for non-represented employees, for both the new FY2025 budget and retroactively for FY2024
- The announced **reduction in tax duplication funds** from Montgomery County
- The continued **decline in cable TV revenues**
- The continued **decline in speed camera revenues**
- Possible **reduction** by the State of Maryland for **shared Highway User Revenue** funds.

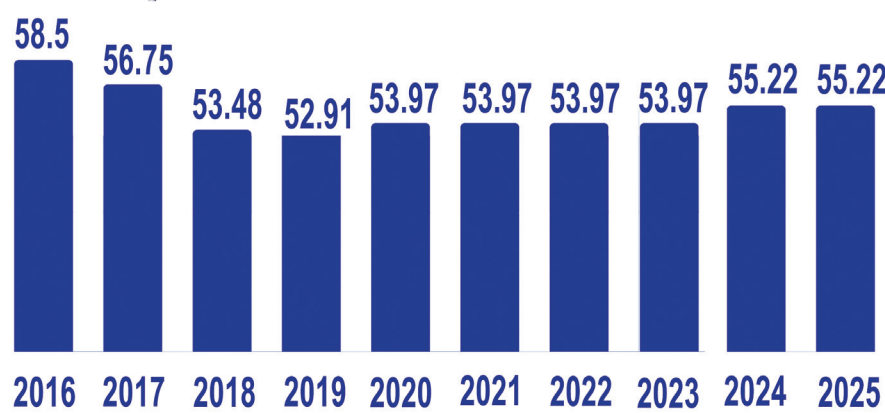
FY25 General Fund Expenditures by Type



FY25 General Fund Expenditures by Activity



Tax Rate (in cents per \$100 valuation)



General Fund Reserve Balance Policy Goal Restored

Despite the financial pinch, the proposed FY2025 budget returns the General Fund's Unassigned Reserve Balance to 17%, which is the financial policy goal previously set by the mayor and council, based on recommendations from the Government Finance Officers Association. The Unassigned Reserve balance of the current FY2024 Budget was approximately 14%.

Personnel Level Is Stable

For the General Fund, no additional full-time positions are proposed. While there is not a universal hiring freeze in place, some

currently vacant positions are proposed to be strategically re-purposed for other positions in FY2025. A minor net reduction of 1.98 in overall full-time positions is forecast based on an adjustment of hours for some current seasonal and part-time positions.

Red Light Camera Fund

DiSpirito expects to raise approximately \$1.3 million in FY2025 through red light cameras that will document and fine traffic violators. These funds are proposed to go to a special revenue reserve fund in the Police Department, not the General Fund, since the purpose of this revenue is to address public safety. The Red Light Camera fund will supplement declining revenues

from the current and ongoing Speed Camera fund. DiSpirito proposes that some amount of new revenue from the Red Light Camera fund be earmarked for a transit planner, who will be tasked with improving pedestrian and traffic safety.

Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds

Many ARPA funds—which the federal government disbursed to Takoma Park in 2021 in the amount of \$17.5 million to address pandemic challenges—have been already allocated. DiSpirito proposes that the remaining funds address ongoing mayor and council priorities—while phasing out the city's reliance on this revenue source. **The draft budget proposes putting \$6,980,140 in ARPA funds toward the following priorities:**

- Additional funds for street rehabilitation
- Additional funds for sidewalk design and construction
- Continuing support for library construction
- The community center atrium renovation project, including
- Mental health crisis counselors
- Expanded public safety critical police dispatch
- A food insecurity program
- A community connectors program
- Community engagement software
- A document management platform program

The General Fund will continue to address the following priorities specified by the mayor and council:

- Continued funding for emergency rental assistance
- Continued funding for small business grants
- Increased funding of the Equipment Replacement Reserve by \$900,000 (compared to \$550,000 in FY2024)
- Continued funding of \$142,000 for the City's local supplement to State Homeowner Property Tax Credit Program
- Contribution of \$600,000 to fund the Library Construction Contingency Reserve
- Contribution for Community Events Grants of \$60,000
- Funding for various Quality of Life grants
- Funding for Recreational scholarships
- Contribution to the Housing Reserve Fund of \$100,000
- Funding for Emergency Tree Removal, Summer Enrichment program, Community Play, and Farmers Market grants
- Stormwater Capital Improvement expenditures of \$230,000 for the construction, maintenance, and repair of storm drains, inlets, channels, and ditches
- Increased funding for traffic calming and pedestrian safety projects

BUDGET

■ From page 9

- Police funding for bike patrol unit equipment, field radio equipment, mobile computers, and overtime for designated and additional patrols
- Funding for a traffic study,
- Funding for a consultant to assist staff with developing and implementing a Performance Measurement Program, resulting in useful and meaningful metrics for the FY2026 Budget
- Funding in the amount of \$4.2 million in Special Revenue Fund projects has been allocated for
 - City TV equipment, lighting, auditorium repairs, and temporary relocation of employees due to the library construction activity.
 - Grants for the New Hampshire Ave. Bikeway (\$350,000), the Maple Ave. Connectivity Project (\$240,000), the Met Branch Trail Project (\$425,000), Program Open Space to add to the Capital Acquisition Fund (\$60,000), and CDBG Neighborhood Improvements for Houston Court Biofiltration Project (\$91,000).
 - Grants awarded from both State Library and Digital Inclusion, to-


taling \$200,000, plus a \$2.5 million transfer from the Cable Fund allocated to library construction

- Funding for street light upgrades and maintenance
- Funding towards the initial high-priority recommendations in the Public Space Management Plan
- Funding for patron-friendly library user software

“Despite the fiscal restraints that we face, this FY2025 proposed budget intends to continue programs and services that help renters, small business owners, immigrants, young people, and seniors as we strive to create a livable community for all,” stated DiSpirito.

