



Takoma Park News



September 2024

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 63, No. 9 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

Important Dates

Labor Day

Sunday, September 1
Monday, September 2

City offices are closed both days.
Yard trimming collection is canceled on September 2.

Family Outdoor Movie Night

Saturday, September 7, dusk
Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Ave.

Takoma Park Folk Festival

Sunday, September 8, 10:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Road

Takoma Park Election Nominating Caucus

Tuesday, September 10, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave. and streaming

Takoma ARTery Exhibition Opening Reception

Friday, September 20, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Play Day

Saturday, September 21, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Road

Housing Strategic Plan: Implementation Forum

Tuesday, September 24, 7:30–9 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Monster Bash

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

Takoma Park Election Day

Tuesday, November 5, 7 a.m.–8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

See more information about the election on page 3.

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

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City Council Considering New Tax Credits for Housing Development

by Sean Gossard

To help spur investment and reinvestment in housing in Takoma Park, the city council is considering a proposal to offer tax credits for construction, preservation, and reinvestment in housing.

The program involves four separate tax credits—which still must be passed by the city council—that implement the city’s Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan. The plan was passed in 2019 and aims to preserve the city’s existing affordable housing, produce new housing as well as provide new homeownership opportunities, and protect current residents from displacement.

The Housing and Economic Development Plan was adopted after more than three years of in-depth research, staff facilitation, community engagement, and council deliberation. The resolution is a comprehensive plan that outlines the Council’s strategic vision for guiding the

city’s growth and development over the next decade.

“We did this work to get a housing and economic plan that sets the strategies from 2019 to 2030,” said Housing Manager Devin McNally. “Part of that was recognizing we need more housing of all kinds. This is aimed at implementing that high-level strategy by investing in our existing housing and preserving the housing for our most vulnerable residents. It’s trying to move the needle in three different directions, choice, stability, and quality.”

Rental Housing Tax Credit

The first of the four proposed tax credits is to encourage the creation of new rental housing. It will be a by-right 15-year tax credit for any property constructing 10 or more net new residential units. After a property is developed, it will have an increased tax assessment, and the credit would be for the additional value created

by the project. For the first 10 years, the property would only pay the property tax they had been paying before they built the new housing. The property tax would then increase over five years until the credit expires. There are currently 390 parcels in the city zoned for multi-family development.

In cases of redevelopment—in which the property owner adds additional units to a building—the tax credit would be scaled to only provide incentives for new units created. So if a 90-unit building is redeveloped into a 100-unit building, the adjustment would be the net number of new units (10) divided by the project size (100) for a credit that would be 10% of what it could be.

“Our multi-family buildings are all aging, and most are 50 years old,” said McNally. “We’re hoping for 200 additional rental homes in the city over the next 10

TAX CREDITS □ Page 4



Spotlight on Frontline Police Choosing Service to the Community Above All Else

by Sean Gossard

For Takoma Park’s frontline police officers, knowing the community they serve is one of the most important parts of the job.

“The officers know very well where they work with Takoma Park being a diverse and politically active environment,” said Lieutenant Matt Muzzatti, Takoma Park’s patrol operations commander. “They are what the public sees first hand of the government. Most scenarios, officers are arriving because something happened and people need assistance. Officers understand today’s political climate and that it’s their responsibility to maintain public trust.”

Takoma Park is unique from other jurisdictions of its size in having its own police department and not relying on the Montgomery County police to patrol its streets.

“We’re a very special area surrounded by three very different jurisdiction,” said Muzzatti. “We’re a full service department so we don’t rely on Montgomery County, but we have a relationship with them as well as Prince George’s County and the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department. That comes with all the nuances that all the jurisdictional lines bring.”

Muzzatti says understanding the diverse make-up of Takoma Park is integral to being able to keep the community safe.

“We know very well that Takoma Park



Officer Matt Muzzatti says that the Takoma Park Police Department strives to keep Takoma Park safe, while upholding the community values.

on their legal status. What concerns us is keeping the community safe. Most of our teams have one to two Spanish speaking officers. They are very happy to see us for the most part.”

Muzzatti also says the Takoma Park police department is always looking to the future to guide its policies, even leading the nation on reforms to address community concerns.

“The residents hold our agency to a very high standard,” he said. “We definitely want to meet their concerns. Takoma Park police is an experiment on how policing can look in the 21st century, and we look to see what’s the next evolution. Our department was fully fitted with body cameras before most others were even thinking of it. We also had restrictions on chokeholds well before the George Floyd incident.”

He says they department takes public sentiment very seriously and that they are well aware of the concerns of the public, especially after the Black Lives Matter movement.

“I don’t think any officer wants to become the next St. Louis or Ferguson,” he said. “We don’t want to end up on the news or be known as a department that operates in that manner.”

While Takoma Park is relatively safer

has a large immigrant community,” said Muzzatti. “Some may not be here legally, so we try to stress as best as we can that calling the police will never call into question

POLICE □ Page 10

On the DOCKET

CouncilAction

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024

- Ordinance 2024-24 (first reading) approved FY25 Budget Amendment No. 1
- Ordinance 2024-25 (first reading) approved FY25 Stormwater Management Budget Amendment No. 1
- Ordinance 2024-26 (first reading) set forth details of the 2024 city election
- Ordinance 2024-27 authorized a one-year contract extension with Rummel, Klepper & Kahl, LLC for civil and site engineering services

WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024

- Ordinance 2024-24 approved FY25 Budget Amendment No. 1
- Ordinance 2024-25 approved FY25 Stormwater Budget Amendment No. 1
- Ordinance 2024-26 set forth details of the 2024 city election
- Resolution 2024-32 called for a global effort to prevent nuclear war
- Resolution 2024-33 established policy objectives associated with the FY26 Budget
- Resolution 2024-34 set dates for the City Council's summer recess

CITY COUNCIL

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

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

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

Wednesday, September 4: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Presentation:

- Hazard Mitigation Plan

Voting Session:

- Single Reading Ordinance Approving a Contract with the City Attorney

Continued on page 4

Notice of Public Hearing

Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

1. Installation of Two Speed Humps on Westmoreland Avenue

2. Implementation of Traffic Calming in Hillwood Manor Gardens

1. Residents of Westmoreland Avenue, between Carroll Avenue and the dead-end, have petitioned for the installation of speed humps in the 6700 and 6800 blocks (between Walnut/Elm and First Avenue), and the 6700 block (between 6601 and 6619).
2. Proposal to implement traffic calming measures by altering the intersection approaches and width at the following intersections: 13th Avenue and Elson Place; 14th Avenue and Elson Place; and 14th Avenue and Elson Street.

The city council will hold two public hearings beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 11. Interested residents are encouraged to sign up to speak at the hearing either in person or on Zoom. (The Zoom sign-up link will be available at [takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings-and-documents/current-and-past-agendas/](https://www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings-and-documents/current-and-past-agendas/).) You must sign up before 5 p.m. on the day of the hearing if you plan to testify over Zoom. Written comments may also be sent to the city clerk (clerk@takomaparkmd.gov). All written comments received will be added to the hearing record.

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](https://www.takomaparkmd.gov)), you can find agendas, supplementary information, and links to videos of past meetings.

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

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

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



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)

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

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 24, 6:30 p.m.
(Community Center Hydrangea Room)

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, September 12, 7:30 p.m.
(virtual/remote)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 19, 7 p.m.
(Community Center Hydrangea Room with remote option)

ETHICS COMMISSION

Thursday, September 19, 6:30 p.m. (virtual/remote)

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 11, 6:30 p.m.
(virtual/remote)

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, September 16, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room with remote option)

POLICE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 17, 9:30 a.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room with remote option)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 19, 7 p.m. (virtual/remote)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Monday, September 9, 7 p.m. (Community Center Hydrangea Room with remote option)

ADA NOTICE

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

Public NOTICES



ELECCIÓN DE LA CIUDAD DE TAKOMA PARK PARA ALCALDE Y CONCEJO MUNICIPAL

Aviso de Reunión Electoral de Nominaciones de Takoma Park

Martes, 10 de septiembre, 2024 – 7:30 p.m.

