

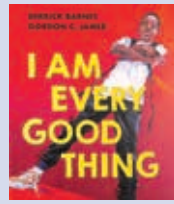
**Juels Bland Shares His Soulful Music**



**Library Yard Dramas**



**Juneteenth Reading**



**Bike Month Recap**



# Takoma Park News



June 2024

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 63, No. 6 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

## Important Events

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

**Takoma Fxixt Clinic**  
Saturday, June 1, 2–4 p.m.  
Takoma Park Maryland Library  
7505 New Hampshire Ave.

**Crossing Guard Appreciation Day**  
June 5, before and after school  
In front of public schools in Takoma Park

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

**Ward 1 Community Meeting to Discuss Public Safety**  
Tuesday, June 11, 7–9 p.m.  
Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Ave.

**Takoma Park Arts: Juels Bland Concert**  
Friday, June 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Ave.

**Lecture: Nurturing Native Bees**  
Tuesday, June 18, 7 p.m.  
Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple 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.

**Independence Day Parade and Evening Events**  
Tuesday, July 4

Note: On July 4, city offices and facilities will be closed, except police. Tuesday collection routes will occur on Wednesday.

## Council Adopts the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

by Sean Gossard

The Takoma Park City Council last month voted to adopt the 2025 fiscal budget—beginning on July 1, 2024.

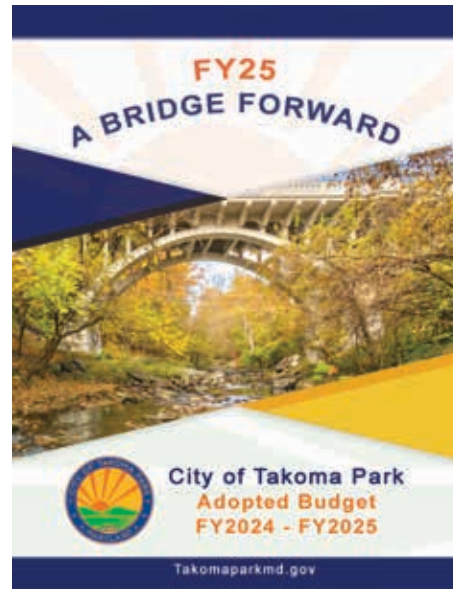
“I’m very pleased to announce that on May 15, the city council approved the fiscal year 2025 budget,” said Takoma Park Finance Director Susan Cheung. “The city will maintain the real property tax rate at 0.5522.”

The theme of the upcoming budget is “A Bridge Forward” to recognize “transitioning and evolving forward as we contend with challenges and with an eye to the future,” according to the proposed budget proposal released by City Manager Robert DiSpirito in early April.

In the Fiscal Year 25 budget, the General Fund revenue is \$30.6 million, with the remainder of other fund revenue being \$7.8 million, for a total revenue of \$38.4 million. That total is also supplemented by the use of \$206,997 in bond reserve, \$1.4 million from the other reserves, and \$2.6 million other fund balances, for a consolidated total revenue of \$42.7 million.

The total General Fund expenditure is \$32.2 million, and all other funds expenditure is \$10.4 million for a total expenditure of \$42.7 million. As a result, the total consolidated revenue and total consolidated expenditure maintain the same balance of \$42.7 million.

Department expenditures with be \$4,797,487 or 1.5% less than in 2024 due to a \$287,003 decrease in operating expenses.



Some of the financial challenges the city faces in the coming year are related to higher inflationary expenses, the dwindling balance remaining in the city’s account containing the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and increased costs of employee compensation.

Staffing in the city should remain level, as no additional full-time positions have been proposed.

While the majority of the city’s \$17.5 million in ARPA funds have been allocated, DiSpirito has proposed using the remainder as a bridge to address ongoing mayor and

council priorities. The city manager proposed using \$6,980,140 in remaining ARPA funds for projects including street rehabilitation, sidewalk design and construction, continuing support for library construction, the community center atrium renovation project, mental health crisis counselors, expanding public safety critical police dispatch, a food insecurity program, and a community connectors program.

Other mayor and council initiatives that will be addressed with the General Fund include

- Funding for emergency rental assistance
- 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
- Various Quality of Life grants
- Recreational scholarships
- The Housing Reserve Fund
- Emergency Tree Removal
- Summer Enrichment program, Community Play, and Farmers Market grants
- Stormwater Capital Improvement expenditures

BUDGET □ Page 5

## “All Those Hugs Are Priceless”

# Celebrate Takoma Park’s Crossing Guards

by Sean Gossard

With more than 40 years of experience between them, Takoma Park crossing guards Virina “Miss Liz” James and Pam “Miss Pam” Sprouse know what it takes to keep the city’s children safe while walking to school.

“The most important part of the job is the children; they’re so precious to us. I call them my babies,” says Miss Liz, who also goes by “Grandma Liz.” “My main thing is that I know the safety rules so I can teach them to the children and their parents.”

“As a crossing guard and person, I feel like the children look up to me and see me as a trusted person,” says Miss Pam. “Kids are important, but being out on the street on a busy corner I also have to maintain some politeness with the drivers as well. I need to give them respect, so that they respect me.”

Miss Liz joined the Takoma Park crossing



Photo by Sam Kittner.

Virina “Miss Liz” James calls herself a corner grandma, looking after the kids of Takoma Park. Some of those children are now college graduates and come back to give her a hug.

guards after working in the Clinton administration through the 1990s. She says she applied for the job after being asked by a city official, but had also applied for a job with Metro at the same time.

“My thought was that I was going to accept the first job that was offered to me,” she says. “And, as fate would have it, the crossing guard job accepted me first and Metro

CROSSING GUARD □ Page 5

June 5 is Crossing Guard Appreciation Day. Drop by the table in front of your child’s school with a card or hug for our heroes in yellow vests.

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

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

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

# 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](mailto: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

(Meeting start times and listed agenda items can change. Please check the agenda page on the city website, [takomaparkmd.org](http://takomaparkmd.org), to confirm the time and final agenda.)

**Wednesday, June 5:** City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (Auditorium)

**For the Record:**

- Gun Violence Awareness Day (June 7) Proclamation

**Voting Session:**

- First Reading Ordinance Approving FY 2024 Budget Amendment No. 4
- Appointments to the Police Employees Retirement Plan Committee

**Work Session:**

- Update on Planning for the November 5, 2024, City

Election and Recommended Code Amendments

- Library Construction Project Update
- Discussion of Council Repeal of Resolution 2015-32 (Policy for New Sidewalk Design and Installation)

**Wednesday, June 12:** City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (Auditorium)

**Presentation:**

- Results of Laurel Avenue Traffic Study

**Voting Session:**

- Second Reading Ordinance Approving FY 2024 Budget Amendment No. 4
- Single Reading Ordinance Awarding a Grant for Summer Lunch and Enrichment Services
- First Reading Ordinance Amending Takoma Park Code, Title 14, Health and Safety, to Add Chapter 14.01 Non-Stormwater Discharge
- First Reading Ordinance Amending the Takoma Park Code to Remove Provisions Referring to the Repealed Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights and Add References to Maryland's Police Accountability Act
- First Reading Ordinance Amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 7, Purchasing and Taxation, Chapter 7.04

**MEETINGS**  Page 3

## Engage with Your City Government!

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

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

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

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

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

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



Mayor Talisha Searcy



Shana Fulcher (Ward 1)



Cindy Dyballa (Ward 2)



Randy Gibson (Ward 3)



Terry Seamens (Ward 4)



Cara Honzak (Ward 5)



Jason Small (Ward 6)

