



Takoma Park News



November 2024

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 63, No. 11 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

Important Dates

Fall Book Sale, Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML)

Saturday, November 2
Takoma Park Maryland Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave, Suite 205

Takoma Park Election Day

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

Veterans Day

Monday, November 11
Yard trimming collection is canceled.

Public Budget Forum

Tuesday, November 12, 7–8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Certified Results of City Election

Wednesday, November 13, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

iMusical Performance

Friday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Swearing-In of the New City Council and Farewell to Departing Members

Monday, November 18
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Thanksgiving

Thursday and Friday
November 28 and 29
Thursday's trash, recycling, and food waste collection will take place on Wednesday, November 27. Friday's trash, recycling and food waste collection will take place on Saturday, November 30.

Meet Jill Larson, Takoma Park's First Mental Health Counselor

As many jurisdictions around the United States reconsidered its police and public safety policies in recent years, the Takoma Park City Council considered the possibility of taking a different approach to crisis situations. Sometimes, individuals who are require help and interaction with someone other than or alongside the police.



In June of this year, Jill Larson, LCSW-C, became Takoma Park's first official mental health counselor, through a two-year pilot project aimed at delivering comprehensive mental health services to residents.

She joins Takoma Park from the Montgomery County Crisis Center, where she excelled in providing mental health mobile outreach, petition evaluations, on-scene support, domestic violence lethality screenings and referrals, grief support, and training.

Larson also serves as a Crisis Intervention Team instructor specializing in thought disorders, offering in-service training and consultation to enhance the community's response to mental health crises.

Before transitioning to social work, Larson spent 17 years as a police officer in Minnesota. During her tenure, she worked in the human and sex trafficking units, engaged in negotiations, served as an investigation's liaison, and acted as a field training officer.

As Takoma Park's mental health counselor many of the calls that Lar-

son responds to involve someone who is experiencing suicidal ideation or has become a danger to themselves or others. A family member, a friend, or a concerned citizen will call 911 or the Takoma Park police dispatch and she will go to the scene and conduct a mental health evaluation to determine next steps.

"I really want that person to mirror how I am," says Larson. "So if I'm escalated, other people are going to be escalated. But if I'm calm and I use my emotional intelligence, then that person can calm down and have a conversation with me and we can figure out what's going on."

"If they're experiencing some psychosis, hallucinations, or they're stating they're suicidal or they're homicidal, we want to get that individual to the hospital. And so what I do is I fill out an emergency evaluation petition, which allows the individ-

LARSON □ Page 12

Weigh in on the Budget! We Want to Hear from You!



Takoma Park City Manager Rob DiSpirito, and the mayor and council, invite you, our residents, to offer us your ideas and suggestions regarding next year's city budget, which is now under development.

We want to solicit your insights in two new ways: 1) through a public budget forum on November 12 and 2) through a community-wide budget survey. These opportunities will be in addition to the city's traditional community budget engagement, which includes public hearings, public comment during council meetings, and conversations, emails, listservs, etc. with your elected mayor, councilmember, and city staff.

The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, which will be adopted next May by the mayor and council, will formally begin July 1, 2025. Between now and next May, the budget is created by city staff, proposed by the city manager, reviewed and modified and then adopted by the mayor and council. This next city budget will be an especially challenging one financially, so your ideas and feedback are welcomed and necessary as we all contribute to this blueprint for Takoma Park.

- Come to the Public Budget Forum!**
Tuesday, November 12, 7–8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Engage and participate in the crucial dialogue for our budget process. This is a chance for you to share your thoughts about priorities for the next city budget.

- Complete the Budget Community Survey Due by December 2 at noon.**

Community participation in the budget process is a high priority for the city administration, staff, and the mayor and city council. The Takoma Park Community Budget Survey is one way to share any ideas and innovations you think the city should consider as part of its upcoming fiscal year budget development.

The survey should take about ten minutes to complete.

Within this newsletter, you should find a paper copy of the survey, which you can mail in or drop off at the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave.

Or, if possible, go online and complete the survey there. Go to bit.ly/FY2026 or use the QR code below. *(Note: if you complete the survey online, you do not need to drop off the paper copy.)*

Please be aware that all information provided in connection with the survey will be included as part of the public record for the FY 2026 budget, ensuring complete transparency and your active involvement in the process.



Behind the Badge: Cpl. Cindia Torres



For Takoma Park's Cpl. Cindia Torres, one of the most important tools for a police officer when responding to a call is empathy.

"My approach to the job is encountering people with a perspective on what's going on in their lives and being open minded," says Torres, who has been with Takoma Park's police department for more than three years. "The community shouldn't be afraid to reach out to our officers."

Torres joined the Takoma Park police department after working as a police officer in neighboring Prince George's County. She says she saw more potential in Takoma Park when



she decided to apply for a job with the department.

TORRES □ Page 10

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

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On the DOCKET

CITY COUNCIL

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

The public may comment at regular meetings of the City Council in person or via Zoom. To comment over Zoom, register by 5 p.m. 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.

Tuesday, November 5: City Election Day

Wednesday, November 6: The City Council will NOT meet.

Monday, November 11: Veterans Day. City offices and facilities are closed Sunday and Monday for the holiday.

Tuesday, November 12: Community Budget Forum, 7 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Wednesday, November 13: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Presentation:

- Certified Results of the City Election

Monday, November 18: Swearing-In of the new City Council, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Wednesday, November 20: City Council Orientation, 6 p.m. (Community Center, room to be announced)

Wednesday, November 20: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Presentation:

- Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and Audit
- Police Pension Plan Actuarial Valuation
- City Manager FY26 Budget Projections

Wednesday, November 27: The City Council will NOT meet.

Thursday, November 28: Thanksgiving Day. City offices and facilities are closed Thursday through Sunday for the holiday.

Wednesday, December 4: City Council Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m. (Community Center Auditorium)

Work Session:

- Introduction to the General Assembly and Lobbying
- Discussion of Legislative Priorities
- Council Budget Priorities and Survey Results

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

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

If you are unsure about which ward you are in, check the ward map and street directory, also available through the city council page.

Contact information for the mayor, city council and city manager

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

CITY BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Check the calendar on the city website for the most up-to-date information on council and committee meetings, including links to access meetings and agendas.

Visit takomaparkmd.gov and click on "Events and Meetings." Many City boards and committees continue to meet on Zoom. Some are holding hybrid meetings (both in-person and over Zoom)

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 3, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room)

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Monday, November 11, noon (Community Center, location to be announced, with remote option)
Wednesday, November 13, noon (Community Center, location to be announced, with remote option)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 21, 7 p.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room with remote option)

ETHICS COMMISSION

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

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Tuesday, November 12, 6:30 p.m. (virtual/remote)

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, November 18, 7 p.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room with remote option)

POLICE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 3, 9:30 a.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room with remote option)

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 21, 7 p.m. (virtual/remote)

SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND COMMITTEE

Monday, November 4, 7 p.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room with remote option)
Monday, December 2, 7 p.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room with remote option)

TREE COMMISSION

Wednesday, November 13, 7 p.m. (virtual/remote)

YOUTH COUNCIL

Thursday, November 7, 4 p.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room)
Thursday, November 21, 4 p.m. (Community Center, Hydrangea Room)

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.