En el Auditorio del Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park

La Reunión Electoral para nominar candidatos para las elecciones municipales se llevará a cabo a las 7:30 p.m. el martes, 10 de septiembre en el auditorio del centro comunitario de Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue. El propósito de la reunión es para aceptar nominaciones de candidatos para alcalde y miembro del concejo. Solo los votantes registrados de la ciudad presentes en la reunión (o en Zoom) pueden nominar o secundar la nominación de un candidato. Si aún no se han registrado para votar, los residentes pueden registrarse hasta las 5 p.m. el día de la reunión.

Durante la reunión, la nominación para miembro del concejo puede realizarse por moción de cualquier votante de ese distrito y si la misma es secundada por un votante también de ese distrito, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato.

Las nominaciones de candidatos para alcalde pueden realizarse por moción de cualquier votante de la ciudad y, si la misma es secundada, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato.

Una persona solo puede aceptar una nominación para un solo cargo municipal. El nombre de cada persona nominado que cumpla con los requisitos del cargo se colocará en la papeleta para las elecciones municipales del 5 de noviembre de 2024 a menos que la persona rechace la nominación o no cumpla con los requisitos para el cargo.

Elección Municipal Martes, 5 de noviembre de 2024

2024 es un año electoral en Takoma Park. Los votantes de la ciudad elegirán a un alcalde y a los seis concejales de la ciudad para períodos de dos años. La reunión electoral de nominaciones está programado para el martes 10 de septiembre de 2024 a las 7:30 p.m. El día de las elecciones es el martes 5 de noviembre.

¡Las elecciones se llevará a cabo por correo! Para aquellos que prefieren votar en persona, habrá

votación en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma

Park (7500 Maple Avenue) el día de las elecciones.

Información sobre candidatos. Los candidatos serán nominados en la reunión electoral de nominaciones el martes 10 de septiembre. La edición de octubre del boletín de Takoma Park incluirá nombres, fotos y declaraciones de 150 palabras de todos los candidatos. Esté atento a la información sobre los foros y eventos de candidatos para educarse sobre sus opciones.

Registro de votantes para la elección municipal de Takoma Park (y para la elección Presidencial). La mayoría del registro de votantes es manejado por la Junta Electoral del Condado de Montgomery. La acción más importante que puede tomar para prepararse para estas dos elecciones es confirmar que está registrado en su dirección actual en Takoma Park. Si nada ha cambiado, y usted ha votado antes en su domicilio, debería estar bien. Si tiene alguna duda, o si se ha mudado en los últimos años, confirme o actualice su registro de inmediato.

La información sobre cómo verificar su registro está disponible en el sitio web de la Ciudad o comunicándose con la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal.

Si no está registrado, regístrese ahora. ¡No esperes! Si tiene 16 años y es ciudadano estadounidense puede registrarse con la Junta Electoral del Condado de Montgomery, aunque aún no podrá votar en la elección Presidencial. Podrás votar en las elecciones municipales.

Los residentes que no son ciudadanos estadounidenses, o que no desean registrarse con el Estado de Maryland, pueden registrarse en la Ciudad de Takoma Park para votar solo en las elecciones de la Ciudad para alcalde y concejo municipal.

Para la elección de la ciudad de Takoma Park para alcalde y concejo municipal, los votantes registrados recibirán una papeleta electoral por correo. No hay necesidad de solicitar una papeleta electoral. Sin embargo, si va a estar fuera de la ciudad en octubre, solicite que se le envíe una papeleta de voto en ausencia a su dirección fuera de la ciudad.

Para la elección presidencial, los votantes deben solicitar una papeleta por correo si no desean votar en persona.

Consulte www.takomaparkmd.gov para obtener información adicional.



CITY OF TAKOMA PARK ELECTION FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting to Nominate Candidates for the November 5, 2024, City Election

Tuesday, September 10, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

The Takoma Park Nominating Caucus is a public meeting that will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024, in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Ave. The purpose of the meeting is to accept nominations of candidates for mayor and city councilmember. Only registered voters of the city present at the meeting (or on Zoom) may nominate or second the nomination of a candidate. If not yet registered to vote, residents may register up until 5 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

Nomination of each candidate for city councilmember may be made on motion of any voter of the ward, and if such nomination is seconded, the person so nominated will be considered a candidate. Nominations of candidates for mayor may be made on motion of any voter of the city, and if such nomination is seconded, the person nominated will be considered a candidate.

A person may only accept a nomination for one city office. The name of each person nominated for the office of mayor and city councilmember will be placed upon the official ballot for the November 5, 2024, City Election unless the person declines the nomination or does not meet the qualifications for office.

City Election Tuesday, November 5, 2024

2024 is an election year in Takoma Park. City voters will be electing a mayor and all six city councilmembers to two-year terms. The Nominating Caucus is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. Election day is Tuesday, November 5.

The Election will be conducted by mail! For those who need to vote in person, there will be voting at the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave.) on Election Day.

Information About Candidates. The October issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter will include names, photos, and 150-word statements from all candidates. Watch for information about candidate forums and events to educate yourself about your choices.

Voter Registration for the City of Takoma Park Election (and for the Presidential Election). Most voter registration is handled by the Montgomery County Board of Elections. The most important action you can take to prepare for these two elections is to confirm that you are registered at your current address in Takoma Park. If nothing has changed, and you have voted before at your address, you should be fine. If you have any doubt, or if you have moved in the past few years, confirm or update your registration right away.

Information on how to check your registration is available on the city website or by contacting the city clerk.

If you are not registered, register now. Don't wait! If you are 16 years old and a U.S. citizen, you may register with the Montgomery County Board of Elections, even though you will not yet be able to vote in the presidential election. You will be able to vote in the City election.

Residents who are not U.S. citizens, or who do not wish to register with the State of Maryland, may register with the City of Takoma Park to vote only in City elections for mayor and city council.

For the City of Takoma Park election for mayor and city council, registered voters will receive a ballot in the mail. There is no need to request a ballot. However, if you will be out of town in October, request that an absentee ballot be sent to you at your out-of-town address.

For the presidential, state, and county election, voters must request a mail-in ballot from the Montgomery County Board of Elections if they do not wish to vote in person. For more information, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/elections.

See takomaparkmd.gov for additional information about the city election (search "election").

City Election Volunteers Needed

Paid volunteers needed for election day (November 5) and hourly election assistance before and after the election. Details can be found at takomaparkmd.gov or contact Irma Nalvarte: 301-891-7214 or IrmaN@takomaparkmd.gov.



Editor's note

English:

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

French:

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

Spanish:

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

Amharic:

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Building COMMUNITY

Step into the School Year with a Walking School Bus

by Kaysi-Ann Webley
Special Project Coordinator

What is a Walking Bus?

A Walking Bus involves a group of children walking to school together, led by adult volunteers, such as parents. Similar to a traditional school bus, it follows a designated route and schedule, allowing children to meet at specified stops before walking to school under supervision.

Benefits of a Walking Bus

- **Promotes Physical Activity:** Walking helps children meet their daily exercise needs, combating obesity and improving overall health.
- **Enhances Safety:** Walking in a group increases visibility and safety. Adult leaders assist children with traffic navigation and safe crossing practices.
- **Builds Community:** Fosters connections among families and neighbors, creating a sense of belonging and community spirit.
- **Benefits the Environment** Reduces car traffic and emissions, promoting a healthier environment.
- **Alleviates Traffic Congestion:** Minimizes cars around school, making drop-off and pick-up times safer and less chaotic.

How to Start a Walking Bus

1. **Gather Interest:** Connect with other parents to discuss forming a walking bus group.
2. **Plan Your Route:** Identify a safe route with sidewalks, crossing guards, and pedestrian crossings. Visit the City of Takoma Park's "Map Your Route" page at takomaparkmd.gov to find recommended and safe paths.
3. **Set a Schedule:** Determine a pick-up and drop-off schedule that aligns with



As September begins, we would like to encourage parents to consider starting a Walking School Bus! This is a wonderful opportunity to enhance school commutes with safety, health, and community spirit.

school hours.