The entire 300-page proposed budget can be found at takomaparkmd.gov, with further details about revenue and expenses, by department and division. The city council page provides up-to-date information about engaging with the city council as well as as information about council actions on the budget and other city matters.

FY25
A BRIDGE FORWARD

 **City of Takoma Park**
Proposed Budget
FY2024 - FY2025

Takomaparkmd.gov

BIKE MONTH

■ From page 4

Check with your school administration or PTA for details about your school's Bike to School Day celebrations. How many items can you spot from the scavenger hunt?

- **Learn to Ride Bike Classes for Adults.**

It may be too late to sign up for our May 11 class, but please join the waitlist so we can know how many people are interested in classes to schedule for next year: waba.org/learntoride/.

- **Friday, May 17: Bike to Work Day.** We encourage everyone to ditch their cars and pedal to work. It's a great way to re-

duce traffic congestion, get some exercise, and start the day on a positive note. A big thank you to our sponsors this year: Bike Werks, Crossroads Development Authority, Takoma Park-Silver Spring Food Co-op, and Takoma Bicycle. Stop by one of the three pit stops: Takoma/Langley Crossroads, Old Takoma and Sligo Trail on New Hampshire Avenue. For more information and to register, visit biketoworkmetrodc.com.

- **Ongoing Bike Repairs.** Be sure to stop by and get your bicycle in top shape for the season. Bike Werks will perform minor repairs such as brake adjustments, derailleur adjustments, and lubrication. If parts are needed, they will be available to buy onsite—and installation of those parts is covered by the City of Takoma Park!
 - Bike Werks will be at the Crossroads Farmers Market and the Takoma Park Farmers Market on se-

lect dates in May.

- Bike Werks will also be at Takoma/Langley Crossroads (6:30 –9 am.) and Sligo Creek Trail at New Hampshire Avenue (7–9:30 a.m.) on Bike to Work Day on Friday, May 17.
- Get more information and see new dates as they are updated here: bit.ly/bikerepairTKPK.

Bike Month is an opportunity for everyone in our community to come together and celebrate the joy of cycling. Whether you're a seasoned bike-rider or just dusting off your old steed, why not plan a neighborhood bike ride to take in scenic bike paths and trails around the city? It's a fantastic opportunity to explore our city, meet fellow cyclists, and discover new routes.

Share your Bike Month experiences on social media using the hashtag #BikeTKPK. Let's showcase pedal power!

City of Takoma Park



“I Voted” Sticker Design Contest

Submit your design using the QR code on the form.



Scan QR Code for More

If you have any issues with logging in, try copying and pasting the link to the form into your browser

Submission Period Closes May 24th

Takoma Park Youth Council

ELECCIONES

■ From page 8

en persona o para los residentes que aún no están registrados. Recuerde que solo la elección de alcalde y concejo municipal de Takoma Park se llevará a cabo en el Centro Comunitario. Para votar en las elecciones presidenciales del 5 de noviembre, deberá ir a su lugar de votación habitual.

¿Quién puede Registrarse y Votar en las Elecciones de Takoma Park para Alcalde y Concejo Municipal?

Cualquier residente de Takoma Park que tenga 16 años para el día de las elecciones es elegible para votar en las elecciones de la ciudad. La ciudadanía estadounidense no es un requisito.

Si ya está registrado en una dirección de la Ciudad, no es necesario que se registre de nuevo. Si no está registrado, puede registrarse para votar en las elecciones de Takoma Park si:

- es residente de la ciudad de Takoma Park;

- tiene al menos 16 años de edad el día de las elecciones;
- no reclama el derecho a votar en otro lugar;
- no ha sido condenado por compra o venta de votos;
- no está bajo cuidado por discapacidad mental o, si lo está, la corte no ha determinado que no puede comunicar su deseo de votar.

Votación por Orden de Preferencia

Takoma Park elige a los candidatos mediante la votación por orden de preferencia. Los votantes clasifican a los candidatos en orden de preferencia (1, 2, 3 y así sucesivamente). Si un candidato recibe la mayoría de los votos, ese candidato es elegido. En caso de que ningún candidato obtenga la mayoría, habrá una segunda vuelta instantánea. El candidato con menos votos es eliminado. A los votantes que eligieron al candidato eliminado como su primera opción se les cuenta su próxima opción. El proceso continúa hasta que un candidato logra la mayoría de los votos.

Takoma Park Delegates Strengthen Fire Safety, Trans Rights in Maryland

by Sean Gossard

It was a busy legislative session in Maryland's capital, with lawmakers passing hundreds of bills including the state's \$63 billion budget, aid for port workers affected by the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in March, and providing protections for the state's abortion clinics and gender-affirming care treatment.

Lawmakers representing the 20th District, which includes Takoma Park, were just as busy passing their own bills to protect the environment, provide affordable housing and improve fire safety in high-rise residential rental buildings.

"It was a good session with a lot of wins," said Del. Lorig Charkoudian, a Democrat who has represented District 20 since 2019. "We feel the urgency and wanted to have more done, but we're celebrating what we accomplished. It was a good year in many ways for affordable housing and housing safety."

Del. Jheanelle Wilkins, a member of the House of Delegates since 2017, said the session was incredibly busy with some much-needed legislation moving to the desk of Gov. Wes Moore to address health disparities and education.

"I think it was the most challenging session of my time since 2017 because of the budget and the state's finances as we make sure to keep to the Blueprint for Maryland's Future," she said, referencing the state's landmark public school reform plan that became law in 2021. "But it was also one of the most productive sessions in some time."