## CouncilAction

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

### MAY 8, 2024

- **Ordinance 2024-7** (first reading) adopting the FY25 tax rates
- **Ordinance 2024-8** (first reading) adopting the FY25 Stormwater Management Budget
- **Ordinance 2024-9** (first reading) adopting the FY25 Budget
- **Ordinance 2024-10** authorizing a contract with NZI Construction Corp. for the Houston Avenue Stormwater Treatment project
- **Resolution 2024-14** supporting the Maple Community Association Juneteenth Celebration

### MAY 15, 2024

- **Ordinance 2024-7** (second reading) adopting the FY25 Tax Rates
- **Ordinance 2024-8** (second

reading) adopting the FY25 Stormwater Management Budget

- **Ordinance 2024-9** (second reading) adopting the FY25 Budget
- **Ordinance 2024-11** authorizing the City Manager to sign a contract with Human Circuit for technical services for City TV
- **Ordinance 2024-12** authorizing execution of a contract with UKG for implementation, ongoing support, and maintenance of a human resources information system
- **Resolution 2024-15** 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

## CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Check the calendar on the city website for the most up-to-date information on Council and committee meetings, including links to access meetings and agendas. Visit [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) and click on "Events and Meetings." Many city boards and committees continue to meet virtually/remotely via Zoom. Some hold hybrid meetings (both in-person and virtual/Zoom). All in-person committee meetings are held at the Community Center unless otherwise indicated.

### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, June 13, 7:30 p.m. (virtual)

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 20, 7 p.m. (Hydrangea Room, with virtual option)

### ETHICS COMMISSION

Date and time to be announced.

### GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 11, 6:30 p.m. (virtual)

### POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, June 17, 7 p.m. (Hydrangea Room, with virtual option)

### POLICE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 4, 9:30 a.m. (Hydrangea Room, with virtual option)

### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 20, 7 p.m. (virtual)

### SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND CERTIFIED COMMITTEE

Monday, June 3, 7 p.m. (Hydrangea Room, with virtual option)

### YOUTH COUNCIL

Thursday, June 6, 4 p.m. (Hydrangea Room, with virtual option)  
Thursday, June 20, 4 p.m. (Hydrangea Room, with virtual option)

### ADA NOTICE

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

# Public NOTICES

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

The March 2024 issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter included notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation to provide guidance for the interpretation of Chapter 13.28, Traffic Calming Devices, of the Takoma Park Code. It addresses the process to request, evaluate, and advance new traffic calming measures by members of the public, elected officials, and City staff. The regulation replaces Administrative Regulation No. 96-1. The notice was published in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2.12, Administrative Regulations, of the Takoma Park Code, to allow the public the opportunity to review and comment on the proposal. This notice is to inform the public that the final regulation will become effective on July 1, 2024. The full text is available for review at takomaparkmd.gov.

## Notice of Final Administrative Regulation to Provide Guidance for Compliance with City Charter Article X, Section 1003, Powers as to Sidewalks

The March 2024 issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter included notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation to address the process to request, evaluate, and advance new sidewalk installation by members of the public, elected officials, and City staff. The regulation replaces and supersedes City Council Resolution 2015-32. The notice was published in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2.12, Administrative Regulations, of the Takoma Park Code, to allow the public the opportunity to review and comment on the proposal. This notice is to inform the public that the final regulation will become effective on July 1, 2024. The full text is available for review at takomaparkmd.gov

### MEETINGS

■ From page 2

General Provisions, Chapter 7.08 Source Selection and Contract Formation to Address Software and Information Technology Related Contracts

• First Reading Ordinance Amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 5, Chapter 5.18 Mail-in Ballot Voting and Chapter 5.12 Fair Election Practices

• (tentative) Resolution Rescinding Resolution 2015-32 (Replaced by New Administrative Regulation)

#### Work Session:

• Administrative Regulation Regarding Use of Certain Public Facilities

• Board and Committee Appointment Recommendations

**Wednesday, June 19 (Juneteenth Holiday): The City Council will NOT meet.**

**Wednesday, June 26: The City Council will NOT meet.**

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

#### Presentation

• Grant Review Committee

#### Recommendations

##### Voting Session:

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

• Second Reading Ordinance Amending the Takoma Park Code to Remove Provisions Referring to the Repealed Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights and Add References to Maryland's Police Accountability Act

• Second Reading Ordinance Amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 7, Purchasing and Taxation, Chapter 7.04 General Provisions, Chapter 7.08 Source Selection and Contract Formation to Address Software and Information Technology Related Contracts

• Second Reading Ordinance Amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 5, Chapter 5.18 Mail-In Ballot Voting and Chapter 5.12 Fair Election Practices

• Resolutions Providing for Appointments to Boards and Committees

**Wednesday, July 3: The City Council will not meet.**

## 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.

### or Candidates: Monday, June 10 is the First Day to Register as a Candidate for City Election.

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

### City Nominating Caucus: Tuesday, September 10

Takoma Park residents interested in running for mayor or city council should plan to attend the nominating caucus on Tuesday, September 10. A candidate must receive a nomination and a second to that nomination to have their name placed on the ballot. Watch the website, takomaparkmd.gov, 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

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

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

Ballots will be mailed in October.

### Absentee Ballots

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

### Election Day Voting

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

VOTING  Page 10

### City Election Calendar

| Activity  | Date/Time  | Location  |
|---|--|---|
| Candidate Registration Begins                         | Monday, June 10  |   |
| 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)<br><br>Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Ave. |
| Ballot return by US Mail                              | MAIL EARLY (but no later than November 5 with a postmark)                  |   |
| Election Day in-person voting                         | Tuesday, November 5 7a.m.-8 p.m.   | Takoma Park Community Center  |
| The Board of Elections reports election certification | Wednesday, November 13   | Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium   |
| Mayor and Council Swearing In                         | Monday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.   | Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium   |



### Editor's note

#### English:

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

#### French:

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

#### Spanish:

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

#### Amharic:

ኮታቶ ያለውን ደህን አዲስ ደረጃ ላይ የዚህ መጽሔቶች አርከም ራስዎ ናቸው በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ተርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታኮማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀ ካደረጉ በኋላ አድራሻዎን አገኛላችሁ፣ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንግ ላይ ታንባሎች የአሰሳ አምሌን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን።

# 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.

## Para candidatos: el lunes 10 de junio es el primer día para registrarse como candidato para las elecciones municipales

Cualquier persona que busque un cargo electo en la ciudad de Takoma Park deberá registrarse con la Secretaria Municipal completando un formulario de registro de candidatos. Solo un candidato registrado puede aceptar contribuciones o hacer gastos en una elección municipal.

## 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 sitio web de la ciudad para información 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](mailto: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 prepagado 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 en-

víe 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 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 8 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.

| Calendario Electoral de la Ciudad                                  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Actividad  | Fecha/Hora   | Ubicación   |
| Comienza el registro de candidatos                                 | lunes, 10 de junio   |   |
| Reunión de Nominaciones de Candidatos                              | martes, 10 de septiembre<br>7:30 p.m.  | Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park<br>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.<br>(el buzón electoral se cierra a las 8 p.m. el 5 de noviembre) | Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park<br>7500 Maple Avenue (nivel inferior)<br><br>Centro de Recreación de Takoma Park<br>7315 New Hampshire Avenue |
| Papeleta enviadas de regreso por correo postal                     | ENVIAR POR CORREO TEMPRANO<br>(pero a más tardar el 5 de noviembre con matasellos)                 |   |
| Votar en persona el Día de las Elecciones                          | martes, 5 de noviembre,<br>7 a.m.-8 p.m.   | Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park<br>7500 Maple Ave.  |
| Junta Electoral de Takoma Park reportan la certificación electoral | miércoles, 13 de noviembre   | Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park Auditorio<br>7500 Maple Ave.  |
| Juramentación del alcalde y miembros del concejo municipal         | lunes, 18 de noviembre,<br>7:30 p.m.   | Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park Auditorio<br>7500 Maple Ave.  |

# The ARTS

## Juels Bland Will Share His Soulful Music with a Free Concert

**Juels Bland Concert**  
Friday, June 14, 7:30 p.m.  
Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Ave.



Juels Bland

Silver Spring native Juels Bland has honed his talents as a singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist in clubs and venues across the East Coast, and he'll be performing close to home in a free concert at the Takoma Park Community Center on June 14.