CityCouncilAction

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

September 18, 2024

- Proclamation of Monday, September 25 as Car-Free Day
- First Reading Ordinance 2024-27 Approving the Installation of Speed Humps for the 6700 and 6800 Block of Westmoreland Avenue
- First Reading Ordinance 2024-28 Approving Traffic Calming for

Intersections of 13th Avenue and Elson Place, 14th Avenue and Elson Place, and 14th Avenue and Elson Street

- Ordinance 2024-29 Approving a Contract with the City Attorney
- Ordinance 2024-30 Approving a Contract with the Legislative Advocate
- Resolution 2024-37 Appointing Members to the Youth Council: Anand Ginsburg-Shukla (Ward 3), Nathaniel DeRoche (Ward 3), Nuhamin Michael (Ward 2), Leul Wondwosen (Ward 4), Safiya Sorenson (Ward 3), Kalib Bond

(Ward 6), Amnone Esunew (Ward 2), Emmeline Brown (Ward 2), Obsa Ahmed (Ward 6), Murilo dos Santos (Ward 3), Mikal Kidane (Ward 4)

September 25, 2024

- Proclamation of Walk and Roll to School Day (October 9)
- Proclamation of Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15–October 15)
- Second Reading Ordinance 2024-27 Approving the Installation of Speed Humps for the 6700 and 6800 Block of

Westmoreland Avenue

- Second Reading Ordinance 2024-28 Approving Traffic Calming for Intersections of 13th Avenue and Elson Place, 14th Avenue and Elson Place, and 14th Avenue and Elson Street

October 9, 2024

- Proclamation of Indigenous People's Day (October 12)
- Resolution 2024-38 Approving the FY26 Budget Schedule

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Fall Leaf Collection Program to Start November 18

City Encourages Residents to Consider Mulching Leaves in Place



by Daryl Braithwaite
Public Works Director

This year's vacuum leaf collection program will take place between November 18 and December 20. Every household will receive a leaf collection notice in the mail and there is more information on the City's website. takomaparkmd.gov (search for "fall leaf collection").

Loose leaves raked to the curb are collected via vacuum trucks. These leaves are taken to the Public Works yard, where they are ground into small pieces. This leaf mulch is then available for residents for pick-up or by delivery for a fee.

While the city does provide collection for leaves, we strongly encourage residents to consider alternatives including mulching or composting all or most of the leaves and keeping them in their yards. Information on the best ways to do this are below. Leaves can also be bagged in paper bags and collected throughout the year in Monday yard waste collection.

This year's fall leaf collection, like previous years, will divide the city into five zones, with one leaf collection crew per

zone. City streets will receive collection throughout the collection period as crews pass through their zones. The program will cover every street at least twice during the collection period and usually more often.

Collection Routes with Assigned Collection Dates

There are five streets that receive collection on scheduled dates due to heavy traffic.

- **Saturday, November 23 and Monday, December 16:** Carroll Avenue (7000 to 7800 blocks), Ethan Allen Avenue, and Philadelphia Avenue
- **Friday, November 15 and Saturday, December 14:** Piney Branch Road and Flower Avenue (7900 to 8600 blocks)

Important Guidelines for Leaf Collection

- Place leaves into a pile just behind the curb.
- Do not rake leaves into the street as the leaves can create traffic hazards.
- Do not include branches, brush, vines, rocks, or debris. These items can dam-

LEAF COLLECTION Page 10

Environmentally Beneficial Options for Managing Leaves

Residents should consider more environmentally beneficial alternatives for managing some or all of their fallen leaves. There is significant environmental benefit to keeping leaves and their nutrients in the yard and gardens.

Leaf litter, particularly when mulched or shredded into smaller bits, helps improve soil quality and water retention by providing food for beneficial microorganisms, which in turn improves soil, tree and plant health.

Mulch also suppresses weeds. Fallen leaves provide habitat for wildlife that nourish our urban ecosystem, creating hiding and hunting places for toads, birds, salamanders, and beneficial insects. Trees in particular benefit from having a ring of mulch around them extending as far out as the tree's branches.

Less reliance on the city's vacuum leaf collection could reduce the City's carbon footprint associated by lessening the use of our diesel and gasoline powered collection equipment. This year the City is offering yard signs for residents who plan to *leave their leaves*. The signs can be picked up at Public Works, 31 Oswego Ave., weekdays, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Residents have a number of options for managing leaves on their properties. By using these options, instead of raking leaves to the curb, you can avoid the frustration of having your leaves blow back into your lawn while awaiting collection. Using the City's Monday bagged yard waste program is also a way to avoid delays in collection, however it does not enable you to get the direct nutrient benefit from the leaves.

1. Allow leaves to gather under trees, bushes, and other planted areas to decompose over time. Mulch rings can be made by piling leaves under the tree. A depth of 3 to 6 inches is ideal for a mulch layer around trees, while leaving a space of several inches between the mulch pile and the tree trunk to avoid trapping water that could cause rot. The leaf mulch ring should extend as far out from the tree as possible. A depth of 2 to



You can opt out of leaf collection by posting this sign, which is available at the Public Works building, 31 Oswego Ave. This sign can be saved for use in future years.

3 inches of mulched leaves is recommended for flower beds.

2. Rake leaves into piles in an area of the property where they can compost in place to be used in the future around the yard. Leaves can be mixed with grass and other organic matter like food waste in a compost bin. Leaves can also be bagged and left to decompose in place for use in the Spring.
3. Leaves can be shredded by running over them with a lawnmower and left in place; some mowers have a special mulching blade for this purpose. See the information box for more detail on mowing leaves.
4. Residents using a lawn care service can request that they shred the leaves and leave in place or identify locations on the yard for large piles to decompose over time, rather than raking them to the curb or removing them entirely.

Mow, Mow, Mow Your Leaves!

If your mower has a bag or chute for a discharge outlet, close it up to enable the leaves to get chopped up more finely. To reduce carbon emissions, it's best to use an electric or battery powered mower. You will want the leaves to be dry. Do not try to mow piles of wet leaves.

A light covering of leaves on the lawn can be mowed over and left in place.