Charkoudian was instrumental in passing legislation that bolsters fire safety in high-rise apartment buildings after a fire in 2023 broke out in one of the buildings at the Arrive Apartment complex in Silver Spring, leaving one dead and over 400 displaced.

"One part we focused on was notification and evacuation and the other was how to improve extinguishing the fires," said Charkoudian. "This bill made significant progress on increased training on how to



Delegate Lorig Charkoudian



Delegate David Moon



Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins

evacuate the building and implemented fire alert upgrades for buildings specifically in Montgomery County."

Charkoudian said there is still work to be done to make sure there are sprinkler systems in every apartment, but progress has been made.

"On the automatic extinguishing side, we weren't able to move the sprinkler installation along, but we started a working group to look at what are the things that get us as close to possible to having sprinklers in every room, but at a lower cost," she said. "As we look to maintain and expand affordable housing, we can't do that at the expense of safety and health for those living in those buildings."

Charkoudian also helped pass legislation to offer lower-income renters access to assistance paying their utility bills, catching up on past due utility bills, protection from utility turn-offs, and completion of weatherization and energy efficiency upgrades.

"People shouldn't have to spend more than 6% of their income on energy," Charkoudian said. "We have people spending too much on keeping their lights on. Everyone who is eligible for energy assistance should have access to it."

The bill makes it so that all tenants receive information related to energy usage on their homes. Tenants will be able to use that information to apply to energy assistance without having to flag themselves to their property owners that they need assis-

tance.

Another Charkoudian-sponsored bill to pass through both chambers is part of Maryland's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 60% of 2006 levels by 2031. The bill requires gas companies serving at least 75,000 customers in their distribution territories to develop a plan for a pilot thermal energy network system. Geothermal heating and cooling systems moderate the temperature of buildings using heat energy from the ground instead of the air.

"Takoma Park has done a lot of work on climate and electrifying our buildings with the most efficient systems possible," she said "There are three issues to do that, equity being the biggest one. We want to make sure it is available to everyone. Efficiency is another, making sure the grid can handle the load. The third is jobs, we want to make sure those in the gas industry are able to transfer to greener jobs."

Wilkins sponsored a bill strengthening the state's community schools—an initiative that provides "wraparound services" at public schools to provide food, clothing and mental health services to students. She also worked to pass a bill that addresses the state's teacher shortage.

"This bill puts together and helps identify support for professionals in our schools," Wilkins said. "It works with the school systems and high education system to help them attain a teaching certificate when that

would otherwise be a challenge."

Wilkins, who also chairs the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, also helped pass several legislative pieces centered around women's health, especially focused on women of color.

"In Takoma Park, we've seen increasing health disparities and one bill allocates \$750,000 for public education initiatives to encourage early screenings for breast, prostate and lung cancers," she said. "In Maryland, Black women are four times as likely to die giving birth, so we passed the Maternal Health Act of 2024, making sure our birthing hospitals will be given report cards so there's transparency in the process. We want to make sure we have the numbers and that they're public and our residents can make decisions based on these reports and numbers."

She also co-sponsored a bill protecting tenants' rights by allowing county's to pass their own "good cause eviction" bills. While that bill stalled in Senate committee chambers, the legislature did pass laws that empower tenants to hold landlords accountable to fix conditions that threaten the life, health, or safety of their families. They also allocated \$10 million to prevent evictions and homelessness for thousands of families around the state.

"One of the things I've been beating the drum on is the good cause eviction bill," Wilkins said. "It finally got some traction and passed the House, but didn't advance in the Senate. The movement in the House is a huge victory. Next year, I'm going to continue to work pushing through the good cause eviction bill."

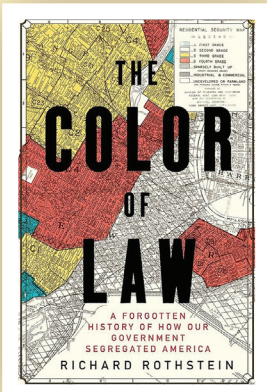
Del. David Moon, District 20's third representative, co-sponsored a bill to protect gender-affirming health treatment. The bill will now go to the desk of Gov. Moore for his signature.

During the legislative session, which runs from early January through April, the state's 47 senators and 141 delegates vote on legislation to send to the governor for final approval. For more, visit mgaleg.maryland.gov.

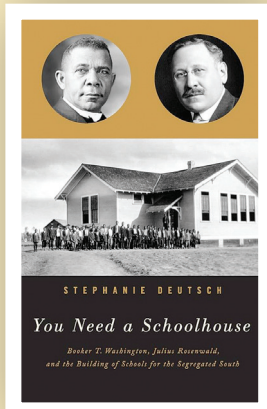
Housing and Community Development Book Club

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein

Richard Rothstein examines the systemic racism and misuse of authority by government officials in housing policies that have been deemed unconstitutional and unethical. The book highlights how government actions such as redlining and discriminatory zoning laws have perpetuated racial segregation and inequality. Rothstein discusses the redlining tactics that were legal at the time but nonetheless unethical due to the systemic oppression that it caused for Black Americans. Rothstein calls for a reevaluation of past injustices and a commitment to equitable and inclusive policies that address historical wrongs and promote social justice—fair housing, affordable housing, and free movement.



Racial segregation in housing is not merely a project of southerners in the former slave-holding Confederacy. It was a nationwide project by the federal government, designed and implemented by its most liberal leaders.... Half a century ago, the truth of de jure segregation was well known, but since then we have suppressed our historic memory and soothed ourselves into believing that it all happened by accident or by misguided public prejudice.



Read along with us. Our selection for May: *You Need a Schoolhouse: Booker T. Washington, Julius Rosenwald, and the Building of Schools for the Segregated South*, by Stephanie Deutsch.