4. **Recruit Volunteers:** Find adults willing to supervise the walking bus. Adequate supervision is key to safety.
5. **Communicate with the School:** Inform your school and the Special Project Coordinator Kaysi-Ann Webley (kaysiw@takomaparkmd.gov) about your walking

bus plans, for additional resources, or for suggestions.

6. **Promote Your Walking Bus:** Use flyers, or school newsletters to inform other parents and encourage participation.
7. **Hold an Orientation:** Organize a session to explain the walking bus operation and address questions before the

Learn How to Ride a Bike, Ages 6–13!

The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) and the City of Takoma Park will host three Learn to Ride bicycle classes for children aged 6-13 who have never ridden a bike before or have tried to learn and have not been successful. The cost is \$10.

- **Saturday, September 14, 9–11 a.m.:** Ages 6–8.
- **Saturday, September 21, 9–11 a.m.:** Ages 8–10.
- **Saturday, September 28, 9–11 a.m.:** Ages 11–13

All classes take place at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave. To register, please visit bit.ly/TPRD-BikeClass. Please bring water, closed-toed shoes, athletic clothing, appropriate outerwear, snacks, and sunscreen.

Scholarship opportunities are available to families who reside within Takoma Park City who are in need. Visit takomaparkmd.gov and search for "Recreation Scholarships."

school year starts.

Pedestrian Road Safety Tips

- **Look Both Ways:** Always look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.
- **Use Crosswalks:** Cross streets only at designated crosswalks or intersections.
- **Stay Visible:** Wear bright or reflective clothing to ensure drivers can see you.

Get Involved!

We invite you to consider launching a walking bus to your school. This initiative promotes health, safety, and community engagement. Takoma Park is committed to providing safe walking routes to all our schools. We encourage parents and students to visit our Safe Routes to School page at takomaparkmd.gov. On that webpage, detailed maps outline the safest paths to each school in our Safe Route to School Program—highlighting designated crosswalks, crossing guards, where sidewalks are missing, and routes that minimize exposure to vehicular traffic.

If interested or needing support, contact Kaysi-Ann Webley at kaysiw@takomaparkmd.gov or visit bit.ly/SRTSRoute for more resources.

Let's work together to make this school year a safe, active, and enjoyable experience for our children!

Save the Date: Walk to School Day—October 9

Join schools across Takoma Park in celebrating Walk to School Day, a national event promoting the benefits of walking and biking to school. It's a fantastic opportunity for students and families to experience firsthand the joy of active transportation while reinforcing safe practices.

CITY COUNCIL

■ From page 2

- Single Reading Ordinance Approving a Contract with the Legislative Advocate

Work Session:

- Youth Council Appointment Recommendations

Wednesday, September 11: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Public Hearing:

- Speed Hump Request for Westmoreland Avenue between Elm/Walnut and 1st Avenue and between 1st Avenue and 2nd Avenue
- Implementation of Traffic Calming in Hillwood Manor Gardens

Presentation:

- Presentation of Low Impact Development Center (LIDC) Stormwater Resiliency Study Recommendations

Voting Session:

- Resolution Adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Resolution Providing for

Appointments to the Youth Council

Work Session:

- Library Construction Project Update

Wednesday, September 18: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Voting Session:

- First Reading Ordinance Approving the Installation of Two Speed Humps on Westmoreland Avenue
- First Reading Ordinance Approving Implementation of Traffic Calming Measures in Hillwood Manor Gardens

Wednesday, September 25: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.

Voting Session:

- Second Reading Ordinance Approving the Installation of Two Speed Humps on Westmoreland Avenue
- Second Reading Ordinance Approving Implementation of Traffic Calming Measures in Hillwood Manor Gardens

Work Session:

- Quarterly Financial Report (4th Quarter)

TAX CREDITS

■ From page 1

years. It takes time for these projects to get going, so we're hoping people start looking at the city for new, high-quality development."

Missing Middle Housing Construction Credit

The second tax credit is a Missing Middle Housing Construction Credit, meant to incentivize smaller scale, multi-unit ownership opportunities.

These credits are for smaller units, like townhomes, duplexes, and cottage courts—typically five to 20 units around a common area.

"The idea is that we want to encourage things like duplexes, triplexes, townhomes," McNally said. "Instead of building a McMansion, we're encouraging smaller scale homeownership opportunities."

Affordable Housing Preservation Credit

The third tax credit is an Affordable Housing Preservation Credit meant to safeguard the current provision of difficult-to-provide housing types, like those for extremely low-income, seniors, individuals with disability, and people who need transitional housing.

"This is for deed-restricted housing. These are houses that have a contract with the government for affordable housing,"

said McNally. "These are mostly operated by nonprofits offering affordable housing."

Housing Reinvestment Credit

The final credit is a Housing Reinvestment Credit meant to encourage proactive investment and upgrades in multifamily buildings.

This will be a competitive credit for multifamily properties that invest at least \$6,500 per unit in substantial upgrades and do not displace any residents. Allocations would be based on affordability level, proposed scope, and history of citations/violations.

The city chose to propose tax credits for a number of reasons, including that they provide predictable financial support; the credit value is proportional with private investment; tax credits allow for higher subsidies than the city could provide with a grant or loan; and that Housing Reserve Fund and General Fund Dollars are limited and are required up front.

Housing Strategic Plan: Implementation Forum

There will be a meeting for public comments at the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium on Tuesday, September 24, 7:30–9 p.m. For more information, visit takomaparkmd.gov and search for "Housing Tax Credits."

The ARTS

Takoma Park Arts Returns with Free Performances

The *Takoma Park Arts* series will return this fall with more free arts events at the Takoma Park Community Center, including an art exhibition, concerts, and an improv musical.

Organized by the City's Arts and Humanities division, the series features free events in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium at 7500 Maple Ave. No tickets or reservations are required, but donations are accepted to support the performers.

"We're very excited to share the arts with local residents and visitors in free performances," the city's Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith says. "We provide honorariums, extensive promotion, and a state-of-the-art venue to support artists and performers from across the D.C. area, which enhances Takoma Park's well-earned reputation as an arts-friendly city."

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

Takoma ARTery Exhibition Opening Reception

Friday, September 20, 7:30 p.m.

Artwork by local artists from the Takoma ARTery group will be featured in a group exhibition in the gallery spaces at the Takoma Park Community Center. The artwork branches across a wide range of mediums, including painting, photography, sculpture, and mixed media.

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

D.C. Labor Chorus

Friday, October 18, 7:30 p.m.

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

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



D.C. Labor Chorus

Sticks and Bars Youth Marimba Ensemble

Friday, October 25, 7:30 p.m.

Sticks and Bars is D.C.'s first and only African-style youth marimba band dedicated to the vibrant music of the African diaspora and various African countries, including Zimbabwe, Kenya, and Tanzania.

Led by founder and director Premila Mistry, the group includes more than 30 students from schools across the D.C. area who provide exposure to cultural diversity through global musical exploration. The group has performed at the Kennedy Center, Strathmore Hall, the National Gallery of Art, and many festivals and venues.

iMusical Improv Musical

Friday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.

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

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



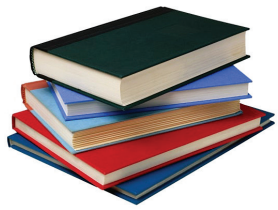
iMusical Improv Musical

At the beginning of a performance, the group of about six actors takes suggestions from the audience for the theme of the show and then creates a musical with completely improvised scenes, lyrics, and music with piano accompaniment.

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



Sticks and Bars Youth Marimba Ensemble



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.

Holiday closing: We will be closed Sunday, September 1 and Monday, September 2 for the Labor Day holiday.