His music and lyrics evoke rich soulful tones, and he was drawn to music at an early age.

"I would just sing along to songs I liked when I was a kid," he says. "I started to pay attention to music in 2006 when I learned to play guitar and write my own songs."

After leaving a band called Trees Have Cars in 2011, Bland wrote more songs, recorded some demos, and played solo at gigs and open mics before forming another band called The Darkest Timeline. His second album "Something to Run From" was released in 2018. You can hear some of his music at [juelsbland.com](http://juelsbland.com).

This concert is part of the *Takoma Park Arts* series organized by the City's Arts and Humanities Division, which includes free concerts, theater, dance, film screenings and art exhibitions at the Takoma Park

Community Center. No tickets or reservations are required, and donations are accepted to support the performers. Sign up for our e-newsletter at [takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts) for more info about all of our upcoming events.

# Takoma ARTERY

## Art Exhibition to Feature Takoma ARTERy Artists

Local artists are welcome to join the Takoma ARTERy and apply for an upcoming art exhibition in the gallery spaces at the Takoma Park Community Center.

The Takoma ARTERy is a local volunteer-run group of artists that provides many benefits, including an online artist directory, storefront window displays, social media promotion, and special events to build a sense of community in the local artist community.

The annual membership fee is \$40, and more info is available at [takomaartery.com](http://takomaartery.com). Some discounts are available based on ability to pay.

ARTery members don't need to be Takoma Park residents but should have some connection to the city, such as living or working here or in nearby communities.

Applicants for the art exhibition should submit an online application form at [bit.ly/3JEAigV](http://bit.ly/3JEAigV) by the June 9 deadline. More info about the City's art exhibition program is available at [takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts).

The opening reception will be scheduled in September 2024, and the exhibition will be on display for about three months. Applicants are not guaranteed inclusion in the art exhibition, and selected artists most likely will be showing two or three pieces depending on the size and suitability of their artwork.

Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith will be curating the exhibition.

"I'm looking forward to seeing the wide range of work created by our talented local artists and sharing it with the public in this exhibition," Smith says.

### Takoma Park News

Send submissions to: Editor: Eric Bond • [editorbond@gmail.com](mailto:editorbond@gmail.com) | Assistant Editor: Sean Gossard • [TPNewsEditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:TPNewsEditor@takomaparkmd.gov)  
Questions: Donna Wright Communications Director • [donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:donnaw@takomaparkmd.gov) | Eric Bond • [editorbond@gmail.com](mailto:editorbond@gmail.com)  
[takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov)

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov).

# Building COMMUNITY

## CROSSING GUARD

■ From page 1

gave me an offer two hours later.”

Miss Liz has now been with the city for 25 years.

For Miss Pam, becoming a crossing guard also seemed like it was destined to happen.

“I always looked up to the crossing guards growing up in Hyattsville,” she says.

Miss Pam was a stay-at-home mother until her husband had a health scare, and she decided to work with him as a paint technician. After about eight years working together, her husband saw an opening as a crossing guard in Takoma Park and she decided to apply for the job. She’s been protecting Takoma Park’s streets now for almost 16 years.

“They call me the neighborhood grandma,” says Miss Pam, who has a few grandchildren of her own in addition to the countless children who cross her streets near Piney Branch Elementary every school day. “They call out ‘Hey, Miss Pam’ and give hugs and tell me about losing their baby teeth.”

After all those years watching children grow, Miss Liz and Miss Pam have become a big part in the lives of the children who cross their streets.

“Some kids were crossing in kindergarten and now they’re out of college and still come to visit,” says Miss Liz. “They say, ‘Miss Liz, you haven’t changed,’ and I say, ‘I stay the



Photo by Sam Kittner.

*“Miss Pam” Sprouse implores drivers to slow down and follow the rules of the road so that our children have a chance to grow up.*

same just for you.”

Miss Liz says she had one young lady come to her recently asking her if she remembered telling the girl that if she graduated college, she would give her a gift.

“And she says, ‘Well I just graduated from Montgomery College and I’m going to send you some photos from graduation to enjoy and cherish,’” she says. “So I made sure to give her a little graduation cash and she gave me the biggest hug.”

For Miss Pam, the children in her life help

keep her protected just as much as she does for them.

“One day, I was having a rough time and was really down, and there was a little boy—I’d call him honey and he called me sweetie—and one day he walked by and turned around and ran back and hugged me, and it was exactly what I needed,” she says. “All those hugs are priceless.”

The children also find ways to show their appreciation for Miss Liz, who has been guarding the corner of Maple and Sherman Avenues.

“I had a birthday and all these kids came by and hugged me and that’s when the waterworks came on,” she says. “Next thing I know, two other children had instruments and started playing. I told them I would always have a place in my heart for them, and it still touches me to this day.”

Of course, for them the job is always about safety, whether it’s teaching children the rules of pedestrian safety or working to keep drivers from driving dangerously.

Miss Pam said she had one little boy who would be running from his mother and generally not obeying the rules of street safety.

“The next day, the boy came back with his father to talk with me about being safe,” she says. “I told him, ‘This corner is my office, these sidewalks are my hallways, and you don’t run in the hallways at school, right?’ I had to put it in his terms and on his level so he understood.”

But it isn’t all about teaching children, drivers must also remember to be vigilant, especially in school zones.

“Please, please obey the signs and our crossing guards and when you see a school bus with the red lights flashing do not pass it,” says Miss Pam. “You never know when a little tiny child may dart off away from us. We’re there to help, and not to upset drivers.”

Miss Pam says making sure they have the respect of drivers is incredibly important in keeping the streets safe for pedestrians. She recalled a time when a Metro bus driver had moved into an intersection where people needed to cross, and she made them reverse out of it.

“The next day, he pulled up before the crosswalk and gave me the thumbs up,” she says. “You know you’ve earned their respect if they back out of an intersection and give you a thumbs up.”

“This is why they put cameras on the school buses,” says James. “People need to learn to obey the law and obey us. We are the grandmothers of our corners.”

If you’d like to say “Hi” to one of Takoma Park’s crossing guards, along with Miss Liz and Miss Pam, they are Donna Warren at Philadelphia and Cedar, Emma Reyes at Philadelphia and Holly, Edward Welch at Takoma Junction at Ethan Allen; Carrol Jordan Bondo at Philadelphia and Maple; Harriet Saxton at Maple and Grant.

## BUDGET

■ From page 1

Funds will also be used for police funding for bike patrol unit equipment, field radio equipment, mobile computers, and overtime for designated and additional patrols, as well as funding for a traffic study.

There is also \$4.2 million in Special Reserve Funds for projects including grants for the New Hampshire Avenue Bikeway (\$350,000), the Maple Avenue Connectivity Project (\$240,000), the Metropolitan Branch Trail Project (\$425,000), Program Open Space to add to the Capital Acquisition Fund (\$60,000), and CDBG Neighborhood Improvements for the Houston Court Biofiltration Project (\$91,000). Those funds will also be allocated for CityTV equipment and temporary relocation.

“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,” DiSpirito said.