OPTIONS Page 10



Takoma Park News

Send submissions to: Editor: Eric Bond • editorbond@gmail.com | Assistant Editor: Sean Gossard • TPNewsEditor@takomaparkmd.gov
 Questions: Ryan Kelly, acting communications manager • ryank@takomaparkmd.gov | Eric Bond • editorbond@gmail.com
takomaparkmd.gov

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



Editor's note

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

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

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

Amharic:
ከታች ያለውን ደህን ክፍ ይፈልጉ የዚህ መጽሔት አርከብ ራስዎ ማውጣት ይቻላል ለተጨማሪ መረጃ ይጎብኙ www.takomaparkmd.gov ላይ ስለሌሎች አገልግሎቶች ይጎብኙ ለተጨማሪ መረጃ ይጎብኙ www.takomaparkmd.gov ላይ

Library and Community Center Renovation Update

- The Game room and Dance studio are closed to the public and will remain closed during the Library/Community Center renovations.
- Recreation Administrative offices have been relocated at the temporary library at 7505 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 205.
- The Teen Lounge will remain open, and teens can enter and exit the space using the outside entrance near the basketball courts.
- Before and aftercare programs will remain as scheduled in the Azalea room.
- Please call the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290 for additional information regarding programs and services.
- Maple Avenue trench work for the new library site continues.

Building COMMUNITY

Swearing-In of the New City Council and Farewell to Departing Members

Monday, November 18, 7:30 p.m.
Community Center Auditorium

- The evening will begin with the seating of the current city council for remarks and any unfinished business.
- After that, the clerk of the Montgomery County Circuit Court will swear in the mayor.
- The mayor will swear in the newly elect-

ed city councilmembers.

- The new city council will be seated for remarks and a brief organizational meeting.
- After the meeting is adjourned, there will be a dessert reception in the Atrium area.
- The public is invited to attend the swearing in, meetings, and reception. For additional information, contact Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov.



Students posted an image of Ruby Bridges with a word cloud at the entrance of Rolling Terrace Elementary School at last year's Walk to School Day.

Walk with Ruby Bridges on Thursday, November 14

Rolling Terrace Elementary School Celebrates Ruby's Legacy and Promotes Walking to School

Six-year-old Ruby Bridges stepped into the history books in 1960 when she integrated William Frantz Elementary School in New Orleans, becoming a national icon for the civil rights movement. Today her story continues to inspire the next generation of leaders to end racism together one step at a time.

On Tuesday, November 14, Rolling Terrace Elementary students will participate in the Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day for the second year. Families are invited to celebrate Ruby Bridges' legacy, along with the teachers, staff and students. For more information, check with school staff and the PTA.

The celebration of Ruby Bridges Day is one of the initiatives being undertaken under the leadership of Principal Rosa Mensah and her staff to encourage walking to school and creating a more equitable and inclusive school environment and community.



Fifth grade students drew maps of their routes to school at the Ruby Bridges Walk to School Day last year.

Parks Are Not for Your Yard Waste!

As the weather turns cooler and leaves start to fall many of us will get back outside to enjoy yard work. But please do not dump yard waste in city parks, open spaces, or rights of way. Yard waste dumped in public spaces creates issues with degrading the site, adds to staff time, smothers desirable plants, and can introduce invasive species.



Specifically, do not dump any of the following: garden debris, brush and tree trimmings, leaves, pumpkins, or Christmas trees.

Yard waste pick-up happens every Monday at your normal trash collection location and is processed into usable garden mulch. If you wouldn't want someone to dump it in your yard, please don't dump it in the public space! Dumping of any kind is prohibited by Title 10 of the City Code, as a Class B offense and can be assessed a fine of up to \$800.

If you have questions about how to dispose of materials, call the Public Works Office at 301-891-7625.

City Election Information

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. Polls are open 7 a.m.–8 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Access to the building is very limited due to construction. Enter through the Police Department lobby or through the Grant Avenue entrance.

If you have not yet voted:

- Completed mail-in ballots must be placed in a City ballot drop box by 8 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5 OR mailed with a postmark dated on or before November 5. *Postmarked* ballots received by US Mail will be included in the election count if received by Tuesday, November 12.
- Preliminary election results will be announced election night. Results will be updated as the counting continues through November 13, when the certified results are presented to the City Council at a 7:30 p.m. meeting in the Auditorium.

Complete election results will be published in the December issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter.

Información Electoral de la Ciudad

El día de la elección municipal es el martes, 5 de noviembre. Las urnas abren de 7:00 a.m. a 8:00 p.m. en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue. Acceso al edificio es muy limitado debido a la construcción. Ingrese por el vestíbulo del Departamento de Policía o por la entrada de Grant Avenue.

Si aún no ha votado:

- Las papeletas de votación completadas deben colocarse en un buzón electoral de la Ciudad de Takoma Park antes de las 8 p.m. el martes 5 de noviembre o enviarse por correo con un matasellos fechado el 5 de noviembre o antes. Las papeletas con matasellos recibidas por correo postal se incluirán en el conteo electoral si se reciben antes del martes, 12 de noviembre.
- Los resultados preliminares de las elecciones se anunciarán la noche de las elecciones. Los resultados se actualizarán a medida que continúe el conteo hasta el 13 de noviembre, cuando los resultados certificados se presenten al Concejo Municipal en una reunión a las 7:30 p.m. en el Auditorio.

Los resultados completos de las elecciones se publicarán en el boletín de Takoma Park en diciembre

Get Your Takoma Park "I Voted" Sticker!

On election day, November 5, you can pick up a new sticker proclaiming that you voted in the Takoma Park City Election. The Takoma Park Youth Council held a design contest this summer for this new display of Takoma Park democracy pride. Congratulations to Michael Kidane on the sticker design.





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.

November closures

The Library and Computer Center will be closed on Sunday, November 10 and Monday, November 11 in observance of Veterans Day.

The Library and Computer Center will be closed from Thursday, November 28 through Sunday, December 1 for the Thanksgiving 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.

The Friends' Book Sale is on Saturday, November 2, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. in the library at 7505 New Hampshire Ave. Come by and get some great deals! The twice-yearly book sale supports many programs and events that the library simply could not do without this funding. We are so grateful for the unwavering support of the Friends!

Crochet and Cozies, all ages welcome: Join us at 10:30 Monday mornings for crochet and cozy mysteries. We are now making many hats for those in need as the weather gets colder!



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. Verónica and Ms. Sylvie every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. for Circle Time. We sing, have fun with fingerplays and rhymes, dance, and do movement exercises. We read a book in the middle of the program. And we close with bubbles! Ms. Sylvie will be doing Circle Time through the end of the year.

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, November 5 with Iya and the Kuumba Kids.

Iya Bashea and Kuumba Kids will join Circle Time on Tuesday, November 5.

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.

Sundays: Board Games, LEGO, Marble Run, Arts & Crafts Sundays in the library are a lot of fun.

Social Work: CE-CG, (Community Engagement and Consultation Group) will be providing social work assistance at the library on a regular basis. The next time they will be at the library is Monday, November 25, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

The Winter Solstice celebration will be happening once again in December—mark your calendars for Thursday, December 19. We'll have dancing, storytelling, and treats!

Mock Caldecott Returns!