— Ma'isah Bateman, Housing and Community Development Planning Intern

MINOR MASTER PLAN

■ From page 4

Environmental Resiliency

- The plan supports the city's Stormwater Management Program to improve Sligo Creek water quality and reduce untreated runoff and flooding.
- The plan provides methods to reduce impervious surfaces.
- The plan minimizes urban heat islands by incorporating cooling elements like street trees and shaded seating areas into the streetscape.

Parks and Open Space

- The plan provides for significant new public open space on the Washington Adventist campus.
- The plan enhances the ecological health and performance of Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park.

Historic Preservation

- The plan lists the Heffner Park Community Center, Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Krestview sites on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.
- The plan prioritizes Takoma Park's historic African American neighborhoods for potential future listing on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and/or the National Register of Historic Places.

Racial Equity and Social Justice

- The plan prioritizes no net loss of affordable housing by prioritizing existing residents, recommending a diversity of unit type, preserving the number of existing affordable units, and upgrading existing affordable units.
- The plan proposes the development of new housing with inclusive affordability.
- The plan is designed to increase access to parks, open space, community gardens, and local healthy food production.
- The plan is designed to connect the community through increased mobility options.
- The plan provides ways to combat environmental inequities.
- The plan increases access to the existing transit network to help reduce reliance on single occupancy vehicles and provide all residents, regardless of car ownership, access to employment and other destinations.

Learn more about the details of the Takoma Park Minor Master Plan—along with the planning process—at takomaparkmd.gov (search for "minor master plan").

RECREATION

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

YOUTH

CAMPS

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! 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 session
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
July 29–August 9
Resident: \$595 / non-resident: \$625

New Ave Adventure Camp

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
6–12 years
Eight 1-week sessions
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
June 24–August 16
Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170
*4th of July Week: resident: \$120 / non-resident: \$140

EXTENDED CARE

School year 2024–2025 Registration is now open!

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

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

Programs operate when Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are in session

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

Hours: 7–9 a.m.

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

Hours: 3:30–6:30 p.m.

Bundle Discount: Resident: \$3,570 /

non-resident: \$4,250

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

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

SPORTS



T-Ball League

This league allows youth to have fun while learning the basic fundamentals of baseball. Emphasis will be on fun, learning to hit, running bases, and catching. No experience is necessary as all skill levels are welcome. Participants must bring their own baseball glove.

Belle Ziegler Park
7350 Takoma Ave.
Ages 5–7
8-week season
Saturdays, 9–10:30 a.m.
June 8–July 27
Resident: \$70 / non-resident: \$80



Y.E.S. League 2024 Grades 5-8

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Grades 5–8
Monday, 6–9 p.m.
June 24–August 5
Resident: \$35 / non-resident: \$45

TEENS

CAMPS

Filmmakers in Action II: Summer Edition

Join our one-week summer break film camp for grades 6–12! Dive into the art of filmmaking as we craft a captivating docu-series, earning Student Service Learning (SSL) hours while highlighting talents, stories, and cultural diversity within the community. Explore unique narratives, talents, and community-centric subjects through an engaging lens. Unleash your creativity, learn valuable filmmaking skills, and contribute to a project celebrating the

richness of Takoma Park. Be a part of this inspiring week of storytelling, collaboration, and capturing the heart and soul of our community on screen!

Takoma Park Community Center (Teen Lounge)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
1-week session
June 24–28
10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170

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

All aboard! During this one-week summer camp, teens can enjoy STEAM activities! Powered by S.T.E.A.M. is an action-packed week full of hands-on science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics learning and career exposure, including food science and engineering challenges. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp. Participants will need to bring a non-perishable lunch every day. Bring non-perishable lunches, there is no refrigerator or microwave access.

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

Visual Arts Camp

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

Takoma Park Community Center (Art Studio)
7500 Maple Ave.
11–14 years
Three 1-week sessions
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.
June 24–July 19
Resident: \$310 / non-resident: \$340

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 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
When Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are open
Monday–Friday, 3–6 p.m.
Free

SPORTS

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

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Grades 9–12
Wednesday, 6–9 p.m.
June 26–August 7
Resident: \$35 / non-resident: \$45

ADULTS

FITNESS

Five Animal Play Qi Gong



This form of Qi Gong is one of the most ancient continuously practiced healing exercise systems in the world. Enjoy peaceful movements modeled on the Crane, Bear, Monkey, Deer, and Tiger. Participants will develop more strength, grace, flexibility, balance and healing in a relaxed group setting. You will feel the effects in your body, mind and spirit as you find more harmony with nature and yourself. No experience necessary. Instructors: Patrick Smith and Joann Malone

Virtual Class
Ages 16 and up
Tuesdays, 7:30–8 p.m.
Through June 18
Resident: \$30 / non-resident: \$50

Flow Yoga

Flow Yoga is a mixed-level hatha yoga class with flow sequences. Students who are new to yoga will learn what yoga is, get familiar with yoga poses and alignment, be introduced to basic breathing techniques, and become more grounded and mindful in their approach to yoga—both on and off the mat. Students who have been practicing yoga for a while will also benefit from this class, as they will have the opportunity to deepen their practice and understanding of yoga and 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
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
June 8–29
Resident: \$40 / non-resident: \$50

SPORTS

Adult Drop-in Pickleball

Join other newish players for drop-in pickleball. The entire magic and success of pickleball is that it is designed to be a welcoming sport in an informal setting—meaning that you can simply show up to the courts and pick up a game. It doesn't matter what your age is; you can just play.