The fully adopted budget book will be available in mid-August as the city’s finance

department works to compile numbers and coordinate with the city’s various departments. The city will then send the budget to the Government Finance Officers Association for consideration for its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award, which it has won over the past five years.

Cheung said there are four main highlights in next year’s budget, including keeping the real property tax rate level.

“We were able to reach the unassigned reserve balance targets,” Cheung said, in reference to city funds that have not been assigned to other areas. “This is one of the most significant achievements in the budget with the city reaching our target in the General Fund at \$5.2 million, which represents 17% of the total revenue. This is important to our city’s financial health and future stability.”

The city was also able to reduce its expenditures from \$36.4 million in 2024 to \$32 million in 2025.

“Our ability to meet the reserve target is largely due to the strategic expenditure reductions,” Cheung said. “Under the guidance of city manager and senior leadership team, we conducted several rounds of expenditure reviews and reductions before the proposed

budget was announced. That significant reduction is mainly due to decreases in capital improvement expenditures that were budgeted at \$1.4 million for 2025 down from \$6.3 million in 2024. There’s a lot of reduction giving us excess funds to put into the reserve.”

These budget goals will help the city significantly as its long-term financial needs continue to be met, said Cheung.

“Maintaining the tax rate and reaching the 17% reserve were the key objectives in our long-term financial forecast,” she said. “Achieving these goals demonstrates the city’s adherence to prudent financial management.”

A new source of funding for the city’s police department, according to the budget documents, is a Red Light Camera Fund that is set to begin in July of this year. The anticipated revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 is about \$1.3 million. The funds will go to a special revenue reserve fund in the police department—rather than the general fund—since the purpose is to address public safety. The funds are supplementing declining speed camera funds the resulted from improved driving behavior. DiSpirito hopes to eventually use the money to fund a new transit planner position to address pedestrian and traffic

safety.

Takoma Park’s budget process is a months-long endeavor involving every department in the city.

“I want to acknowledge and thank the city manager and two deputy city managers [Andrew Bolduc and David Eubanks] and all the city leadership team members,” Cheung said. “The city manager’s budget planning—together with the effective coordination of the council—has significantly enhanced the efficiency of the budget process. A special thanks goes to my team members, particularly our Budget & Accounting Manager, who managed to complete the budget book within a very tight timeline.”

DiSpirito also recognized the finance team in his budget proposal, writing: “I wish to thank the dedicated, hard-working, and professional City of Takoma Park staff who continue to deliver quality services to our residents. Special recognition goes to Finance Director Susan Cheung, Budget & Accounting Manager Ron Kawaley, and the rest of the award-winning Finance Department team, for all of their leadership, talent, and hard work.”

For continued updates on the city’s budget, visit [takomaparkmd.gov/government/finance](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/finance).

## What We Are Reading

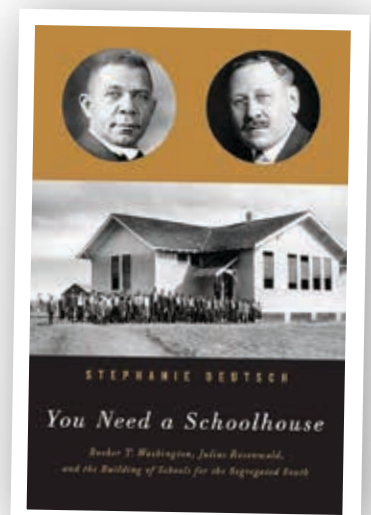
# You Need a Schoolhouse by Stephanie Deutsch

by Ma’isah Bateman  
Planning Intern

Last month the Planning Division and friends read *You Need a Schoolhouse*, which chronicles the philanthropic and educational work of businessmen Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington. These men first crossed paths in the early twentieth century with hopes to become partners in investing education geared toward African American students. Booker

T. Washington, at the time, already had his foot in the door with the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, which trained Black teachers. Rosenwald was anxious to begin working with Washington following his Jewish faith in giving back to the ones in need. Their relationship flourished soon after and the two built a legacy of esteemed schools in the rural South that have educated many notable Black students like Maya Angelou, Medgar Evers, and John Lewis.

*[Booker T Washington] had been invited to dinner at the White House with President Theodore Roosevelt and had drunk tea with Queen Victoria, yet he had also, just six weeks before meeting Rosenwald, been violently assaulted on a New York City street, receiving a wound that took sixteen stitches to close and leaving him, by his own account, “dazed and physically and mentally upset.” His success and his fame, his very identity as a black American, were painfully equivocal.* —You Need a Schoolhouse





# 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.

**Juneteenth:** the library and computer center will be closed on Wednesday, June 19 to celebrate the holiday.

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

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

**Programs and Events**

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

**Crochet and Cozies,** all ages welcome. Join us at 10:30 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 it does allow us to contact you if necessary. Register on our Events calendar.

**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! There will be no Circle Time on June 18.

**Jumpstart With the Arts** joins us with live music for Circle Time on the first Tuesday of each month. The next time they will be with us is Tuesday, June 4 with Jaja Bashengezi. 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. There will be NO chess instruction in July and August!

**LEGO Club.** Block time on your calendar for fun with LEGOs. Sunday, June 9, 2 p.m.

**Kids’ Art.** The next Kids’ Art will be Sunday, June 30, 2 p.m. Come make a fun art project!

**Storytime Yoga.** Join children’s yoga instructor Mariela Gómez and enjoy meditation, movement, and songs in active, family-friendly yoga for children under 5, with their grown-up. Sunday, June 9, 10:30 a.m. (before the library



*Un participante de Yard Dramas muestra la marioneta que creó en este programa de cuentos al aire libre. Foto por Maurice Belanger.*

*A Yard Dramas participant shows the puppet he created in this outdoor storytelling program. Photo by Maurice Belanger.*

opens to the public.) 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](http://tinyurl.com/Storytime-Yoga)

**Yard Dramas** is back! Beginning Wednesday, June 5 at the Crossroads Farmers Market, located on Anne Street at University Boulevard East,

in Takoma Park. The market meets weekly on Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m., throughout the summer. Yard Dramas will meet on June 5 and 26; July 3, 10, 24, and 31; and August 7, 14, and 21. *Sponsored by Maryland State Arts Council.* We are looking for teen and adult volunteers—please email Verónica Rivera-Negrón at [veronican@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:veronican@takomaparkmd.gov) for details.

**Social work help from CE-CG.** The library staff often find that they are called on by patrons to help solve problems that might be better addressed by a social worker. While the staff tries to help make appropriate referrals and recommendations, there are many things we simply cannot do—or don’t have the best information about. The Community Engagement and Consultation Group (CE-CG.org) has stepped up to help our patrons find the best resources, depending on their problem. CE-CG can help patrons with SNAP (food stamps) and Medicaid enrollment, finding food assistance, health and wellness education, referrals for affordable healthcare, English language learning classes, workforce training and employment assistance, and more. If they cannot address your problem themselves, they can refer you to someplace that can.

CE-CG will have a table in the library once a month, on the second Thursday of the month through October. The next time they will be at the library is Thursday, June 13, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

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

**YARD DRAMAS**

**READ MORE ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE.**

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

Supported in part by **MSAC**

# Juneteenth Reading

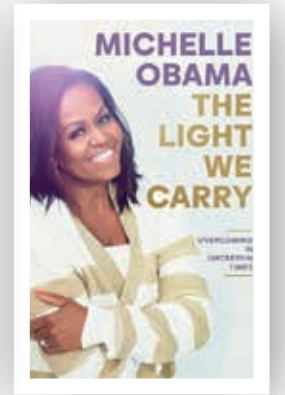
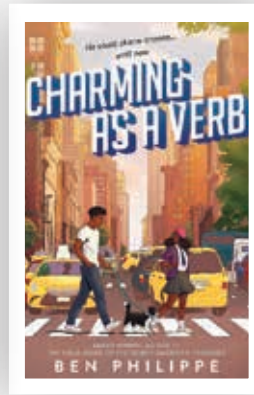
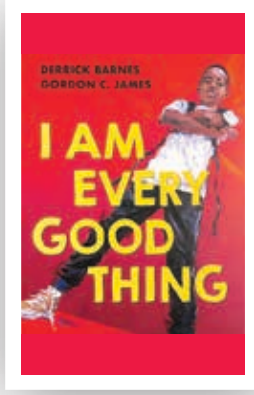
by Jessica Jones

Despite growing up near Juneteenth's Galveston, Texas, origins, I did not learn about Juneteenth until college. Then again, in Houston during that time, we were also



taught that the American Civil War was about states' rights (the right to do what, exactly? Exactly.), so this should not come as a surprise.