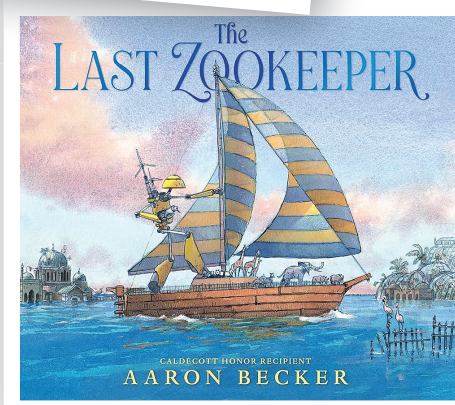
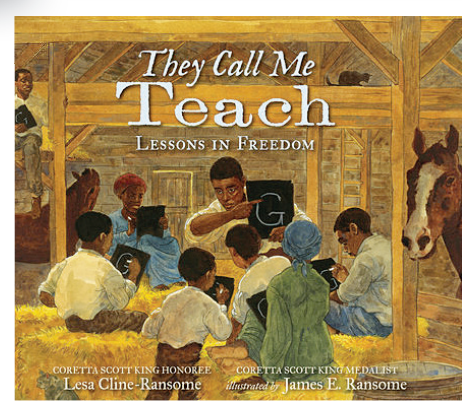
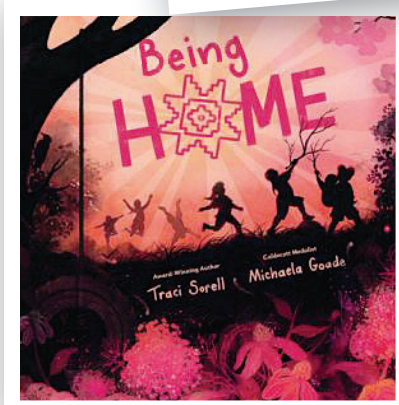
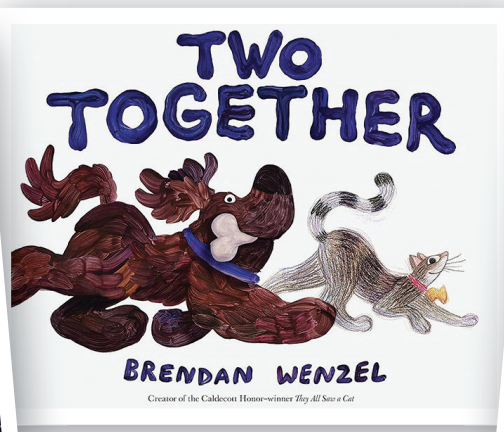
by Anne LeVeque

The Randolph Caldecott Medal is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association (ALA). It is awarded to “the most distinguished American picture book for children published by an American publisher in the United States in English during the preceding year.” Some of the most wonderful, classic picture books have won this award, including *The Snowy Day*, by Ezra Jack Keats (1963); *Where the Wild Things Are*, by Maurice Sendak (1964); and *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey (1942).

In years past, the library has held “Mock Caldecott” events, where we look at the nominated books, but we haven't had one for a few years.

This year, Sylvie Shaffer and Dave Burbank will lead the Mock Caldecott meetings with presentations and discussions of this year's nominees, leading up to a final selection. All ages can participate in choosing the best illustrated book of the year—then see what the ALSC committee has chosen! The nominated books will be available to read in the library. This is an intergenerational program, reading ages and up. The criteria of the real Caldecott committee will be adapted to ensure that participants of all ages can understand and contribute to the discussions meaningfully.

These are some of the titles we are considering”



We Are Definitely Human, written and illustrated by X. Fang

They Call me Teach: Lessons in Freedom, by Lesa Cline-Ransome and illustrated by James E. Ransome

Touch the Sky, by Stephanie V. W. Lucia-

novic, illustrated by Chris Park

Being Home, by Traci Sorell, illustrated by Michaela Goade

Two Together, written and illustrated by Brendan Wenzel

The Last Zookeeper, written and illus-

trated by Aaron Becker

The first meeting will be on Sunday, November 17 at 3 p.m. in the library. Subsequent meetings will be on December 1, 15, and, finally, January 12—when we'll make our final selection.