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

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

Programs and Events

A note about program and event registration: Library events are always free and open to all. We 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 allows 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



Jaja Bashengezi plays at Circle Time on Tuesday, September 3, 10:30 a.m.

program. And we close with bubbles! **Jumpstart With the Arts** joins us with live music for Circle Time on the first Tuesday of each month. The next time they will be with us is Tuesday, September 3, 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. We have plenty of chess boards and pieces. Players of all levels are welcome. There will be group instruction once a month. Please welcome our new instructor, Jonathan. Please register if you want to

receive updates.

Storytime Yoga. Register now for 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. 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. Registration is required, space is limited. Sunday mornings at 10:30, September 22, October 20, November 17, and December 15.

LEGO Club. Block time on your calendar for fun with LEGOs. Sunday, September 8 at 2 p.m.

Kids' Art. the next Kids' Art session will be on Sunday, September 15 at 2 p.m. Come make a fun art project!

El Cuento 2024: Storytelling Workshops for Adults. Saturday, September 14, 10–11:30 a.m. and 1–2:30 p.m. The first workshop, *Musicalización de un cuento (Adding Music to a Story)*,

facilitated in Spanish by Melissa Strova-Valencia (TELAS Colectivo Teatral) will be at 10 a.m. *Outdoor Storytelling Using Props*, facilitated in English by Jennifer Ridgway (Yard Dramas) will be at 1 p.m. NOTE: the first workshop is at the interim Library location, 7505 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 205, while the second workshop will take place outside the Takoma Park Recreation Center at 7315 New Hampshire Ave. (a five-minute walk from the library). In case of inclement weather, both workshops will be at the library. More details and registration at tinyurl.com/EICuento2024.

Social work help from the Community Engagement and Consulting Group (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 and can help patrons find food assistance, health and wellness education, and referrals for affordable healthcare, English language learning classes, workforce training and employment assistance, and more. If they cannot address your problem themselves, staff at CE-CG can refer you to someone who 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 September 11, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

SummerQuest wraps up soon! The library's adventure reading program is wrapping up. **Hard Hat Summer: The Ghost Library.** 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. Come in to get your game board and character and register to read your way through the guided adventure!

Friends News

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (ftpml.org) have agreed to continue funding for the Jumpstart for the Arts monthly programs presented by Carpe Diem Arts. This program brings live entertainers to our Neighborhood Circle Time program. Neighborhood Circle Time meets every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., and on the first Tuesday of every month we have a special guest. In September, we'll welcome Jaja Bashengezi on September 3. Then in October, Gabriela Cohen will join us on October 1.

Look for the Friends' announcement of their Fall Book Sale. The date hasn't been chosen yet, but will be in the Oc-

tober newsletter and on their website at ftpml.org.

The Friends have continued to hold Fixit Clinics about once a month. Don't throw away that busted stereo! Don't trash your torn shirt! Make do and mend—don't fill the landfill. Check the Friends' website for information on future Fixit Clinics or email fixittakoma@gmail.com. You must register to have an item fixed.

This fall, The Big Book Group will be reading *Fathers and Sons* (sometimes translated as *Fathers and Children*) by Ivan Turgenev. The Big Book Group discusses each selection over the course of four meetings, beginning with an expert lecture. See the article below by Tim Rahn.



Listen to This!

by Rebecca Brown

The Mortified Podcast, hosted by Neil Katcher and David Nadelberg.

Adults read diary entries, poems, and other writings they created as children or teens. If you have forgotten what it was like to be an adolescent, this brings it all back! Most episodes are just 20 to 40 minutes long, so your time commitment is minimal. This podcast is definitely for mature audiences, not for pre-teens—there is a lot of sex and swearing. There is a “junior” version called Ooh You're in Trouble.

Found on your favorite podcast platform, but be advised that there are a number of podcasts with “mortified” in the title, so look for the icon of a book with “Share the shame” written on the side of it.



Big Book Club Reads *Fathers and Sons*

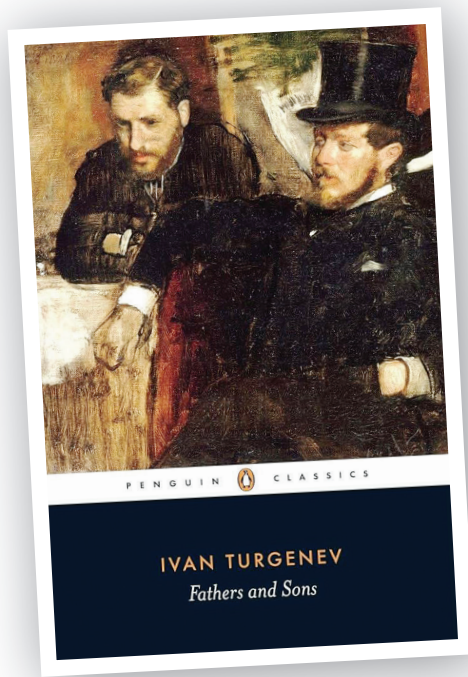
by Tim Rahn

The FTPML Big Book Club begins an exploration of Ivan Turgenev's *Fathers and Sons*—literally translated as *Fathers and Children*—on Wednesday, September 25, 7:30–9 p.m. in the Azalea Room of the Community Center.

After a lecture at this initial session, the Big Book Club will meet to discuss *Fathers and Children* every other Wednesday, beginning October 9 and continuing until November 6. The speaker for the lecture session will be announced.

Online accessibility to the lecture and discussions for *Fathers and Sons* will also be available by invitation. If you are interested in joining online, send your request to ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com.

Fathers and Children begins when Arkady Kirsanov returns home in 1859, following his graduation from university.



With him is his remarkable friend, the intense medical student Evgeny Bazarov. After being welcomed by Arkady's father Nicolai, Bazarov meets Pavel, Nicolai's conservative brother.

The young men announce they are nihilists. And, always ready to argue, Bazarov takes on Pavel and his conservatism as sparks fly. Bazarov becomes the central figure in *Fathers and Children*. Through his experience and relationships, and his belief that only truth matters, Turgenev dissects Russian life in the mid-nineteenth century.

The novel focuses on generational conflict, the political divide between liberalism and conservatism, and revolution in Russian society and culture. The story follows Bazarov as he advances his brash thoughts in all his encounters and attempts to live a rational life.

In a long review of *Fathers and Children* that appeared not long after the novel was published, the Russian critic Dmitry Pisarev said of Bazarov "He acts not in the name of principle, not in order to be completely frank at every moment, but simply because he considers it completely unnecessary to lay any restraint upon himself; for the same motive from which Americans throw their legs over the backs of chairs and spit tobacco juice on the parquet floors of elegant hotels."

If you are interested in joining the discussion and you do not receive Big Book Club announcements, write to ftpmlbookgroup@gmail.com for details on joining.

Copies of *Fathers and Children* can be borrowed from the library. It is also available as an audiobook and as an ebook on the library's Hoopla platform.

Director's column

Found in Translation!

by Jessica Jones

September is National Translation Month, so I want to spotlight the work of translators—the people who bridge the gap between languages so that we can understand and enjoy books that are originally written in languages in which we are not fluent.

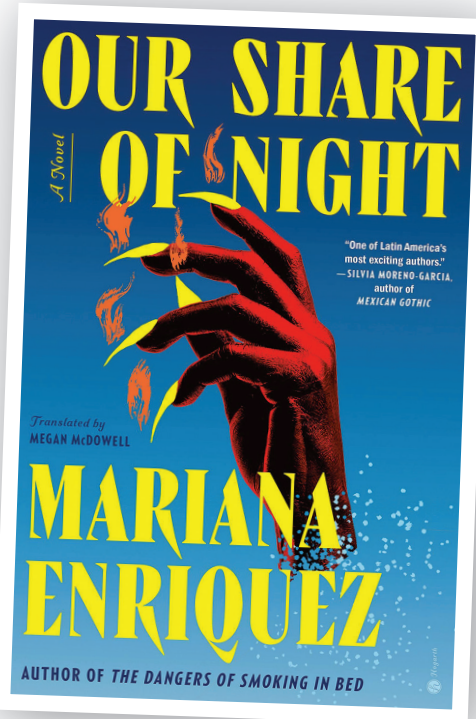
The work of a translator goes beyond word-for-word transcription of a text. A good translator can convey authors' messages beyond literal word choices. They can distill an original text to yield its essence to impart meaning and feeling and cross cultural differences to give the reader as authentic an experience to reading the original as possible.