I have many feelings about the historical obfuscation of a holiday that celebrates liberation, not the least of which being that in the attempt to paint over in-



justice, the visibility of Black joy can be collateral damage. And so, this month, I would like to highlight works of joy and liberation by Black authors in our collection.

Not every part of every book is joyful, because that's not what life is like, but there is joy and pride in each title, and there are myriad genres represented. There is fiction for every age, as well as nonfiction and poetry. I definitely wanted to highlight our cookbook collection, because not only do

the narratives within contain joy, but they are also a guide to preparing food that can bring joy to us and the loved ones invited to our tables.

**Picture Books: Everyone loves picture books!**

- *I Am Every Good Thing*, by Derrick Barnes
- *Just Like Me*, by Vanessa Brantley-Newton
- *Hey Baby!: A Baby's Day in Doodles*, by

Andrea Pippins

- *The Big Bed*, by Bunmi Laditan (This is one of my favorites that's silly and lovely and fun. The main character is so precocious; it's the cutest.)
- *Glow*, by Ruth Forman
- *Magnificent Homespun Brown: A Celebration*, by Samara Cole Doyon

**Elementary and Middle Grade: For the young people in your life who are reading**

## El rincón de Verónica

# Consejos para disfrutar cuentos al aire libre

por Verónica Rivera-Negrón

Con el clima cada vez más cálido, el mes de junio en Maryland ofrece la oportunidad perfecta para leer al aire libre.

Haz de tus lecturas veraniegas una actividad amena siguiendo estos consejos.

**1. Visita la biblioteca**

Encuentra tus lecturas favoritas y descubre nuevas. Lleva uno o varios libros a tu próximo paseo en el parque.

**2. Prepárate**

Además de libros, puedes llevar los siguientes artículos para estar cómodo por más tiempo al aire libre: una mantita o sillas plegables para sentarte, merienda, mucha agua y bloqueador solar.

**3. Sumérgete en la naturaleza**

Antes o después de tu lectura, camina por un sendero. Un paseo de 5 minutos al aire libre, de acuerdo con el Servicio de Parques Nacionales (NPS, por sus siglas en inglés), mejora el estado de ánimo, la autoestima y te hará sentir

más relajado.

**4. Practica el mindfulness o la atención plena**

Detente un momento, cierra los ojos y respira profundo tres veces. Ahora, percibe detalles con tus cinco sentidos. ¿Qué escuchas? ¿Qué sientes? ¿Qué hueles? ¿Qué saboreas? Abre tus ojos, ¿qué ves?

**5. Toma turnos leyendo en voz alta o escucha un audiolibro**

Recuéstate y ponte cómodo mientras alguien más lee un libro. Luego, devuelve el favor, lee tú en voz alta. O llévate un audiolibro para que todos escuchen el cuento al mismo tiempo.

**6. Incorpora el movimiento y la música**

Ponle vida a tu lectura, actuando algunas escenas de tu libro. Baila al ritmo de alguna canción que te recuerde el cuento. Si encuentras dos palitos, ¡hasta puedes hacer música con ellos!

**7. Imagina cuentos con las nubes**

¿Se te olvidaron los libros? ¡No hay problema! Mira las nubes e imagina formas en ellas. ¡Puedes crear un cuento de lo que vas viendo!

**8. ¡Aprende a contar cuentos con Yard Dramas en el mercado de agricultores!**

Conviértete en un cuento experto, participando en Yard Dramas en el Crossroads Farmers Market.

Yard Dramas es un programa de cuentos al aire libre que incorpora teatro, música, baile y marionetas. De la mano de la educadora, artista y fundadora del programa, Jennifer Ridgway, podrás ver en acción muchos de los consejos que aquí te presento.

Yard Dramas estará en el mercado en las siguientes fechas: 5 y 26 de junio; 3, 10, 24, y 31 de julio; 7, 14, y 21 de agosto.

De las 10:30 AM a las 12:30 PM, podrás participar en varias actividades sobre diversos temas como migración, comunidad local y medio ambiente.

¡Te esperamos!

## Listen to This!

by Jill Raymond

**The Downballot**

by Daily Kos Elections.

For serious political junkies, this weekly podcast is just the thing: *The Downballot* is "dedicated to the thousands of elections across America for critically important offices below the presidency, from Senate to city council." Not more ideological deconstruction of the nation's headlines by the usual political pooh-bahs, this podcast is for those who want to follow individual races and candidates as elections unfold across the country.

This year is, of course, a bonanza for us political addicts: special elections are happening all the time, and primaries will take place through August. Daily Kos is a well-respected, left-leaning-but-independent media outlet, so expect that flavor of coverage. If you love the nitty gritty of individual campaigns, the hosts offer up detail on the week's major electoral events, plus interviews and analysis of questions you've always wanted to know but were afraid to ask: What is a "jungle primary" or a "firehouse primary?" How did a particular referendum get on a ballot? Why does it matter that some states elect their judges? And why on earth, four years after the decennial census, are legislative districts still being carved up and re-carved?

Who could ask for more, I ask you? Found wherever you get your podcasts.



**SummerQuest returns!** The library's adventure reading program returns, this time with *Hard Hat Summer*. Diggers. Dirt. Ghost trees. And the ruins of Takoma Henge. Who knows what adventures you will find behind the fence as you work your way through this year's SummerQuest reading adventure.

# RECREATION

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

## TOTS

### DANCE

#### Combo Tot Dance

Fun and energizing class for your little ones. This is the introductory foundational class consisting of rhythmic movements into basic tumbling and various styles of dance. With a class jam-packed with games and toys, your little ones won't even realize they are learning to dance. Instructor: Dance Solutions

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

## YOUTH

### CAMPS

#### Dance Camp

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

Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Ages: 6–12  
2-week session  
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
July 31–August 11  
Resident: \$595 / non-resident: \$625  
**Beforecare:** 7–9 a.m.  
**Aftercare:** 4–6 p.m.  
Resident: \$90 / non-resident: \$110



#### New Ave Adventure Camp

Explore a new adventure each week with games, crafts, activities, and trips related to each theme. Camp will consist of active and passive activities, both indoors and outdoors. Select the weeks with themes that pique your interest and fit your schedule! Beforecare and aftercare are available for an additional fee. Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
6–12 years  
Eight 1-week sessions  
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.  
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 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. 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. In beforecare, children have time for free play, homework assignments, breakfast (not provided)—or simply preparing for their upcoming day. In aftercare, kids will receive a snack; have time to complete homework; and enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, free play, and more!

- Programs operate when MCPS is in session
- **Beforecare:** \$1,700 / non-resident: \$2,000
  - Hours: 7–9 a.m.
- **Aftercare:** \$2,500 / non-resident: \$3,000
  - Hours: 3:30–6:30 p.m.
- **Bundle discount:** Resident: \$3,570 / non-resident: \$4,250  
Participants who register for both beforecare and aftercare at the same facility in one transaction will receive a discount.
- **Payment plan:** There is a 20% deposit due at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments beginning in October.