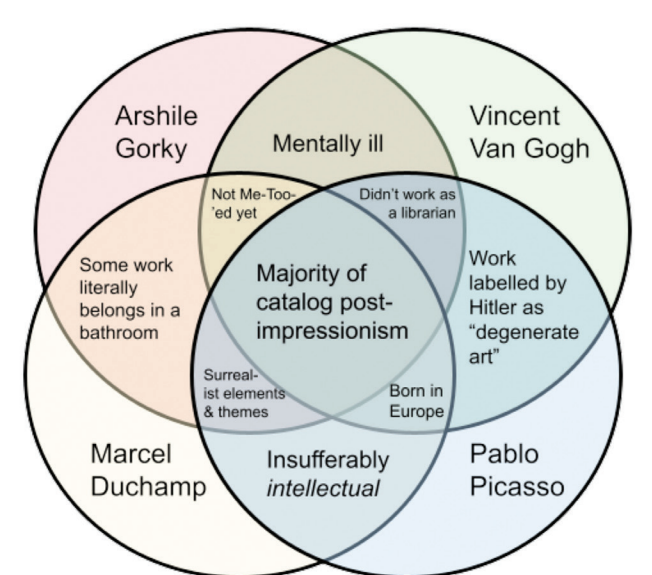
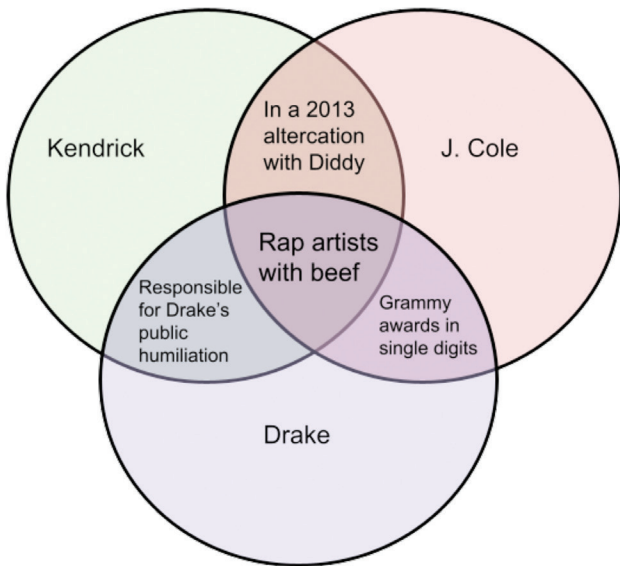
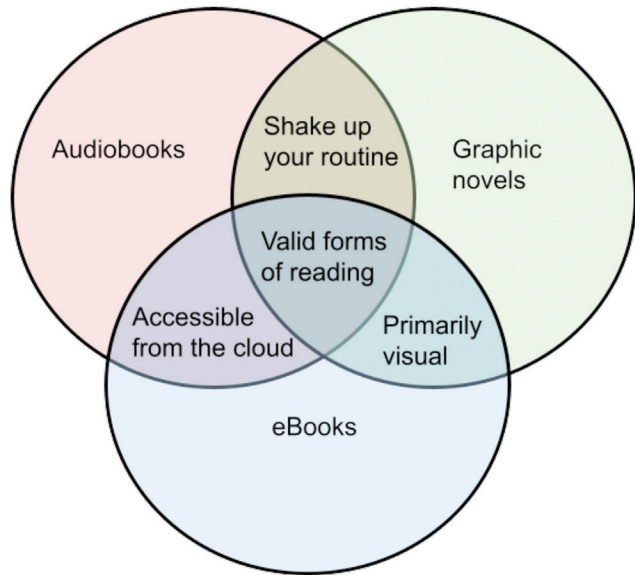
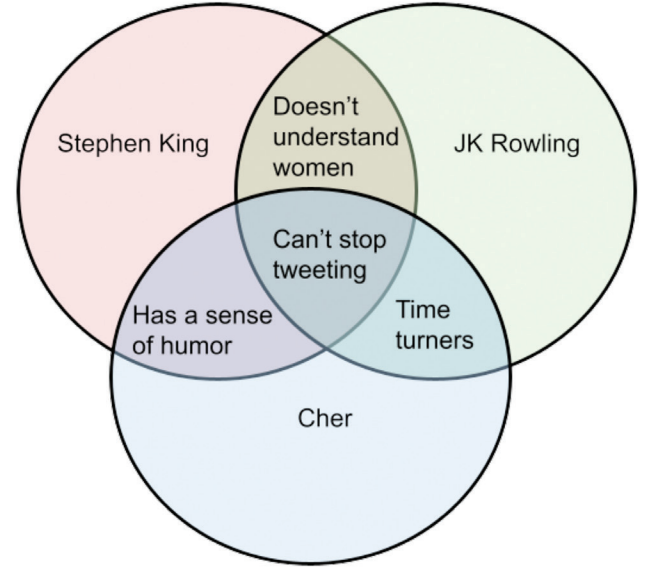
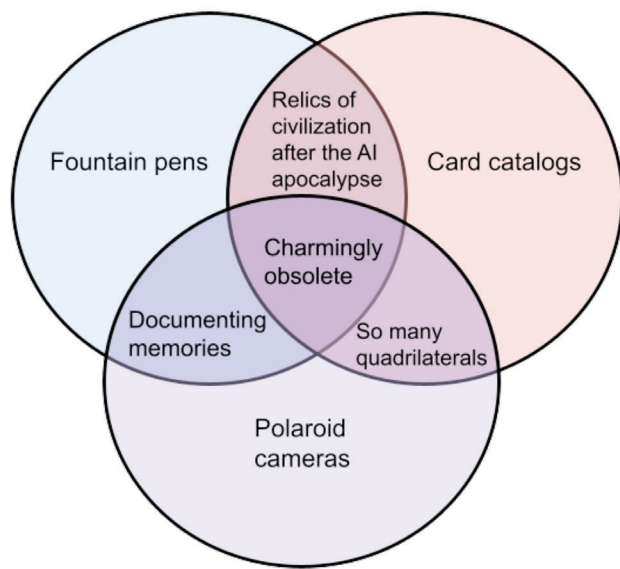
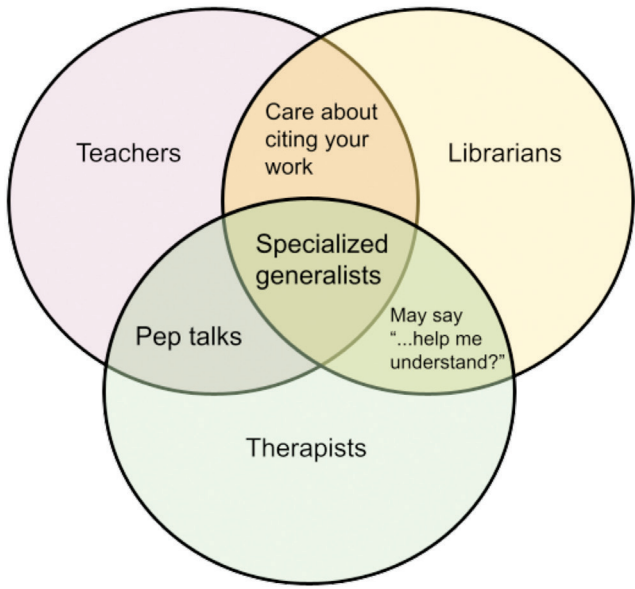


Director's column

Venn Diagrams, Vol. 2

by Jessica Jones

This month, we are busy customizing a new catalog interface that should go live in the near future. So for the column this month, I put together some fun Venn diagrams, data visualization, to think about the intersections to think about.



Listen to This!

Who Did What Now? with Katie Charlwood

by Anne LeVeque

Katie Charlwood is from Donegal, Ireland, and if that's not reason enough to listen to her podcast, I don't know what is. Charlwood is your, "friendly neighborhood social scientist," and a self-described "history harlot." She highlights marginalized and oppressed communities in her podcasts and talks about historical events from a unique perspective. She's funny and lively and smart—and it's a pleasure to listen to her. Found wherever you get your podcasts.



El Cuento



Photos: Veronica Rivera-Negrón.

The Library hosted *El Cuento: Storytelling Workshops for Adults* in September. Parents, caregivers, and educators learned tips on how to make reading more fun for the kids in their lives. The workshops were facilitated in English by Yard Dramas and in Spanish by TELAS Colectivo Teatral. This program was sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

The ARTS

iMusical Brings Live Comedy with Music to Takoma Park

iMusical Performance
Friday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
Free Event

What's going to happen at the upcoming iMusical performance at the Takoma Park Community Center? No one is sure yet, including the actors since they will be improvising a live musical on the spot based on a single audience suggestion.

The performance, which is part of the City of Takoma Park's *Takoma Park Arts* series, is free and no tickets or reservations are required.

Based at the Washington Improv Theater, iMusical has performed at the Kennedy Center, theater spaces across the D.C. area, and comedy festivals in Philadelphia and New York. The *Washington Post* has called the group's performances "spot on."

Founding director Travis Ploeger created the improv group in 2006 after moving



from New York City to D.C. "I wanted to create an improvised musical not to satirize the genre but to celebrate it, having warmth and poignancy as well as comedy," Ploeger said.

A cast of singer-improvisers and a pianist instantly create a compelling new show with each performance, comprised of completely improvised scenes, lyrics and music, all inspired by an audience suggestion.

"Since I've been doing this show since 2006, we've had hundreds of audience suggestions, and it all becomes a blur," Ploeger said. "The most memorable audience suggestion for me generally is from the last performance we did!"

The *Takoma Park Arts* series includes free concerts, theater, art exhibitions, film screenings, and other events at the Takoma Park Community Center. You can learn more about all of our upcoming events and sign up for our e-newsletter at takomaporkmd.gov.

Takoma ARTery Exhibition Shares Talents of Local Artists

Artwork by 20 accomplished artists from the Takoma ARTery group is enlivening the walls of the Takoma Park Community Center in a group exhibition that will be on display until February.