One of my favorite authors is Mariana Enríquez, whom I have mentioned before in this column. Enríquez is Argentinian, and she writes in Spanish. Most of her published works in translation fall under the horror umbrella, although I don't know that she is well-served by horror's conventional connotations that Americans tend to have around the genre. Enríquez doesn't write for cheap thrills; there are no jump-scares or gratuitous gore. She specializes in making the reader feel unsettled, uncomfortable. She creeps you out, in the best way, and she relies on a combination of universal human emotions and uniquely Argentinian conditions to do it.

I speak some Spanish and read it a little better, but I am not fluent enough to appreciate the nuance that her translator, Megan McDowell, does. I rely heavily on McDowell to convey what Enríquez's work imparts in a way that I can understand the heavy mantle of colonial and modern histories, social taboo, and strikingly detailed imagery. I could read Enríquez in Spanish and follow the plot, but I would not enjoy it the way I do in English. And for that, I have McDowell to thank. (Many people have her to thank. She has won several awards for her translations.)

Translators are people who can help us, as readers, explore different lives, places, and cultures. They are an important part of expanding our worldview, and, depending on how their source material is received, that responsibility can sometimes be quite heavy.

It is well known that when Salman Rushdie published *The Satanic Verses*, the Iranian Ayatollah issued a fatwa, claiming that the book was blasphemous. Rushdie was forced to live under police protection for many years, and there were a number of attempts on his life – the most recent one



being in 2022 in New York.

What isn't often discussed, however, is the risk the fatwa also conferred on the translators who made the text accessible to non-English speaking audiences. The Japanese translator, Hitoshi Igarashi, was found dead under mysterious circumstances in 1991. There was an attempt on the life of the Turkish translator, Aziz Nesin, in 1993, when his hotel was set on fire in Eastern Turkey. While translators may not create the stories they tell, they become part of the stories' legacies.

There are so many translators doing excellent (and sometimes brave) work that readers enjoy. Here are a few highlighted from our collection:

- *Trick*, by Domenico Starnone and translated from Italian to English by Jhumpa Lahiri. You may recognize this translator's name, as Lahiri is a celebrated author in her own right. *Trick* is about the relationship between a grandfather and his 4-year-old grandson that he has traveled south to Naples to care for.
- *Death Is Hard Work*, by Khaled Khalifa and translated from Arabic to English by Leri Price. Set in Syria and originally published in 2016, this book follows the journey of three siblings as they travel across the wartorn country to honor their father's wish to be buried next to his sister.
- *Artemisa*, by Andy Weir and translated from English to Spanish by Javier Guer-



Library @ Crossroads distributed 400 free books at the July 24 Crossroads Farmers Market.

Takoma Park
Maryland
Library

REPORT(E): LIBRARY @ CROSSROADS

400

• books distributed
• libros distribuidos

200

• participants (2 books pp)
• participantes (2 libros pp)

HOLA

• books in Spanish were preferred
• los libros en español fueron los más buscados

Library @ Crossroads was a free book distribution on July 24, 2024 at the Crossroads Farmers Market.

...

Library @ Crossroads fue un evento llevado a cabo el 24 de julio de 2024 en donde se regalaron libros en el Crossroads Farmers Market.

RECREATION

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

TOTS

SPORTS



Tot Sports

Children are introduced to the fundamentals of sports such as soccer and basketball. The goal of this program is to provide the opportunity for each child to develop motor skills and nurture their growth socially and emotionally through teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 3–5
6-week session
Saturdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
September 14–October 19
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

YOUTH

DANCE

Ballet & Stretch

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

Takoma Park Community Center (Auditorium)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 5–12
Saturdays, 12:30–1:15 p.m.
September 7–October 12
Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170

Hip-Hop Dance

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

Takoma Park Community Center (Auditorium)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 5–12
6-week session
Saturdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
September 7–October 12
Resident: \$150 / non-resident: \$170

DRAMA & THEATER



Let's Pretend

Who doesn't love to pretend? In this class, students will develop imagination through age-appropriate acting exercises, engage with a classic story, then apply theatre concepts to become the characters



in that story and act it out together. We'll start with warm-ups and imagination exercises, sing and choreograph a song excerpt, dig into a few stories, experiment with key concepts, then perform it together (ending with a curtain call of course)! Each class will focus on a new story. We will explore imagination, voice/movement, improvisation, sensory perception, subtext, blocking/staging, physical character, and many other acting concepts that happen to be excellent for elementary development! Classes limited to 10 students to facilitate interaction. Instructor: Gretchen Weigel Doughty, artistic director of On Stage Takoma

Takoma Park Community Center (Auditorium)
7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 4–6
8-week session
Saturdays, 9:30–10:20 a.m.
September 14–November 9 (No class on October 26)
Resident: \$170 / non-resident: \$190

DROP-IN

Kid Night

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

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

December 6, December 20
Free with membership

EXTENDED CARE

School year 2024-2025

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

Our emphasis is on providing fun 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. Each morning, children will have time for free play, homework assignments, breakfast (not provided), or preparation for their upcoming day. Each afternoon, kids will receive a snack; have time to complete homework; and enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, and free play!

Programs operate when Montgomery County Public Schools are in session

Before Care: \$1,700 / Non-resident: \$2,000

Hours: 7–9 a.m.

After Care: \$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 before care and after care 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

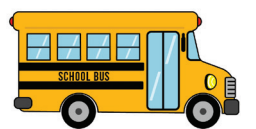
Transportation will not be provided through Takoma Park Recreation. Staff will escort participants to the bus stop at Hampshire Towers and will wait with them at the bus stop. After school, staff will wait at the bus stop for the arrival of After the Bell participants.

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.

Fun Days

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



Takoma Park Community Center

Meet Brent Currie, Teen STEM Instructor

We're thrilled to introduce you to Brent Currie, our Teen STEM instructor. Brent's diverse background and passion for education make him an inspiration for the young minds he mentors.

Originally from Raleigh, North Carolina, Brent's educational path led him to pursue higher education at Hampton University, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration. His academic background laid a strong foundation, but it was his love for engineering and hands-on work that got him interested in the STEM field.

Brent's professional journey has been anything but conventional. With a wide variety of experiences, he has explored fields ranging from construction to computing. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to own a restaurant, where he fine-tuned his skills in both management and culinary arts. This diverse career trajectory has equipped Brent with a unique perspective that he now brings to the classroom.

For the past five years, Brent has dedicated himself to teaching youth full-time. He teaches the *Gateway to Technology* program at a local Middle School. His commitment to education stems from a desire to make a difference in the lives of young people. Brent's hands-on approach to teaching STEM subjects encourages



Brent Currie

students to engage with the material actively. He believes that learning should be an interactive and enjoyable experience, and his enthusiasm is contagious.

Brent's interests extend beyond the classroom. He is an outdoor enthusiast who finds joy in exploring nature. Whether hiking through trails or camp-

ing under the stars, Brent embraces all aspects of nature. His appreciation for the outdoors is something he often shares with his students, encouraging them to discover and appreciate the environment around them. In addition to his love for nature, Brent is a foodie. His past experience as a restaurant owner has given him a deep appreciation for food, and he enjoys experimenting with different flavors and techniques. This passion for culinary arts often finds its way into his lessons, where he teaches students the science behind cooking and the importance of nutrition.

Brent's philosophy is the belief that everyone is here for a purpose. He sees his purpose as helping others on their journey through life. Whether it's guiding a student through a complex math problem or inspiring a young mind to pursue a career in engineering, Brent is committed to making a positive impact. He is dedicated to empowering the next generation and teaching life lessons through STEM and nature. Brent Currie is more than just an instructor; he is a mentor, a role model, and a friend to all who have the privilege of working with him. We are fortunate to have him as part of our Takoma Park Recreation team, and we look forward to seeing the STEM lessons he teaches our youth!