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

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

**Takoma Park Community Center  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Morning Addition and Afternoon Addition**  
Staff will escort participants to and from Takoma Park Elementary and Piney Branch Elementary Schools.

## SPORTS

### 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

### CAMP

#### 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! Instructor: Action Youth Media

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

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



#### Visual Arts Camp

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

Takoma Park Community Center  
Art Studio  
7500 Maple Ave.  
11–14 years  
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–3 p.m.  
June 24–June 28: Portrait  
July 8–July 12: Still Life & Interiors  
July 15–July 19: Land, Sea & Cityscape

## 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

### DANCE

#### Ker De Zuri DanXercise Class-AfroBeats

Beat Zuri Sana'a DanXercise's mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuri Sana'a DanXercise combines hip-hop, salsa, dancehall, contemporary, and African dance moves within our choreography to create a memorable workout experience. Our moves are feasible and suitable for all ages. Participants will be able to shred calories and learn fun choreography all in one class. Instructor: Khady N'Diaye

Takoma Park Community Center (Dance Studio)  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Ages 16 and up  
Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.  
July 11–August 29  
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70  
Drop-in: \$10

## FITNESS



### Zumba

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
Ages 16 and up  
6-week session  
Saturdays, 9–11 a.m.  
July 13–August 17  
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

## SPORTS

### Adult Summer Basketball League

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

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



# RECREATION

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

## RECREATION

■ From page 8

### After Hours Basketball

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

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

## 55+ ACTIVITIES

### CAMP

#### Pickleball Summer Camp

Welcome to Forever Young's 2024 Intermediate Summer Camp for adults 55+. You'll enjoy a week of pickleball designed to expand your skills and knowledge while having fun. This camp is for players who have some experience playing the game with other players or had some training, such as taking a beginner class, and are familiar with the basic knowledge of rules, 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

### DANCE FITNESS

#### Hip Hop Move N' Groove

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
Ages 55 and up  
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
July 11–August 15  
(No class on July 25)  
\$6

#### Line Dance

Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. Instructor: Barbara Brown

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
Ages 55 and up  
Tuesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.  
July 2–August 13  
Wednesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.  
July 3–August 14  
\$6



#### Zumba Gold

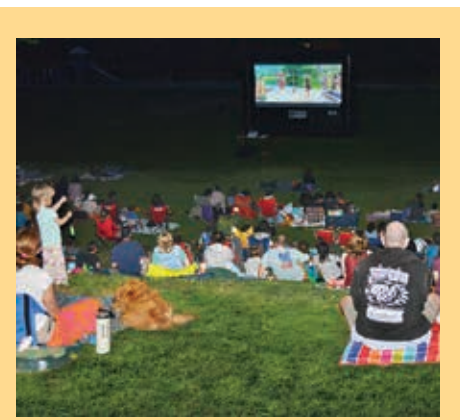
For active, older adults who are looking for a modified Zumba class that recreates the original moves you love at a lower intensity. The design of the class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion, and coordination. Instructor: Yesika Flores

Takoma Park Recreation Center  
7315 New Hampshire Ave.  
Ages 55 and up  
Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.  
July 3–August 14  
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.  
July 5–August 16  
\$6

### DROP-IN

#### Bingo

Come try your luck and win a prize! This is a drop-in activity; no registration is required. Host: Paula Lisowski  
Takoma Park Library  
7505 New Hampshire Ave.  
Ages 55 and up  
Tuesday, 12–2 p.m.  
June 25  
Free



### SPECIAL EVENT

#### Family Outdoor Movie Night - The Lorax

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 the family-friendly hit *The Lorax*!

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

# Unleash Your Child's Creativity A Guide to Takoma Park's Summer Camp Offerings

Summer is just around the corner, and it's time to start planning exciting experiences for your children. Parents are blessed with a diversity of summer camp offerings that cater to a variety of interests. From dance and film to S.T.E.A.M., there's something for everybody. Let's take a closer look at what we have in store for this summer!

**Dance Camp:** Is your child constantly moving to the rhythm? Then dance camp might be the perfect fit. Our dance camps offer children the opportunity to explore various dance styles, from ballet and jazz to hip-hop and contemporary. Campers are provided a fun and supportive environment where they can develop their skills, build confidence, and express their creativity on the dance floor.

**Filmmakers in Action II:** Lights, camera, action! Dive into the art of filmmaking as we craft a captivating docu-series, 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



#### Cutlines

on screen!

**New Ave. Adventure Camp:** Calling all thrill-seekers and camp enthusiasts! Explore a new adventure each week with games, crafts, activities, and trips related to each theme. Camp will consist of activities both indoors and outdoors. New Ave. Adventure Camp is the ultimate camp experience for kids who love to ex-

plore. With experienced counselors leading the way, safety is always a top priority, allowing children to push their limits and discover the thrill of camp adventures. Select the weeks with themes that peak your interest and fit your schedule.

**Powered by S.T.E.A.M.:** Get ready to dive into the exciting world of science, technology, engineering, art, and math-

ematics at our S.T.E.A.M. camp. This innovative and hands-on program provides campers with the opportunity to explore a wide range of S.T.E.A.M. concepts through interactive experiments, creative projects, and problem-solving challenges. From food science to engineering challenges, campers will develop critical thinking skills, foster a love of learning, and expose their inner scientist.

**Visual Arts Camp:** For the young Picassos and Van Goghs in your family, this camp offers the perfect outlet for creative expression. Campers will have the opportunity to explore a variety of artistic mediums, including drawing, painting, mixed media and more. They will learn new techniques, experiment with different materials, and create their own original works of art. Whether your child is a seasoned artist or just starting to discover their creative talents, visual arts camp provides a supportive and nurturing environment where imagination is unlimited.

Summer camp isn't just about keeping kids busy—it's about igniting their passions, promoting creativity, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. So why wait? Visit [bit.ly/2024tprdsommerncamps](http://bit.ly/2024tprdsommerncamps) to sign up for our camps today and let the adventure begin!

# City SHORTS



Cutlines

## Bike Month Recap: Takoma Park Rides Together!

by Kaysi-Ann Webley  
Special Projects Coordinator

In May, Takoma Park celebrated Bike Month with a flurry of pedal-powered activities and community engagement. From school rides to workplace commutes, the city embraced the spirit of cycling in true Takoma Park fashion.

**Bike to School Day:** Students from five local schools—East Silver Spring Elementary, Piney Branch Elementary, Rolling Terrace Elementary, Takoma Park Elementary, and Takoma Park Middle School—got the wheels turning by pedaling their way to school. Piney Branch and Rolling Terrace Elementary schools also held a week of bike safety classes.

**Adult Learn to Ride Class:** With a remarkable interest in cycling, 80 individuals signed up to join our adult learn-to-ride class. There were only 15 spaces available, so we hope to offer more classes next year!

**Bike to Work Day:** Takoma Park professionals ditched their cars and embraced eco-friendly commuting during Bike to Work Day. Three pit stops provided cyclists with refreshments and encouragement, fostering a sense of camaraderie and a love of

biking among participants.

**Free Bike Repair Pop-ups:** Keeping Takoma Park's wheels turning smoothly, free bike repair pop-ups at the Takoma Park Farmers Market and Crossroads Farmers Market ensured that cyclists could ride with confidence.

A big thank you goes out to Rosalind Grisby, Ramon Sola, Ma'isah Bateman, Rich VanMetter for their vital support, along with the staff and PTSAs of our five Safe Routes to Schools. Your commitment to promoting cycling safety and accessibility in Takoma Park is inspiring.