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

Takoma Park Adult Volleyball Club

RECREATION

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

RECREATION

■ From page 12

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Through May 22
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30



Adult Summer Basketball League

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

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

55+ ACTIVITIES

ART

Building Art with LEGOs Special Workshop



LEGOs are not just for children! Adults love them, too! There's much joy and beautiful art that can come from building with LEGO bricks. Great for hand coordination, creative expression, and problem solving. This will be led by Loretta Veney, a well-known author, program designer, and facilitator of *LEGOs as art therapy* workshops and corporate team-building workshops. Learn basic tips and techniques. No experience necessary. All the materials are provided. Limited space available. Registration is required. Don't miss this unique opportunity!

Takoma Park Maryland Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Friday, 10 a.m.–noon
May 10
\$6

CAMP



Pickleball Summer Camp

Welcome to Forever Young's 2024 Intermediate Summer Camp for adults 55 and older. The 2024 camp is Pickleball for 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 or had some training, such as taking a beginner class, and are familiar with the basic knowledge of rules and scoring.

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

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, noon–2 p.m.
May 28 and June 25
Free

FITNESS

Zumba Gold

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

Instructor: Yesika Flores
Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
55 and older
Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
Spring: through June 5
Summer: July 3–August 14
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.
Spring: through June 7
Summer: July 5–August 16
\$6

SPORTS

Pickleball Open Play

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
(Gymnasium)
Ages 55 and up
Thursdays, noon–2 p.m.
Through June 6
Free with membership

SPECIAL EVENTS

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 at takomaparkmd.gov ahead of the event!

Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Ave.
All ages
Saturday, June 8
Movie starts at dusk
Free

Meet Yashar Joseph

We have the pleasure of welcoming back to Takoma Park Recreation a person whose path went from eager program participant to City of Takoma Park staff member.

As a teen in Takoma Park, Yashar Joseph found a sense of belonging within the programs offered by the Takoma Park Recreation Department. He immersed himself in the array of activities, from sports leagues to the after-school program, each experience leaving a positive mark on him. Please join the Takoma Park Recreation Department in welcoming back Yashar and get the chance to know him below.

He is working at the front desk at the Community Center if you would like to say hi!

Tell us about yourself.

I have been a basketball coach for more than four years and am currently an assistant coach at St. John's College High School. I'm also a basketball trainer, and I graduated from Montgomery Blair High School in 2015.

How long have you lived in Takoma Park?

I moved here in middle school. Before that, I lived in New York. Takoma Park is a great place for a kid to grow up. When I



Yashar Joseph

moved here I got to make a lot of friends through the programs at the Takoma Park Recreation Department.

What has been your favorite program?

Growing up in the TPRD, I loved the

after care program. All of the other kids, snack time, and activities made it a fun and exciting environment.

What is your favorite memory while attending a Rec program?

That has to be all of the times being in the game room or teen lounge. Having the opportunity to hang out with your friends after school, doing activities or playing games was always a pleasure. It stunk getting picked up by my parents.

Who was your favorite Rec counselor or instructor?

My favorite counselor growing up was Ms. Lecia! She was one of the first counselors I met, and she welcomed me with open arms. She always showed me love and care—up until today. She became a mother or aunt figure in my life

If you could teach one of our programs or activities what would it be?

I would love to teach basketball skills as a development program. I think kids ages 6 and up really benefit from that type of training. The focus is on learning the game and developing their fundamentals.

LEAD

■ From page 4

Contact your water utility or a licensed plumber to determine if the pipe that connects your home to the water main (called a service line) is made from lead.

Soil, Yards, and Playgrounds

Soil, yards, and playgrounds can become contaminated when exterior lead-based paint from houses or buildings flakes or peels and gets into the soil. Soil may also be contaminated from past use of leaded gasoline in cars, from industrial sources, or even from contaminated sites. Lead is also naturally occurring, and it can be found in high concentrations in some areas.

Lead in soil can be ingested as a result of hand-to-mouth activity that is common for young children and from eating vegetables that may have taken up lead from soil in the garden. Lead in soil may also be inhaled if resuspended in the air or tracked into your house, thereby spreading the contamination.

Older playground equipment can still contain old lead-based paint, and artificial turf and playground surfaces made from shredded rubber can contain lead. Take

precautions to ensure young children do not eat shredded rubber or put their hands in their mouth before washing them.

To reduce exposures to lead from soils, yards, and playgrounds:

- Check the exterior of your home, including porches and fences, for flaking or deteriorating lead-based paint that may contaminate soil in your yard or be tracked into your house.
- Put doormats outside and inside all entryways and remove your shoes before entering to avoid tracking contaminated soil into your house.
- Wash hands several times a day using soap and water, especially after playing or working outside.
- Plant bushes close to the house to keep children from playing in soil near your home.
- In addition to the lead-based paint concerns, please remember that paint is a protective coating. Without it, wood can rot, and metal can rust. Rotted wood and rusted metal can cause structural safety issues.

—Source: epa.gov/lead

Learn more about Code Enforcement initiatives at takomaparkmd.gov.

VERONICA

■ From page 7

con que los pueblos originarios coexisten con la naturaleza): *TAN* de Amanda Chif Flayer y Abraham Mendoza Yataz; *Agua, Agüita y Viento, Vientito* (trilingües: náhuat, español, inglés) de Jorge Tetl Argueta y Felipe Ugalde Alcántara.

Sobre un árbol que tiene que adaptarse a la ciudad: *Memorias de un abedul* de Daniel Cañas y Blanca Millán (también disponible en inglés como *Memories of a Birch Tree*).

Para recordar que *somos* parte de la natu-

raleza: *Somos animales humanos* de Rosie Haink (también disponible en inglés como *We Are Human Animals*); *Yo se que el rio me ama / I Know the River Loves Me* y *Llá-mame árbol / Call Me Tree* de Maya Christina Gonzalez.