RECREATION

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

RECREATION

■ From page 8

(Azalea Room)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades K–5
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thursday, October 3: Watkins Nature Center
Friday, October 18: Cox Farms
Monday, October 4: Shadowland Laser Adventure
Resident: \$55 / non-resident: \$65 per day

SPORTS

Basketball Skills

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 6–12
8-week session
Saturdays, noon–1 p.m.
September 7–October 26
Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110



Youth Cricket Class—Beginner

The Basic Level Cricket Class is designed to introduce children to the exciting world of cricket in a fun and safe environment. This class will cover the fundamental rules and regulations of cricket, ensuring that participants gain a solid understanding of the game. Children will learn about the different roles of players; the scoring system; and the basic techniques of batting, bowling, and fielding. Using a soft, safe ball, the class will include a mix of instructional sessions and playful practice games, helping kids build confidence and coordination.

Eastern Middle School
300 University Blvd. East, Silver Spring
Ages 5–13
Saturday, 8:30–9:30 a.m.
September 14–October 19
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

Youth Cricket Class—Intermediate

The Intermediate Level Cricket Class is tailored for children who have a basic understanding of cricket and are ready to advance their skills. In this class, participants will delve deeper into more complex techniques and strategies, using a real cricket ball to provide a more authentic playing experience. The curriculum will focus on honing batting and bowling skills, improving fielding techniques, and understanding advanced game strategies. Children will engage in regular practice matches to apply what they've learned in a competitive yet supportive setting. The class also emphasizes mental toughness, strategic thinking, and leadership skills, preparing young cricketers for more serious play. Safety remains a priority, with proper coaching on protective gear and safe

SPECIAL NOTICE

TP Community Center,
7500 Maple Ave.

The Game Room, Restrooms, Dance Room, and Recreation Department office will be under construction this fall. All programs/services offered in the affected area will be canceled or temporarily relocated. Construction will begin on September 16th.



playing practices.

Eastern Middle School
300 University Blvd. East, Silver Spring
Ages 5–13
Saturday, 8:30–9:30 a.m.
September 14–October 19
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

TEENS

DROP-IN

Teen Lounge

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

Takoma Park Community Center (Teen Lounge)
7500 Maple Ave.
Grades 6–12
Montgomery County Public School days
Monday–Friday, 3–6 p.m.
Free with registration

Teen Night

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 12–16
Fridays, 6:30–8:45 p.m.
September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13
Free with membership

SPORTS

Teen Basketball Fundamentals

The Takoma Park Recreation Department's sports division will now offer basketball skills. This program will assist in the individual improvement of teens. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching that allows each person to develop a sense of pride and accomplishment. The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit the needs of each participant.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 12–17
Sunday, 8:30–9:30 a.m.
September 15–November 3
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

TRIPS



Teen Trip: Field of Screams

Join the Teen Program for a spooky trip to the Field of Screams! Voted the #1 best scream park in Maryland, teens will have a frighteningly fun time taking part in the haunted house and trail experiences. No food or drink is allowed into the venue, but concession stands will be available onsite, offering pizza, burgers, etc.—so please bring money. Additionally, there will be carnival games with tickets available onsite. Participants will meet in the Teen Lounge (Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave.) at 5 p.m. The bus will be departing at 5:15 p.m. PLEASE be on time, as refunds will not be provided due to missing the bus. Parent discretion is advised! Space is limited, so register today.

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

ADULTS

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Writing Life Stories

Do you want to share important life experiences through your writing and during class discussion? Our stories are part of what makes us human. Whether you are a lifelong writer or a beginner, this class is for you. This class will help you to jump-start your memories, organize your ideas and edit your work. Come and share your life experiences with the class. This class is held virtually. Prepare to have fun! Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt



Virtual on Zoom
Ages 16 and up
10-week session
Mondays, 7–8:30 p.m.
September 9–November 18
Resident: \$95 / non-resident: \$105

FITNESS

Flow Yoga

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

sequences, poses, and modifications. The class sessions are energizing, grounding, playful and renewing. Instructor: Jill Skillcorn
Takoma Park Recreation Center (Back Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.



Ages 16 and up
6-week session
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
September 14–October 19
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

Zumba New Ave

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
6-week session
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.
September 14–October 19
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

SPORTS

Adult Drop in Pickleball

Join other new players for this drop-in program. The entire magic and success of pickleball is the way it has been set up to be a welcoming sport in an informal setting.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 18 and older
Mondays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
September 9–October 28
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

Adult Kickball League

Join our adult kickball league this fall! Games will be played on Sundays. Put together your winning team and go against other teams in order to win the league championship. 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.



Belle Ziegler Field
Takoma and Albany Avenues
Ages 18 and older
Sundays, 8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
September 15–November 3
Register as a team:
Resident: \$200 / non-resident: \$300

Takoma Park Adult Volleyball Club

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center

RECREATION

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(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and older
Wednesdays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
September 1–October 30
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

55+ ACTIVITIES

ART

Arts and Crafts with Alice

Brighten the fall days and get creative! The class meets once a month to learn a new skill and create different projects. Enjoy the supportive and positive atmosphere. Instructor: Alice Sims, Art for the People

Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Ave.

Ages 55 and up
Wednesdays, 10–11 a.m.
September 18, October 16, November 20,
December 18
\$6

DANCE

Hip Hop Move N' Groove

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center

SPECIAL NOTICE

TP Community Center,
7500 Maple Ave.

The Game Room, Restrooms, Dance Room, and Recreation Department office will be under construction this fall. All programs/services offered in the affected area will be canceled or temporarily relocated. Construction will begin on September 16th.



(Back Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
September 5–December 12
(No class on November 28)
\$6

DROP-IN

Bingo

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

Takoma Park Maryland Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Tuesdays, noon–2 p.m.
September 24 and October 22
Free

FITNESS

Enhance Your Fitness

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

Virtual on Zoom
Ages 55 and up
Tuesdays, 9–10 a.m.
September 3–December 10
\$6



Iyengar Yoga for 55+

This class will introduce you to yoga as taught by the Iyengar method. The use of props and a step-by-step approach teaches alignment and brings strength and flexibility. The basic postures are introduced, whole body awareness is created, and energy is generated in order to bring into alignment the different parts of the body—to associate the breath and mind and release tension and stress. No experience needed. Students must bring their own yoga mat. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Tuesdays, noon–1 p.m.
September 3–December 10
(No class on November 5)
\$6



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE MONSTER BASH!

The Takoma Park Recreation Department staff is preparing for a host of events that are designed for the entire family. We will kick off at 1 p.m. with games and other fun activities. Including a costume contest and parade along Maple Avenue.

Costume categories include Most Original, Funniest, and Scariest.
Age Categories: 4 and under, 5–8, 9–12, Teen, Adult, and Overall Group

For additional information or if you would like to volunteer, especially to be a judge for this event, please contact Chris Parker at christopherp@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7290.

To receive an update on weather conditions, please call our inclement weather line at 301-891-7101 extension 5605. Due to the nature of this event walking is encouraged.

Event starts at Takoma Park Middle School (parking lot)
7611 Piney Branch Road
Saturday, October 26, starting at 1 p.m.
All ages
Free

SPECIAL EVENTS

Family Outdoor Movie Night

Pack your blanket and some snacks—it's time for another outdoor movie night! It starts at dusk at 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 movie will be a family friendly "G" or "PG" rated hit. Vote on the city website

for your favorite. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged.

Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Ave.
All ages
Saturday, September 7
Movie starts at dusk
Free

TRANSLATION

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rero. Translations go both ways! *Artemisa* (*Artemis* in English) was originally published in English and is an exciting caper set on the moon, and it was translated so that Spanish speakers could enjoy it.