Their artwork spans many mediums, including painting, drawing, photography, encaustic, etchings, hand-cut paper, and mixed media. The artists explore a variety of themes from the deeply personal to global perspectives. The power, beauty and increasing fragility of nature provides inspiration for some artists. Others revel in the fleeting messages of street art, heartfelt portraits, or the minute details of everyday life.

The featured artists include Marilyn Banner, Paige Billin-Frye, Kate Childs Graham, Magalee Cirpili, Sara Daines, Tuula Ehn Smith, Dinesh Godavarty, Susanna Goldman, Li Howard, Julius Kassovic, Renee Lachman, Eleanor Landstreet, Janice Levitt, Ellen Maidman-Tanner, Jake Muirhead, Norah Neale, Becky Snider, Jeff Weiss, Randall Williams, and John Yao.

The City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith curated the exhibition. "Takoma Park is home for many innovative artists, and it's a privilege to showcase their work and highlight our well-earned reputation as an arts-friendly city," he said.

The Takoma ARTery was founded by local artists Eleanor Landstreet and Tuula Ehn Smith during the COVID-19 pandemic to support artists through storefront window displays. The group has expanded to include an online artist directory, local artist meet-ups, and other events. For more info, go to takomaartery.org.



Artwork image credits clockwise from top left: Norah Neale, Dinesh Godavarty, Sara Daines, and Kate Childs Graham

RECREATION

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

TOTS

DANCE

Combo Tot

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

Takoma Park Community Center
Auditorium
7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 3–5

6-week session

Sundays, 12:15–1 p.m.

January 12–March 2

Resident: \$125 / non-resident: \$145

YOUTH

EXTENDED CARE

School Year 2024-2025 Childcare

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

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

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Before The Bell and After The Bell

Transportation will not be provided through Takoma Park Recreation Department. Staff will escort participants to and from the bus stop at Hampshire Towers.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.

Morning Addition and Afternoon Addition

Staff will escort participants to and from Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School.

Winter Program Registration

Registration for activities from January through March will begin on the following dates at noon (online and in person):

- December 9 for scholarship participants
- December 16 for Takoma Park Residents
- December 23 for non-residents

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 ballet choreographers. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center
(Auditorium)
7500 Maple Ave.

Ages 5–12

Saturdays, 12:30–1:15 p.m.

January 11–March 15

Resident: \$90 / non-resident: \$110

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.

January 11–March 15

Resident: \$90 / non-resident: \$110

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.

November 1, November 15,

December 6, December 20

Free with membership

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.

November 2–December 21

Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110

WINTER LEAGUE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Futsal League 2025

Futsal, a sport that is similar to soccer, offers the perfect combination of learning and fun. It is designed to improve fundamental technique and skill development during the winter months. It's also a great opportunity to meet new friends, stay in shape, and prepare for the upcoming season. Please note that program registration is first-come first-served. Parents are encouraged to volunteer as coaches. This is an eight-game season. Practices will be once a week and will begin in December 2024. Games are on Sundays and begin January 12, 2025. Game times are subject to change based on gym availability and number of teams in a division.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

8-game season

Games on Sundays

January 12–March 16

Ages 7–8 division, noon–2 p.m.

Ages 9–10 division, 2:15–4:15 p.m.

Ages 11–12 division, 4:30–6:30 p.m.

Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110

Winter Basketball League 2025

The Winter Basketball League is a developmental, community league. The program will introduce children to the fundamentals of basketball and emphasize that playing the game and being a member of a team are more important than winning. The coaches in this league will focus on personal improvement, sportsmanship, and fun.

Practice times (1 hour per week) vary throughout the week at various local schools. Games are held on Saturdays, times vary. Specific details regarding each league will be available on: takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/sports/winter-basketball-league/.

Coaching Information: Volunteer coaches are always needed. Please contact the Takoma Park Recreation Department if interested (240-687-2202).

Team Assignments: K–2 Grade divisions will reflect gender equity based on number of participants.

Special Requests: Requests must be made in writing and submitted through ActiveNet at time of registration, though there is no guarantee.

Various local school gyms

Grades K–8

8-week season

Practices: weekday evenings

Games: Saturdays, January 11–March 1

Resident: \$100 / non-resident: \$110

TEENS

ART

CRAFT!

Welcome to CRAFT!—Creative Recreational Arts for Teens! In this class, teens will explore mixed media art projects that cater to a variety of interests. Participants will get to work on different art forms, including painting, collaging, illustration, and even sculpting! This class will scratch that creative itch and expose teens to the endless possibilities of art. All experience levels are welcome! There is a non-refundable \$20 materials fee due directly to the instructor on the first day. Instructed by: Kelsey Joyce

Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio

7500 Maple Ave.

Grades 8–11

Mondays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Through December 16

(No class on November 4 or 11)

Resident: \$50 / non-resident: \$60

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Teen Money Management

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

Virtual

Grades 6–12

8-week session

Wednesdays, 6–7 p.m.

Through December 4

Free

SPECIAL NOTICE

Library and Community Center Renovations

- The Game room and Dance studio will be closed to the public and will remain closed during the Library/Community Center renovations.
- Recreation Administrative offices will be located at the temporary Library at 7505 New Hampshire Avenue, Suite 205.
- The Teen Lounge will remain open, and teens can enter and exit the space using the outside entrance near the basketball courts.
- To enter the Community Center, use the Grant Avenue doors.
- Before and aftercare programs will remain as scheduled in the Azalea room.
- Parking at the Community Center is very limited, street parking is recommended.
- Please call the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290 for additional information regarding programs and services.

RECREATION

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

RECREATION

■ From page 8

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, 3–6 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

While Montgomery County Public Schools are in session

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 on out to a night of games, activities and more. Bring your friends for a night out of the house. Free with a Recreation Center Teen Membership.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)

315 New Hampshire Ave.

Ages 12–16

Fridays, 6:30–8:45 p.m.

November 8 and December 13

Free with membership

DRAMA & THEATER

Dungeons and Dragons

They creep through the twilight, quiet as shadows, muttering a language long forgotten, a language only spoken by ghosts. Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role-playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group. Instructor: Dave Burbank

Takoma Park Community Center
7400 Maple Ave.

(Auditorium)

Ages 10–17

4-week wession

Fridays, 4–6 p.m.

January 12–February 2

Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

TRIPS

Teens on the Move: Winter Break Edition

Teens on the Move is back! But this time, for Winter Break. Teens will enjoy Cirque ICE! at Gaylord National on December 26 and snow tubing at Avalanche Xpress on December 27. Those who register for BOTH trips will receive a discount on their registration! Please check out ActiveNet for additional information. Teens will meet in the Teen Lounge to depart for each trip. Don't miss out on all the fun!

Takoma Park Community Center
Meet at Teen Lounge

7500 Maple Ave.

Grades: 6-12

Cirque ICE!

Thursday, December 26

11:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Resident: \$25 / non-resident: \$35

Avalanche Xpress Snow Tubing

Friday, December 27

11:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

Bundle Discount for both trips:

Resident: \$40 / non-resident: \$60

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

Ages 16 and up

9-week session

Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.