Para recordar que lo natural debe ser libre: *Un pájaro en casa* de Blanca Gómez.

Para desconectarnos de la tecnología y apreciar la naturaleza: *Tablet de Cecilia Pisos* y Caru Grossi.

Y para recordar nuestra responsabilidad de luchar por la Tierra: *SOS, monstruos verdaderos amenazan el planeta* de Marie G. Rohde.



Ward 5 Councilmember Cara Honzak (far left) stands next to Amber and Dennis Flynn, co-owners of Healing Practice Counseling, as they are awarded a grant from the Purple Line Transit Authority to help fund the first-ever Flower Avenue Together Block Party, slated for June 1. Also pictured are Purple Line Transit Authority representative John Undeland and Cristina Perez of Discover Long Branch. Healing Practice Counseling is a Takoma Park business that opened at the Washington Adventist Professional Building in 2023.

WARD 5

■ From page 1

reational center point.

And all of this change is happening in a part of Takoma Park where diversity and complexity already converge to the extreme. As an international development professional, I will share that Ward 5 is truly one of the most diverse places on the planet!

Since coming into this role, I have embarked on an ambitious agenda to help us manage these issues with integrity. My goal is to weave us together better—as a more inclusive community—so that we can build a future that reflects the beauty and strength of our community's diversity (words inspired by Maya Angelou). A few highlights:

I have prioritized enhancing relationships between Ward 5 stakeholders and the City of Takoma Park, to ensure more equitable services for our diverse community. For example, I have focused on relations among multi-family property managers, residents, and the City to ensure residents have optimal living conditions.

By spotlighting Ward 5 businesses and initiatives of the Long Branch Business League, City of Takoma Park staff and I have ensured that our Ward 5 area stakeholders and events impacting on this part of Takoma Park are more consistently highlighted and elevated. I am delighted to see our Flower-Erie business area fully filled. I have also been actively engaged with discussions around the Piney Branch Road and Flower Avenue junction area, where there are still great needs.

To facilitate improved communication between Ward 5 residents and the city, I have advocated for multiple City-sponsored events within our ward. In addition to spearheading events with partners, I am delighted that this year's Takoma Park-sponsored Earth Day celebration engaged residents at the new playground by Sligo Creek—a space that has been underutilized for community engagement in the last two decades.

Additionally, I have facilitated connections with Montgomery Parks to explore collaborative opportunities, including the Roots to Rocks program, which I hope will enable our local youth to have more op-

portunities to learn to ride bicycles. This matters because while our policies are rightfully forging ahead on bike access improvements, many local youth face barriers to bike use that can include having no adults at home who know how to ride.

Recognizing the importance of keeping our community safe for all residents, I have worked with City of Takoma Park staff to pilot innovative approaches, like delivering services beyond city boundaries. Together, we have brought public safety discussions with Spanish translation to Silver Spring International Middle School, and to the Long Branch Business League, and we are exploring other modalities to foster increased inclusion and trust within our diverse community.

I have championed the set of initiatives below (and others) to encourage our local community to collaborate on apolitical activities to find common ground and build respect for one another's differences. This is key to success as we respond to major changes on both ends of Ward 5.

- Holding monthly Flower Avenue/Ward 5 meetings at a local hair salon (and virtually) to which our neighbors across Flower Avenue in “unincorporated Takoma Park” are also invited.
- Planning our first-ever Flower Avenue Together Block Party at Flower and Erie Avenues on June 1, 2–5 p.m. to celebrate our rich diversity and elevate the artistic talents of our local youth.
- Establishing a youth sticker-making competition, themed around our community's diversity. This aims to engage our youth in shaping our collective future. All designs will be on display at the June 1 event.
- Supporting an effort to foster unity by the local Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School children, through pulling a wagon up and down Flower Avenue distributing pots with native flowers, attached to multi-lingual invitations to the June 1 event

I invite all Takoma Park residents to join us in these endeavors and help us build policies and a community that elevates the shared value of inclusion. Together, we are our best!

Takoma Park Maryland Library

Según Trust for Public Land...

El 100% de los residentes de Takoma Park viven a no más de 10 minutos caminando de un parque público.

Celebra la dicha de vivir rodeados de naturaleza con estos libros:

At Your SERVICE

Takoma Park Police Department

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month

May is Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month, and Takoma Park Police and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) remind vehicle operators that safe driving and riding practices and cooperation from all road users will help reduce the number of fatalities and injuries on our nation's highways.

Click-It-or-Ticket Campaign

The statewide Chiefs' Challenge, which emphasizes safety restraint enforcement runs through the entire month of May.

The City of Takoma Park Police Department officers focus on enforcement of the state's seat belt laws as part of the nationwide "Click It or Ticket" campaign. Officers will stand at various places throughout the City in order to issue tickets to any person not wearing a seat belt or who does not have their child properly restrained.

Takoma Park Police Chief Antonio DeVaul is always hopeful to issue fewer tickets each year because that means people are taking their safety and that of their children seriously.



Take the Picture

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

Operation Chill

When school lets out for summer, kids in Takoma Park may actually look forward to their next encounter with "the heat," thanks to 7-Eleven's popular Operation Chill program that rewards positive behavior with a cool treat.

Through Operation Chill, Takoma Park Police patrol officers "ticket" youngsters caught in the act of doing good with Slurpee beverage coupons. These acts might include helping another person, deterring crime, practicing safety (wearing a helmet during bike riding), participating in a positive activity in the community, or just for having a pleasant conversation with an officer. Each coupon can be redeemed for a small Slurpee drink at participating 7-Eleven stores.