- *The Memory Police*, by Yoko Ogawa and translated from Japanese to English by Stephen Snyder. Following one science fiction book with another, *The Memory Police* was originally published in 1994 in Japanese and translated into English 25 years later in 2019. The setting is an island governed by a surveillance state with the ability to make people forget their attachments ... and those who do not comply must attempt an escape.
- *High as the Waters Rise*, by Anja Kampmann and translated from German to

English by Anne Posten. This book was a finalist for a National Book Award, and it follows a character, Waclaw, in a job set in a place with which many of us who grew up on the Gulf Coast are familiar: an oil rig. Waclaw's bunkmate falls overboard into the ocean, and Waclaw is left to reconcile how so many jobs crucial to our interconnected world are often both unseen and dangerous.

- *Lalchimiste*, by Paulo Coelho and translated from Portuguese to French by Jean Orecchioni. If you are one of the many people who has read *The Alchemist* over the years in English, you have already read a translated version. *O Alquimista*, as it is known in Portuguese, has been translated into 83 languages according to the author; it is one of the most translated works of literature in publication.

POLICE

■ From page 1

than its neighbors, Muzzatti says a lot of that has to do with how quickly they're able to respond to issues that may come up.

"I'd say we're absolutely an outlier in Takoma Park regarding crime rates," he said. "Takoma Park is like a fish bowl and all these officers are circling the outside, so we keep a lot of crime out of the city. We're constantly keeping crime out. With Takoma Park, potential criminals don't know that the officer could be responding from just a block away. We have success in reducing crime in the city when it comes to comparing the agencies."

The city currently has nearly 40 officers who patrol the streets in 12-hour-long shifts, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

"I used to work the night shift," Muzzatti said. "I was working from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. I'd check emails to see what occurred during the daytime, conduct a roll call with my of-

ficers, and from there we go out on patrol—and for 12 hours we're patrolling the city."

Muzzatti says it takes a special type to become a police officer in Takoma Park, with officers choosing service to the community above everything else.

"The average law enforcement officer chose to work this job, not because it pays well or has great benefits," he said. "I think a lot of these guys choose to work in law enforcement because it's an interesting job and very rewarding. It comes with a lot of job satisfaction, but it's a hard job."

Muzzatti says the city is always recruiting new officers with entry-level salaries starting at \$65,090 and going up to \$87,476, based on years in service. For more, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/police.

The Takoma Park newsletter will be doing profiles on some of the city's frontline police officers over the next months. If you have a story you'd like to share about how a city police officer helped you, email seang@takomaparkmd.gov.

At Your SERVICE

Important Dates

National Police Woman Day— September 12

We would like to recognize the wonderful active and retired women of the Takoma Park Police Department. Takoma Park currently has five female police officers. When you see one of these fantastic women, give them a wave!

Thank a Police Officer Day— September 21

To all the members of the Takoma Park Police Department and those across the state of Maryland and the nation, thank you today, tomorrow, and every single day you serve. If you see an officer on September 21, please thank them for their service!

National Hispanic Heritage Month

In September, we pay tribute to our Latino staff who have positively influenced and enriched our department and community. We have staff from the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and Bolivia!

National Suicide Prevention Month

If you or someone you know is struggling or needs support, call or text 988 or chat on 988lifeline.org/chat to be connected to a local crisis center. You are not alone!

National Faith & Blue

Faith & Blue Weekend is a national event that takes place in October, with activities that bring together law enforcement and residents to build connections, create mutual understanding, and enhance justice and reconciliation. Law enforcement entities and faith-based organizations are key pillars of the community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive.

We are excited to host our fourth event in Takoma Park this October, date and time to be announced in the October newsletter. We will once again reach out to various places of worship and ask them to join us, along with their congregations.

For updates, search for “faith and blue” at takomaparkmd.gov.

Fall Home Maintenance Tips

With this colder weather come higher energy costs, additional chores, and the potential for weather damage to your home. Some fall maintenance to ensure your home is ready for the winter.



Outside

1. Clean the gutters.

Did you know that clogged gutters can lead to roof damage or to a flooded basement? The gutters should be collecting the water from your roof and safely diverting it down and away from the house. Clogged gutters mean the water will not flow away from the house and will fall right next to your foundation. Heavy rains could then lead to water entering your basement. Even worse, this could pose a significant problem in freezing weather and you end up with heavy ice dams on your roof. The weight and leaking water can also cause significant roof damage.

Cleaning your gutters is as easy as getting a ladder and going up and pulling out all of the junk that has collected. A pair of gloves makes this job a little more enjoyable. If you live in an area surrounded by trees you may have significant buildup in the fall as the leaves drop, so you might want to do this chore a few times. And don't neglect the downspouts. These can also get clogged, and they are vital in moving the water away from the house.

If you can't see if they are clogged you can take a small bucket of water up and dump it down the spout and see how fast the water flows out at the bottom. If it doesn't rush right out, there might be some blockage. You can try using a long pole or pipe of some sort to dis-

lodge what's in there. If you can't reach it, you might want to opt for replacing the downspout. The materials are fairly inexpensive, and it's usually a simple job.

2. Repair driveway and sidewalk cracks.

Be sure to repair cracks in your cement before the cold sets in. When water gets into these cracks and freezes, it expands. This expanding ice can not only make the existing crack worse, but it can create more cracks and even lift portions of the cement up and make it uneven. You can find various sealers to apply to the cracks at your local hardware store.

3. Inspect your chimney.

If you have a wood stove or fireplace, it's important you inspect and clean your chimney before using it. A clogged or dirty chimney or flue could result in dangerous gasses filling up your house. If this is a job that you're not equipped to do on your own it's well worth the money to pay a professional. Your life and home are far too valuable to skip this annual task.

4. Remove hoses and clutter from your yard.

As the cold weather settles in, you're probably going to be spending less time outside, so it's a good time to start picking up around the yard. If you have hoses, make sure they are drained and properly stored. If left attached and full of water they can freeze and burst, thus requiring you to buy a new hose next spring. You'll also want to take some time and go around the yard and clean up the fallen debris—be sure to retrieve any tools that may have been left behind. You don't want to accidentally stumble onto a misplaced rake or other item left hidden.

Inside

1. Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Since the weather will be colder, you'll be spending more time with all of the windows closed and running the heat. That means there is a chance of carbon monoxide buildup. Carbon monoxide is a silent killer, so don't take a chance. A basic detector can be had for as little as \$20

and it could save your life. And don't forget to check the batteries in your smoke alarms. Batteries are cheap and a small price to pay when it comes to protecting your family.

2. Clean out the dryer vent.

The U.S. Fire Administration estimates that dirty dryer vents are responsible for at least 15,600 home fires each year. Since you're already checking other areas of your house for fire prevention it's a good idea to add the dryer vent to your list. Make sure it is free of lint buildup and there are no other obstructions. It is also a good time to make sure your vent is properly sealed where it exits the house. Large gaps around the vent can be a significant area of heat loss.

3. Check and replace furnace filters.

Before firing up the furnace for the first time of the season, you should check the filter. Dirty filters are inefficient since air flows less freely. This results in your furnace running longer and using more energy just to keep the house up to the right temperature.

4. Inspect and/or flush the hot water heater.

As time goes by, sediment collects in your hot water heater. This sediment forces your water heater to work even harder and could possibly even lead to leaks. If you've never drained your heater and have been using it for years you're way overdue. Generally, it's as simple as hooking a hose up to the bottom valve and opening it. In addition to eliminating the sediment you might want to consider additional insulation if your water heater is in an unfinished part of the house like a cold basement. You can purchase special insulation to wrap around your heater, and you should also insulate the pipes that are attached to the heater to minimize heat loss.

5. Check the remainder of the house for energy leaks.

When was the last time you looked up in your attic? You might want to take a peek and see what type of insulation you

POLICE □ Page 12

Oh Deer!

Deer activity increases in fall; it's their time for mating/migrating. Watch for darting deer, especially driving at night.