Thanks as well to our local sponsors: Bike Werks, Takoma Bicycle, Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority, and Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op.

Although Bike Month is at an end, Takoma Park reaffirms its commitment to building a more bike-friendly community, one pedal stroke at a time.

## JUNETEENTH READING

■ From page 7

on their own.

- *One Crazy Summer*, by Rita Williams-Garcia
- *Black Boy Joy*, edited by Kwame Mbalia
- *Rebound*, by Kwame Alexander
- *My Life As an Ice Cream Sandwich*, by Ibi Zoboi
- *Dragons in a Bag*, by Zetta Elliott
- *Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky*, by Kwame Mbalia

**Young Adult: For young people who can handle some more mature themes but are still not quite ready for adult books (they are also for adults who enjoy reading YA!).**

- *Charming as a Verb*, by Ben Philippe
- *Black Girls Rock!: Owing Our Magic, Rocking Our Truth*, edited by Beverly Bond
- *Binti*, by Nnedi Okorafor
- *The Great Greene Heist*, by Varian Johnson
- *Children of Blood and Bone*, by Tomi Adoyemi

- *With the Fire on High*, by Elizabeth Acevedo

**Adult: For adults and anyone who wants to read like one.**

- *Bress 'n' nyam: Gullah Geechee Recipes from a Sixth-Generation Farmer*, by Matthew Raiford (We have several cookbooks written by Black authors that center their heritage cuisines!)
- *The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times*, by Michelle Obama
- *A Princess in Theory*, by Alyssa Cole
- *While Justice Sleeps: A Novel*, by Stacey Abrams
- *Fattily Ever After: A Black Fat Girl's Guide to Living Life Unapologetically*, by Stephanie Yeboah
- *Get a Life, Chloe Brown*, by Talia Hibbert
- *Electric Arches*, by Eve Ewing

I think we all need to balance dark with light, because taking in only the dark can be isolating and overwhelming. Not every narrative has to center trauma to be meaningful or impactful, and the beautiful stories in this compilation are great examples of that. I hope you can find and feel joy, on Juneteenth and everyday.

## Bee There!

# Lecture: Nurturing Native Bees in the Takoma Park Area

Tuesday, June 18, 7 p.m.  
7500 Maple Ave. (Auditorium)

National Pollinator week was first recognized by the U.S. Senate in 2007. In the 17 years since, an increasing number of entities have designated a week in June to celebrate and raise awareness for pollinators. This year, the City of Takoma Park is collaborating with the Takoma Park Mobilization Climate Action Coffee to host a free guest lecture by the national bee expert Sam Droege. Droege will present *Nurturing Native Bees in the Takoma Park Area*, with an introduction to the City's Stuart Armstrong Pollinator Arboretum by Anna Mische John.

What, you may be thinking, is all this talk about pollinators about? Pollinators are an intricate piece of the supporting biological diversity and ecosystems. Pollinators are collectively all the creatures that play a role in transferring pollen between plants. Bees, moths, flies, beetles—and even bats and birds—can be pollinators. That doesn't mean that all pollinators need are flowers, or that all pollinators need the same things; they all do need healthy food, shelter, and water.

Pollinator populations have been declining globally from a range of factors including habitat loss, disease, and inap-



Wildlife Biologist Sam Droege runs the Bee Lab at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center.

propriate use of pesticides. Gardeners and land managers can support pollinators in their landscapes by providing a diverse range of mostly native plants, having shelter opportunities (loose plant debris, uncovered soil, foliage for larval development), and water (moist soil or circulating water—remember that mosquitos are not pollinators!).

If you cannot attend the event in person at the Community Center, you can register for online attendance by following the link on the Vegetation Management page of the city website, takomaparkmd.gov.

## VOTING

■ From page 3

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

## Ranked Choice Voting

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



## The Last Beam Put In Place for the Renovated Takoma Park Library

On Tuesday, May 21, Takoma Park celebrated a major milestone of the library and community center redevelopment project with a "topping off" ceremony, with public officials and some residents signing the final steel beam of the building's skeleton. Signers included Takoma Park City Council and Mayor Talisha Searcy; Maryland District 20 Senator William C. Smith, Jr. and Delegates Lorig Charkoudian and David Moon; Montgomery County Council Vice President Kate Stewart (the former mayor of Takoma Park, who worked for many years on the project); and representatives from Representative Jamie Raskin's office, Doyle Construction, and the Maryland Office of Statewide Broadband. Over the summer, residents of Takoma Park will witness the body of the new library being constructed to these bones.

# At Your SERVICE

**REMEMBER:** Fireworks are illegal on July 4 (and any time)

**SAVE THE DATE:** National Night Out: August 6

## Celebrate Pride Month

We celebrate June as Pride Month alongside our LGBTQ+ residents and fellow Takoma Park Police Department members. Diversity is one of the greatest strengths of this city. In June, and every month, we continue to reinforce our commitment to equality. Find out more about our LGBTQ+ community liaison officer on the Police page at [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov).

## Ward 1 Community Meeting to Discuss Public Safety

June 11, 7-9 p.m.  
Takoma Park Community Center  
(Azalea Room)  
7500 Maple Ave.

Police department staff will be providing an update on recent incidents in Ward 1 and provide an overall overview of crime stats/trends and security measures put in place to address these trends. The meeting will be in-person and on Zoom. You must register for the Zoom link: [bit.ly/TakomaSafety-1](https://bit.ly/TakomaSafety-1). If you have questions in advance of the meeting, please send them to Cathy Plevy at [cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov) with the title "Ward 1 Public Safety Meeting."



## Take the Picture

Before taking children to events this summer, pause for a second, pull out your cell phone, and take individual pictures of each child. That way, if the unthinkable happens and a child gets lost, you have a picture of how they are dressed and what



they look like that day. The photo can also be immediately sent to police to aid in locating the child. Seconds can be precious in this scenario, so, take a second and take the picture.

## Operation Chill

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

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

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

## Parking Permit 2025-26 Renewal

Residential parking permit renewal begins in June. To determine whether you need to renew your permit, please 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. Be on the lookout for information of when and how to renew your permit.

## Surviving the Heat

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

## Takoma Park Police Department Weekly Crime Reports

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

## Donate Your Old Phone or Tablet for Emergency Calls and Homebound Communication

In 2017, the Takoma Park Police Department began partnering with Secure the Call, a charity with the mission to collect and convert as many old cell phones as possible into 911 emergency access phones.

Secure the Call also collects and distributes tablets. During the pandemic, Secure the Call signed up many hospitals and nursing homes and have been sending them smartphones to be used for communicating with friends and family. As more and more older users are opting for video calls, the need for devices with larger screens has arisen. They need iPads, Android tablets and Amazon tablets.

Prior to donating, please make sure you remove any device restrictions. For Apple users, that means deleting the iCloud account before you send it in. For Android users, this means removing the Google account and passcode. This is done on a national basis, with collections and distributions going on in most states. For more information visit the Police page at [takomaparkmd](http://takomaparkmd.gov) and search for "Secure the Call."

## Summer Crime Prevention Tips

Here are a few things to keep in mind during these warmer months:

- Keep doors locked at all times. If you

are working in the backyard, keep your front door and garage door closed and locked; and lock your back door when you are in the front yard. Always lock your doors when you leave, even if you only plan to be gone for a few minutes.