January 3–February 28

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.

Through December 14

Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70

Drop-in: \$12

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

RECREATION □ Page 10

Workout with a Pro

The Takoma Park Recreation Department is excited to have Chris Wright, a former professional basketball player, work with the youth in our community! Chris will have his basketball workouts at the Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium. The workouts will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Chris will be working with kids ages 10-18 years old.

Chris Wright is a father of three and a seasoned professional basketball player with a 12-year career spanning the NBA (Dallas Mavericks) and international leagues. A Georgetown University graduate and all-American four-year standout, Chris attended St. John's College High School, where he became the all-time leading scorer in Washington, D.C., and was named 1st Team All-Met three times—a record previously matched only by Basketball Hall of Famer Adrian Dantley. Currently, Chris can be heard as an analyst on the radio for the Washington Wizards. Chris is looking to give back and teach the game that he loves, which gives him the opportunity to make an impact on the youth both on and off the court.

Where did you get your interest in coaching youth basketball?

Coaching basketball at any level is a passion of mine. I was able to see the world, experiences different cultures, foods, religions all from the game of basketball. It's important for me to give that knowledge to the next generation.

What do you hope kids will take away from your workouts?

I hope kids will get a great foun-



Chris warming up for a game



dational knowledge of how to play the game. Through footwork, shooting techniques, dribbling and court awareness.

Through your years of coaching, have you learned anything from the kids?

Through my years of coaching and playing I've learned that people learn in many different ways. The process doesn't look the same for each player, but hard work and dedication beats talent in the end. The only time you don't succeed is when you quit.

How do you know when you have succeeded with the kids and their workout?

Success for each player comes in different styles and forms depending on talent level and work ethic. In order to determine success, we must make goals and be diligent/consistent about achieving them.

Besides basketball, what do you like to do?

Besides being in the gym, I love to read and be with my family. At the end of the day, nothing is more important than family.

Which countries were your favorite to play in?

Turkey, Italy, and Spain.

What were some of your favorite foods that you experienced while playing abroad?

I love Italian food and Turkish food. The different types of pizza, pasta, and wine are top tier. Turkish teas, baklava, and the different/fresh produce was probably the best food I had, very fresh.

Do you have any mentors that helped you along the way?

My mentors are my parents. I wouldn't be who I am today without them.

We look forward to working with Chris and having a successful program. Stop by the Recreation Center on Tuesday or Thursday evenings and meet Chris.

Chris lives by the motto "If you want your soul to be felt through eternity, you teach."



RECREATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE



Questions

Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov

Mackenzie Brown, Committee Chair m.brown59.2@gmail.com

RECREATION

■ From page 9

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.
November 2–December 14
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70
Drop-in: \$12

Ker De Zuri DanXercise Class-Afro Beat

We are a contemporary Afro Dance company specializing in African dancing. Zuri Sana DanXercise's mission is to bring you joy and memories through the art of dance. Zuri Sana DanXercise combines hip hop, salsa, dancehall, contemporary, and African dance moves within our choreography to create a memorable workout experience. Our moves are feasible and suitable for all ages. Participants will be able to shred calories and learn fun choreography all in one class. Instructor: Khady N'Diaye
Takoma Park Community Center
(Auditorium)

7500 Maple Ave.
Ages 16 and up
10-week session
Thursdays, 7–8 p.m.
January 3–March 28
Resident: \$60 / non-resident: \$70
Drop-in: \$10

SPORTS

Adult Drop in Pickleball (Session 2)

Join other new players for adult drop-in pickleball. The entire magic and success of pickleball is that it is a welcoming sport in an informal setting. You can show up to the courts and pick up a game.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 16 and up
Mondays, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
November 4–December 23
Resident: \$20 / non-Resident: \$30

Takoma Park Adult Volleyball Club (Session 2)

Join the Takoma Park Volleyball Club! Grab a friend or make a new one on the court. The club will meet weekly at the Takoma Park Recreation Center for pick-up games of volleyball. Registration is required to

participate and all skill levels are welcome.

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

55+ ACTIVITIES

DANCE

Line Dance

Exercise can be fun with music and dance. Strengthen bones and muscles and improve stamina and flexibility. No experience or equipment needed. Register for Tuesday or Wednesday class, but not both. Instructor: Barbara Brown

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Tuesday, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Through December 10
Wednesdays, 10:30–11:30 a.m.
Through December 11
\$6

Zumba Gold

Classic Zumba movements of lower intensity and easy to follow choreography for balance, range of motion and coordination. Register of one in-person class only. Choose the class option best for you. Instructor: Yesika Young

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.



Winter Program Registration

Registration for activities from January through March will begin on the following dates at noon (online and in person):

- December 9 for scholarship participants
- December 16 for Takoma Park Residents
- December 23 for non-residents

Ages 55 and up
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.
Through December 13
\$6

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Join Senior Planet, University of Maryland Extension, Digital Literacy, for the following tech lecture this Fall. More topics coming throughout 2025. These free lectures introduce popular tech topics and themes in a clear and concise manner. Each presentation aims to explain the general purpose of a device or concept, its usefulness and important tips and tricks. Registration is required.

Everyday Uses of AI

Everyone is talking about AI, already present in everyday tasks from voice assistants to customer service and healthcare. We'll look at common applications of AI across multiple industries and discuss ways you can take advantage of this influential technology.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Activity Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Thursday, 2–3:30 p.m.
November 7
Free

SPORTS

Pickleball Open Play

Join other players for pickleball practice and play in the Gymnasium. This is a drop-in activity. No registration is required.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Thursdays, noon–2 p.m.
Through December 12
Free

Table Tennis

Join your friends and neighbors for fun games of ping pong. This is a drop-in activity. No registration required.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and up
Mondays, 10 a.m.–noon
Through December 16
Free

OPTIONS

■ From page 3

This technique is most effective with a mulching mower and when the leaf drop is light or you can do it frequently.

You may want to use a bagging attachment to assist in transporting chopped leaves. Rake out several inches of leaves into a layer and run them over with the mower. You can then use the bagger to carry the mulched leaves to garden beds, around trees or other areas of the yard where you can store to enable it to decompose further.

If you have a heavier layer of leaves you

can follow these steps:

1. **Run the mower over leaves several times** to chop them into small pieces.
2. **Lightly rake the chopped leaves into a small pile** and then mow that pile a few more times.
3. **These shredded leaf pieces can then be raked around the lawn** or distributed by blowing them with the mower (reopen open the discharge chute.) You don't want the leaf bits to smother the grass.

Fun Fact

Do you know that leaves contain 50% to 80% of the nutrients a plant extracts from the soil and air during a season?

pile during the work day.

Leaf Collection Hotline

The Leaf Collection Hotline, 301 891-7626, will be available for residents to report when their leaf pile is at the curb. It is not necessary to report when your leaves are ready, but it is an option.