1. Travel at the posted speed limit.
2. Slow down after dusk—deer are most active between sundown and sunrise.
3. Deer generally travel in herds: if you see one, chances are others are close by.
4. Use your high-beams as much as possible at night to be aware of posted deer crossing signs.
5. Stay alert: use scanning techniques while driving, looking at both sides of the road.

If You Strike a Deer

1. Move the vehicle to a safe location off the road.
2. Make sure your hazard lights are on.
3. Inspect the vehicle for damage.
4. Put out flares or reflective devices to warn other of your damaged vehicle.
5. Make note of important information for your insurer.
6. Report the event as soon as possible.



Be Prepared!

by Claudine Schweber
Emergency Preparedness Committee

September is National Emergency Preparedness Month. You never know when a disaster will occur. Are you ready? Visit ready.gov/kit for items to have in your emergency kit.

Other Reminders

- **Dispose of meds properly.** Use the large, green medication return box—available 24/7 in the Takoma Park Community Center lower level. Dispose of unused or expired prescriptions and over-the-counter medications as soon as possible.
- **Avoid credit card fraud.** Sign the back of cards and use PINs that are not common (e.g. not a birthday or a Zip code). Keep a list of all of your cards in a safe, locked place. Get receipts for all transactions and match them to your monthly statements.

Then, shred all paper receipts and monthly statements.

- **Be aware of gift card draining.** This is a scheme in which thieves remove gift cards from stores and capture their numeric codes or swap them out for counterfeit cards and place the products back on display. When an unsuspecting customer loads money onto a tampered or counterfeit card, criminals access it online and steal the balance. A new Maryland law requires secure packaging for cards sold in person, so examine the packaging of any card you purchase.
- **COVID-19 is not over.** New strains of COVID have been spreading over the summer. Symptoms include coughing and fever. Get the new vaccine booster as possible. You can find out more at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

Community ACTIVITIES

The Green Way Vol. 12

Sunday, September 1, 5 p.m.
Peoples Book
7014-A Westmoreland Ave.

The Green Way Reading Series is a monthly literary event, curated by Simon Shieh and Takoma Park's Poet Laureate Taylor Johnson. The series centers emerging and established poets and artists in interdisciplinary, intergenerational and cross-regional dialogues. September brings Kiki Petrosino and Tahir Hamut Izgil. Kiki Petrosino is the author of *White Blood: a Lyric of Virginia* (2020) and three other poetry books. Tahir Hamut Izgil is a modernist Uyghur poet, filmmaker, and activist. More information at peoplesbooktakoma.com.

Historic Takoma's Reading Room

Sunday, September 1 and 15, 1–4 p.m.
Historic Takoma
7328 Carroll Ave.

The Reading Room contains Historic Takoma's reference collections and archives. Featured is the Maryland Reference Collection on loan from the Takoma Park Maryland Library while the library undergoes renovation and reconstruction. The Reading Room also includes the Historic Takoma reference collection of books about Takoma Park; Montgomery County; Washington, D.C.; the Civil War; and a wide variety of architectural and design publications. The local authors collection contains books by local writers, mainly from Takoma Park. Most of the issues of the Takoma Voice and City Newsletter are also available for reading, along with a collection of journals and magazines about Maryland history. More information at historictakoma.org.

Family Outdoor Movie Night

Saturday, September 7 (movie starts at dusk)
Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Ave. (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)

Pack your blanket and some snacks—it's time for another outdoor movie night! Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family. The movie will be a family-friendly G- or PG-rated hit. Vote on the City website for your favorite. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged. More information at takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Folk Festival

Sunday, September 8, 10:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School and Lee Jordan Field

The Takoma Park Folk Festival celebrates the music and arts and the Takoma Park-Silver Spring community. The event, which is held rain or shine, presents six stages of music, a juried crafts show, international food, community nonprofit tables, and children's games and activities. More



Get ready for Festival Season! Listen, dance, peruse crafts, eat local fare, and rub elbows with your neighbors at the Takoma Park Folk Festival (Sunday, September 8), the Long Branch Festival (Friday and Saturday, September 13 and 14), and the Takoma Park Street Festival (Sunday, October 6). Rest up between these essential parties, which feature dozens of local bands. Pictured, Karen Collins and the Backroads Band, playing the Takoma Park Folk Festival and Takoma Park Street Festival; Batalá Washington, playing the Long Branch Festival; and Chopteeth, playing the Takoma Park Street Festival. Check websites for full schedules.

information at tpff.org.

Long Branch Festival

Friday September 13, 5–9 p.m.
Saturday, September 14, 11 a.m.–9 p.m.
Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road

The Long Branch Festival celebrates the dynamic neighborhood, businesses, and culture of Long Branch with food, crafts, music, dancing, and other entertainment. Fun for the entire family. See the complete schedule and more information at discoverlongbranch.com.

Takoma ARTery Exhibition Opening Reception

Friday, September 20, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Twenty local artists from the Takoma ARTery arts organization will share their work in a group exhibition in the gallery spaces at the Takoma Park Community Center. The artists' compelling work spans a wide variety of mediums and subject matter.

16th Annual Play Day

Saturday, September 21, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
7611 Piney Branch Road

It's time to put on your comfy shoes and play! Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present this popular annual event, featuring tons of fun activities for the entire family, including Touch-a-Truck. To see a full listing of activities and performances, visit letsplayamerica.org. All ages welcome.

Takoma Park Street Festival

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

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

Ongoing

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Sundays, year-round, 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
6931 Laurel Ave.

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

Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesdays through November,
10:30 a.m.–2 p.m.
Anne Street at University Boulevard East

The Crossroads Farmers Market offers the season's freshest fruits and vegetables, as well as free-range eggs, honey, locally roasted coffee, healthy snacks, and fresh cut flowers, all from no more than 50 miles away. All federal nutrition benefits (SNAP, WIC, Senior/WIC FMNP) are accepted and matched dollar-for-dollar with Crossroads' Fresh Checks—up to \$50 each week. More information at crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org.

POLICE

■ From page 11

have. Losing heat through the roof of your house is the number one source of heat loss, so having inadequate insulation up there can be costly. Check the R-value and see if that is sufficient for your needs. You can actually look up R-values and see how effective each is for certain climates and usage at energy.gov.

It's also a good idea to inspect all of your doors and windows for possible leaks. Over time, the weather-stripping can wear down and create gaps that are a prime source of heat loss and drafts. Usually a leak can be fixed with just a new piece of stripping or some caulk, so it's an easy and cheap fix that could save a lot of money on your heating bill.

6. Consider a programmable thermostat.

If you're not at home all day every day, it can make sense to install a programmable thermostat. If nobody is home between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m., there's no need to keep the whole house at 70 degrees. With a programmable thermostat you can tell it to keep the heat off or at least at a much lower temp during those hours and then automatically kick back up right before you get home in the evening. Since your furnace will be running much less with this setup it will pay for the cost of the thermostat in no time.

September 25: Crossroads Farmers Market Celebrates \$1 Million in Fresh Check Matches

At noon on Wednesday, September 25, state and county officials, USDA representatives, and community members will meet at the Crossroads Farmers Market to celebrate \$1 million in matching SNAP benefits since the Fresh Checks incentive launched in 2007. The match means that \$2 million have been invested in local farmers and our community—reaching more than 26,000 families.

"This isn't just about numbers; it's about advancing food equity," says Lauren Goldberg, executive director of Crossroads Community Food Network.

The Crossroads Community Food Network is working to build a healthier and more inclusive food system in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. The Farmers Market sits in the heart of this network of food growers, makers, and consumers within the vibrant immigrant community,

Crossroads also provides bilingual business support for historically excluded food entrepreneurs, an affordable commercial kitchen geared toward helping them succeed, and community-based healthy eating education.

The event on September 25 will feature live music, children's activities, and a raffle. Attendees will also have the opportunity to learn more about Crossroads' commit-



These tokens match SNAP benefits at the Crossroads Farmers Market, doubling the value of those benefits when spent on local produce.

ment to making fresh, healthy food accessible to everyone in the community.

For more information, visit crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org.