- During the summer weather, many people open windows or sliding glass doors while they are at home. Always remember to close and lock your windows and sliding doors when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Install motion-activated lights in your front and back yards, so when someone approaches your home, the lights automatically come on, illuminating that person.
- Put all ladders and other tools back into a secure storage area after you use them. Ladders and other tools can be used by criminals to access your home. Always lock any storage unit or shed you have on your property.
- Be aware of home improvement scams. If you did not solicit the contractor or salesman who shows up at your door unannounced, do not do business with that person.
- If a utility representative comes to your house, request identification. True representatives will carry their identification and they will gladly show it to you. Call their company for verification.
- In warm weather months, personal property thefts increase; there is a tendency to leave items such as bicycles, gardening tools, lawnmowers, weed eaters, and other yard tools lying around in the open. Make sure you lock up your personal property in your garage or yard shed; it doesn't take long for someone to ride by and quickly take your property. An open garage door or yard shed can also be inviting, keep them closed even when you're at home.
- Always remember to roll up your car windows, take any valuables out of your car, and lock your doors every time you exit your vehicle, even if your vehicle is parked in your driveway.

Being a good neighbor can be one of the best crime prevention tools. Watchful, attentive neighbors can identify activity that is not normal to their neighborhoods and alert the Takoma Park Police Department (911 or 301-270-1100).

## Have Peace of Mind When You Travel This Summer

by **Claudine Schweber, Chair, Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee**

Summer officially begins on June 20. To help make sure that your summer is a breeze, here are some recommendations to help you feel fine if you go on vacation.

- **Sign up for vacant house check** if you will be away more than four days and less than 30. Takoma Park police will visit once a day to see if anything looks amiss. Learn more at [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) (search "vacant house

check"). Note, that this service is only available for single-family dwellings, duplexes, and townhouses. They must be unoccupied during the check period.

- If you live in an apartment, **ask a trusted neighbor, family member, or friend to keep an eye on your home.** Let them know you will be away, give them an apartment key, tell them how to reach you. Make a plan for creating an atmosphere of presentness, such as periodic music and lights that turn on and off when

you are gone.

- **Identify a person who will be your emergency contact** and agrees to be resource who will save your information and contact others as needed. Let others know of this person's role.
- **Share a list of all your medications, pharmacy, and doctors** with your emergency contact. Let them know where you keep the meds.
- **Get an extra supply of meds** to store in safe place known to your emergency contact

- **Keep extra batteries** for such things as hearing aids with you in case of any problem.
- **Stop mail and package delivery** before you leave.

Look for more tips for a breezy summer in next month's newsletter.

Questions? Contact the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee at 301-891-7126 or [tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov).

# Community ACTIVITIES

## 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](http://discoverlongbranch.com).

## Takoma Pride Parade and Celebration

June 9, 10–2 p.m.  
Takoma Junction to Laurel Avenue

We are celebrating our LGBTQ+ community with a hometown Pride celebration that begins with a parade from the parking lot at Takoma Junction to Laurel Avenue, followed by a block party on Laurel. This year's event will feature entertainment by Tara Hoot, information from community groups, a Pride Day photo board, and chalk for creating personal messages of Pride. For more information, visit [mainstreettakoma.org](http://mainstreettakoma.org).

## Takoma Park House and Garden Tour

Sunday, June 9, 1–5 p.m.

Historic Takoma is delighted to announce the resumption of the annual House and Garden Tour, following a four-year COVID hiatus. Please watch [historictakoma.org](http://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

Wednesday 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-running African American holiday will celebrate, educate, and agitate.

Featuring music, food, and vendors. Often described as the real Independence Day of the United States, this event will give you a chance to reflect on freedom, vibe to the music, and connect with community members. More information at [maplecommunityassociation.org](http://maplecommunityassociation.org).

## Independence Day Parade and Evening Events

Tuesday, July 4

This year's Independence Day theme is Harmony in Takoma Park. The parade will be led by Grand Marshal Gene Herman, the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee's ongoing president and a community leader—whose commitment to making Takoma Park a meaningful and musical place goes back half a century. The committee calls on the community to participate in the parade—especially anything creative, artistic, or funky. Reach out to organizers through [TakomaPark4th.org](http://TakomaPark4th.org) with any ideas.

The parade starts at the intersection of Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues and travels south on Carroll Avenue, turn right at Willow Avenue, turn left at Tulip Avenue, then right on Maple Avenue where it will continue until Ritchie Avenue.

At the press time, evening events are still being worked out. Visit [takomapark4th.org](http://takomapark4th.org) for an update or for other Takoma Independence Day information.

### Questions, concerns, or ideas?

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



Photos by Neal Lavon.

## Thunderbolts Baseball Returns June 3

by Kevin Adler

With 10 players returning from a squad that surged to a playoff spot last year, the 2024 Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts are poised for another exciting season.

Starting with the home opener on June 3, the T-Bolts will play 18 games at Blair High School in the Cal Ripken Senior Collegiate Baseball League. The Ripken League is one of the top summer wood bat circuits for college players, and it's a chance to see future pros up-close.

Games are family-friendly, says team President Dick O'Connor. Kids line up behind the backstop to watch the action, and the T-Bolts have contests, games, and songs between innings.

Coach Brock Hunter says he's pleased with the mix of veterans and newcomers. He will emphasize aggressiveness on the basepaths and excellent defense and adds that he'll never have enough pitching.

Top returning players include two .300 hitters from last year, Beck Urofsky (Cornell University) and Quincy Via (Marymount University), as well as Amani Jones (Millersville University) and Jonathan McMath (Marymount University) who were first and third in RBIs (runs batted in) last season. Newcomer Jeff Sabater stole 54 bases for Millersville this season and can be expected to set the table for the sluggers.

On the mound, the rotation will be anchored by veterans Urofsky, Brayden Stutzman (Wilson College), and Eddie Sargent (UMBC), who were in the top five in innings pitched for the T-Bolts last season. Closer Bryce Greene (Florida International University) is back.

Last year was a Jekyll-and-Hyde season. After losing 11 of its first 13 games,

the T-Bolts went on a five-game winning streak and surged into the playoffs on the last weekend. They won their first playoff game and then faced the team with the best record in the league, the Alexandria Aces, and took them to the wire in a 6-5 loss.

That resilience can be credited to the players and also to Coach Hunter and Assistant Coach Max Eckert. They will be supported by a new assistant coach, former T-Bolts player Curtis Wilson, who now runs a baseball training service, Win Within Baseball. At Southern University in Baton Rouge, Wilson was a four-time Player of the Year, a Gatorade Player of the Year, and a member of Team USA in 2004.

For the full schedule, player bios and more, go to [Tbolts.org](http://Tbolts.org).

### Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts} Home Games (Blair High School)

All games at 7 p.m., except Sundays at 6 pm

|         |                            |
|---------|----------------------------|
| June 3  | Gaithersburg Giants        |
| June 5  | Southern Maryland Senators |
| June 9  | DC Grays                   |
| June 10 | Olney Cropdusters          |
| June 13 | Bethesda Big Train         |
| June 15 | Southern Maryland Senators |
| June 16 | Metro Soco Braves          |
| June 20 | Gaithersburg Giants        |
| June 21 | Alexandria Aces            |
| June 27 | Alexandria Aces            |
| June 29 | Olney Cropdusters          |
| July 2  | DC Grays                   |
| July 5  | Metro Soco Braves          |
| July 6  | Gaithersburg Giants        |
| July 11 | Bethesda Big Train         |
| July 13 | Olney Cropdusters          |
| July 14 | Bethesda Big Train         |

MAPLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK PRESENT

WED. JUN. 19 | 12PM - 6PM

RAIN DATE: 6/22 - 6/23

# June Teenth Celebration

SOUND BY: DJ BEEZY  
PERFORMANCES BY: ETHAN SPALDING & THE 422 TRAPROCK BAND

HOSTED BY: MAPLE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AND THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK  
SPECIAL POLITICIANS INVITED | MUSIC, VENDORS, AND FOOD

(LEE JORDAN FIELD) TAKOMA PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL FIELD 7611 PINEY BRANCH RD.