This is an icebreaker, a way to encourage dialogue in a non-threatening, non-law enforcement situation. So be on your best behavior this summer. Our officers will be patrolling parks, community events, and other areas around the city, looking to hand out these free treats!

Parking Permit 2025-26 Renewal

Residential parking permit renewal begins in June. To determine whether you need to renew your permit, check your vehicle's windshield or back window for the small rectangular expiration sticker. If you have a sticker with an expiration of June 2024 or older, you must renew your permit prior to June 30. See takomaparkmd.gov/police for more information.

All Fireworks Are Illegal

Ahead of the Memorial Day weekend, we just want to remind everyone that in Montgomery County, ALL fireworks, including sparklers, are illegal. Private use and possession of fireworks carries a \$500 fine. Selling fireworks in Maryland carries a \$1,000 fine.

In Memory of Matthew Barber

Takoma Park Police Sergeant Matthew Barber passed away six years ago. You are missed each and every day, Sgt. Barber. End of Watch: May 24, 2018



LOST PETS

If you are missing your pet, you can contact Cathy Plevy at cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov and have her put the information out on police social media platforms, as well as in an email, to help locate them. Please provide a photo, when and where the pet was last seen and any descriptions, to include name, temperament, markings, etc. We really want to reunite pets with their families.



Antonio DeVaul
Chief of Police

7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
www.takomaparkmd.gov

Non-emergency
(301) 270-1100

Administrative Services
(301) 891-7102

Criminal Investigations
(301) 891-7117

TAKOMA PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

CASH REWARD up to \$10,000

The Takoma Park Police Criminal Investigations Division is actively investigating a fatal shooting that occurred on Saturday, July 16, 2022, at about 11:05 am. The victim Nurhusen Hamid (pictured below) was working as a mobile mechanic on the Advanced Auto Parts parking lot located at 6300 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, Montgomery County, Maryland. An unknown suspect approached the victim and shot at him striking him. The victim was transported to an area hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The suspect fled the parking lot on foot onto Eastern Avenue and entered a waiting white in colored SUV then fleeing the area into the District of Columbia on New Hampshire Avenue.

Victim: Muhammed Hamid

Vehicle used by suspect

Anyone with information regarding this crime is asked to call [Lieutenant Joseph Butler at 301-891-7111](tel:301-891-7111). Individuals with information may also contact [Montgomery County Crime Solvers](http://WWW.P3TIPS.COM) either by going to the website WWW.P3TIPS.COM, or by text message using the P3 mobile app. The app is available at the Android Playstore or Apple App Store – search for "P3 TIPS".

Tipsters will remain anonymous and could be entitled to a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and/or indictment of the person or persons responsible for this crime. Those without access to either may call **866-411-TIPS (8477)**.

Case #220030554 / CID #22-092

Lieutenant Joseph Butler
(301) 891-7111 josephb@takomaparkmd.gov (301) 602-4362

Plan Your Evacuation

by Claudine Schweber, Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair

Do you live in a high-rise building? Prepare now to act when you face a fire, flood, storm, or other emergency.

- Locate the building's evacuation plan and familiarize yourself with it.
- Identify the safety features and their locations in your building. These include fire alarms, sprinklers, and staircase exits. Make sure that stairwell doors are unlocked. Note that elevators may be closed during an emergency.
- If there's an official announcement to evacuate, go outdoors quickly and wait at the announced meeting place.

After an evacuation, stay where it's safe until an official announces that you can return.

- If you cannot evacuate due to disability or smoke, stuff wet towels or sheets around the door and vents to keep smoke out. Call 911 immediately to alert officials to your location.

Ongoing preparedness:

- Fully charge your cell phone daily. If using a landline, make sure you have the critical numbers and can dial them.
- Keep your emergency contact list up to date. Provide contacts with information on your health status, health care provider, medicines, and one or two other contacts.

DONATE YOUR BLOOD

Giving blood is crucial to save people's lives & make sure blood is available when it's needed

Takoma Park Municipal Bldg
7500 Maple Ave
Takoma Park, MD
Azalea Room, 2nd Fl

JUNE 1, 2024
11:30 - 4:30 PM

GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

Community ACTIVITIES

The HalFSmokes

Friday, May 3, 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. TheHalFSmokes.com. No cover charge.

Takoma Park Children's Business Fair

Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Laurel Avenue

Takoma Park Children's Business Fair is a one-day marketplace that allows children ages 6–14 to develop a brand, create a product or service, build a marketing strategy, then showcase to the community. There will be 50 booths and up to 150 children. Rain date: May 11. More information at childrensbusinessfair.org/takomapark.

Takoma Foundation Beerfest

Saturday, May 4, 3–7 p.m.
VFW Post 350, Hell's Bottom
6420 Orchard Ave.

Takoma's Favorite Night Out—the annual fundraiser you know and love—is back at the Takoma Park VFW. Discover the latest craft beer from local breweries, enjoy our traditional grillable fare (good ole brats ... and meatless options, too), make new friends, and take pride in knowing your contribution benefits causes and initiatives important to your community. Tickets and more information at takomafoundation.org.

Cinco de Mayo Celebration

Sunday, May 5, noon–2 p.m.
Long Branch. Silver Spring

A live mariachi band will be traveling through Long Branch, starting at El Arbol del Pan (8545 Piney Branch Road) at noon, moving at El Golfo Restaurant (8739 Flower Ave.) at 12:30, and finishing at El Gavilan Restaurant (8805 Flower Ave.) at 1:20. There will be additional celebrations and entertainment throughout the weekend, including a margarita crawl (purchase your mug at El Golfo restaurant). More information at discoverlongbranch.com.

Mariachi Night

Tuesday, May 7, 5:30–8 p.m.
Cielo Rojo
7211 Carroll Ave.

Mariachi Imperio by Blanca Chucúan transports you to Guadalajara with its own spin on traditional rancheras and corridos.

Bike to School

Wednesday, May 8

Each year, students and parents ride to school together and learn about proper helmet fitting and basic bike safety. Participating schools include Takoma Park

Middle, Takoma Park Elementary, Piney Branch Elementary, East Silver Spring Elementary, and Rolling Terrace Elementary. Check with your school administration or PTA for details.

Takoma Flea

Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Grant Avenue

Takoma Flea is an outdoor market offering a unique mix of vintage, collectibles, antiques, salvage, and repurposed goods. Find clothing, jewelry, housewares, furniture, vinyl records, and more. More information at mainstreettakoma.org.

Meals on Wheels Spaghetti Dinner and Auction

Thursday, May 16, 5–8 p.m.
Meals on Wheels Kitchen and Offices
Downstairs at Zion Lutheran Church
7410 New Hampshire Ave.

Join the fun and dine with friends and neighbors for a delicious spaghetti dinner. The online auction opens May 10, with many items donated to help the mission of this community resource. Every dollar you spend helps feed a homebound neighbor. Woven into the fabric of our community, Meals on Wheels of Takoma Park/Silver Spring delivers healthy, delicious food to our homebound neighbors. To purchase tickets and bid on auction items, go to bit.ly/MoW-spaghetti-dinner. More information about Meals on Wheels Takoma Park/Silver Spring at mowtakoma.org.

Bike to Work

Friday, May 17, 6:30–9 a.m.

Whether you're working from the office or from your living room, celebrate bicycling as a fun, eco-friendly, and healthy way to exercise and commute. Come by Takoma Park's pit stops in Old Takoma, Takoma/Langley Crossroads, and on the Sligo Creek Trail at New Hampshire Avenue to receive a free T-shirt and bike safety swag. For more information and to register, visit biketoworkmetrodc.com.

FTPML Book Sale

May 18, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
7505 New Hampshire Ave.

Find a new Memorial Day weekend book or stock up on your summer reading at twice-yearly Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) book sale. Donations of books will be accepted at the library through May 14. The Friends support many library programs and events. Visit ftpml.org for more information.

Crossroads Community Food Fair

Sunday, May 21, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.
Laurel Avenue at Carroll Avenue
(across from the Streeterly)

Join this day of delicious, hyper-local food and community fun, featuring the

talented foodpreneurs of the TPSS Community Kitchen. Enjoy an incredible variety of sweet and savory eats and drinks from 15+ food businesses based in Takoma Park, including empanadas, Detroit-style pizza, burritos, tacos, pupusas, Vietnamese noodles and bánh mì, mac-n-cheese, nut butters and healthy nut snacks, mushroom jerky and soufflés, herb-infused teas, locally roasted Guatemalan coffee, sea-moss infused waters, baked goods and vegan treats, artisanal chocolate and cotton candy, and ice cream sammies. More information at crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org.

Takoma Park Arts: The Capitol Hillbillies

Friday, May 31, 7:30 p.m.

The Capitol Hillbillies have been raising the roof with their rousing mix of barrelhouse blues, hot jazz, and jug band music for almost 40 years at venues across the D.C. area. They embody the spirit of New Orleans with steam-engine energy and carnival charm in rollicking shindigs that explore the roots of American music spanning blues from the Delta to Chicago, jug band and old-time music, Cajun and Appalachian tunes, early country and gospel, and a tantalizing taste of bluegrass.

Flower Avenue Together Block Party

Saturday, June 1, 2–5 p.m.
Erie and Flower Avenues

Celebrate community with music, dancing, food, and entertainment with a good, old-fashioned block party. While you are here, explore the local restaurants and check out our diverse small businesses! More information at discoverlongbranch.com.

Family Outdoor Movie Night

Saturday, June 8, 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.

Takoma Park House and Garden Tour

Sunday, June 9, 1–9 p.m.

Historic Takoma is delighted to announce the resumption of the annual House and Garden Tour, following four-year Covid hiatus. Please watch historictakoma.org for details on location and tickets. Volunteer docents are a key component of the tour. If you would like to volunteer for a two-hour shift, please use the contact form on the Historic Takoma website.

Juneteenth Celebration

June 19, noon–6 p.m.
Lee Jordan Field,
7611 Piney Branch Road

Hosted by the Maple Community Association and the City of Takoma Park, this commemoration of the longest African American holiday will celebrate, educate, and agitate. Featuring music, food, and vendors—stay tuned for more information.

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.

Crossroads Farmers Market

Every Wednesday, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.
Anne St. at University Blvd. East

Crossroads Farmers Market offers the season's freshest fruits and vegetables, as well as free-range eggs, honey, locally roasted coffee, healthy snacks, and fresh-cut flowers, all from no more than 50 miles away. The market is cultivating a more inclusive local food system in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. More information at crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org.

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.

Takoma Jazz

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

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

CITY COUNCIL

■ From page 2

- Discussion of FY 2026 Budget Policy Resolution
- **Wednesday, May 22**—Priorities Meeting with SHA Administrator
 - Council Priorities Meeting with Maryland Department of Transportation SHA Administrator, William Pines

- **Wednesday, May 29**—City Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium

Work Session:

- FY 2024 Budget Amendment No. 4
- **Wednesday, June 5**—City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium

For the Record:

- Gun Violence Awareness Day (June 7) Proclamation

Voting Session:

- (tentative) First Reading Ordinance Approving FY 2024 Budget Amendment No. 4
- Work Session:
- Library Construction Project Update



Questions, concerns, or ideas?

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