TORRES

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"I was looking forward to an agency that had more growth and Takoma Park definitely had more growth," she says. "I was also looking forward to working with other officers. In Prince George's County, I was working alone. Maybe I'd work with another officer but most of the time I was out alone."

In addition to working as a police officer, Torres also serves as the department's LGBTQ+ community liaison officer, fostering understanding, trust, and cooperation between law enforcement and the LGBTQ+ community.

"My responsibility is to facilitate support with the LGBTQ community and increase engagement with officers," she says. "I'm a point of contact between the community and department. I've attended some organization meetings and had the opportunity to attend the Pride parade this year. I had a great time!"

In her role, which was created by the city earlier this year, Torres also works with victims of reported hate crimes and offers assistance and resources as they navigate the

criminal justice system.

A bilingual Spanish speaker, Torres also serves as an interpreter when helping Takoma Park's growing Latino community.

"It's extremely helpful that I am bilingual and speak Spanish," she says. "There's a level of comfort to report a crime, especially in the Latino community due to language barrier or trust. Everyone in the department wants to assist those in need; whether it's the Latino community or LGBTQ+ community, we're always there to help."

Torres says that when she isn't working she's studying for a degree in business administration with a focus on human resources.

"Usually, when I'm off I'm either working on my own student assignments or doing errands since I'm a parent."

The Takoma Park newsletter is doing profiles on some of the city's front line 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

Exploring Safe & Secure Alternatives for Package Deliveries

Online shopping has become a normal part of our lives. With the holidays upon us, having items delivered to your doorstep saves time and effort. But with the rise in packages being delivered, there is also a rise in package thefts. To help you protect your valuable deliveries and ensure they reach you safely, we've put together a set of tips and strategies.

- **Request a Signature:** This ensures that packages aren't left unattended.
- **Install a Security Camera:** Install security cameras that provide real-time alerts and allow you to communicate with delivery personnel remotely.
- **Track your Deliveries:** Keep track of your packages by using tracking numbers and delivery notifications to know when they'll arrive.
- **Choose In-Store Pickup:** Opt for in-store pickup if the retailer offers this option. You can collect your packages at your convenience.
- **Schedule Deliveries:** Many delivery services allow you to schedule specific delivery times when you'll be at home.

See the green box below for some alternative delivery locations and methods.

Contact Information for Emergencies and/or Services During Bad Weather –

Please know who to contact in an emergency and check on your neighbors.

For any storm-related emergencies, to include any injury, tree into a structure, or downed power lines that could still be electrified, call 911.

To report trees down in the roadway blocking traffic, call the Takoma Park Police Department at the non-emergency number, 301-270-1100.



For power outages and to check estimated restoration times, call Pepco at 1-877-737-2662 or visit their power outage webpage at pepco.com/Outages/CheckOutageStatus.

To report downed branches and other debris in the public right of way—roadways or sidewalks—contact Takoma Park Public Works at publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7633.

Winter Coat Drive

Do you have coats, gloves or scarves that you don't need anymore? Donate them!

The Takoma Park Police Department, in partnership with Adventist Church, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, and others, will be collecting clean, gently used warm coats in any size from infant to adult. The coats will be donated to people in need. This coat drive can make a difference in the lives of others by simply donating coats and jackets that are no longer needed. We will also accept clean, gently used gloves/mittens and scarves.

A large box will be in the lobby of the Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Maryland, **beginning Monday, November 4** and will remain in the lobby until **Friday, December 27**. The Takoma Park Police Department will ensure that they are given to those in need during and after the drive. **Please do not drop off**



before the collection date starts

Give warmth to those in need this winter!

Thank you for your generosity.

If you have questions, please contact Cathy Plevy, cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov.

Fall Back for Daylight Savings Time

On Saturday, November 2, set your clocks back one hour before going to bed for Daylight Savings Time (some adjust their times automatically but there are a few that still do not). In addition to turning your clocks back one hour, it's a good time to replace any batteries in both smoke alarms and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors in your homes. Recognizing that working smoke alarms and CO detectors double a family's chance of surviving a home fire and/or an unsafe carbon monoxide level, this simple step can help us avoid tragedies in the place we feel the most secure—our homes.

Along with working smoke alarms and CO detectors, home escape plans are another way Marylanders can avoid injury or death in their homes. By identifying at least two different escape routes, families can practice the plan together—before an emergency strikes. Practicing the plan helps educate younger children to the danger of hazardous situations and the importance of recognizing that the sound of a smoke alarm or CO detector signals a potential hazard in the home. Developing and practicing a home escape plan is one of many ways to protect your loved ones and yourself from fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Police Department Offices Closed on Monday, November 11, in Observance of Veterans Day. The Police Department is Always Open for Emergency Services.

The Takoma Park Police Department offices will be closed on Monday, November 11th, in observance of Veterans Day. Please remember that the police department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

Alternative Delivery Locations and Methods in Takoma Park

Takoma Postal and Business Center

7304 Carroll Ave., takomapostal.com

Takoma Postal and Business Center will sign for your shipments when they arrive, record packages in their package receiving management system, notify you via phone, text, or email when you have a package and safely secure and store your packages until you pick them up at your convenience.

If you're also worried about mail theft from your mailbox, they also allow you to rent a private mailbox and receive all of your mail and packages as part of the

service without the extra package fees.

Amazon Lockers

Shipping to an Amazon Locker is free for Prime Amazon members (they only accept Amazon packages). You would need to contact the company if you are not a Prime Amazon member for pricing. There are places in or near Takoma Park that offer this service. Find information at amazon.com.

UPS Access Point

6315 New Hampshire Ave. (inside Dennis Express).

For more information, visit locations.ups.com.

ups.com.

FedEx On-site

There are places in or near Takoma Park that offer this service.

For more information, visit fedex.com

More Alternative Delivery Methods:

- **Delivery to Workplace:** If your workplace permits it, have packages delivered to your office, where they can be stored securely.
- **Smart Locks:** Install smart locks that allow delivery personnel to access a secure storage area for packages (some

people have this on their garages for packages to be left inside the garage doors out of sight).

- **Local Pickup Points:** Check if your local stores, libraries, or community centers offer package pick-up services.
- **Neighbor Networks:** Coordinate with your neighbors to create a shared delivery drop-off point or neighborhood package hub.
- **Same-Day Delivery Services:** Opt for same-day or on-demand delivery services that reduce the time your package spends outside.

Thanksgiving Joy and Safety

Claudine Schweber Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness

Thanksgiving is the highlight of November, a chance to gather with family and friends. Be prepared to deal with problems that can occur when traveling, cooking meals, dealing with power outages—so you can meet and eat with pleasure.

Travel Safety

Thanksgiving is one of the busiest times for road travel.

- Check the weather before departing and along your route.
- Pack a first aid kit
- Pay full attention to the road; avoid dis-

tractions such as using cell phone.

- Before you travel, update your contact list and make sure the person/s are still willing to participate. Share trip details with contact.

Cooking Safety

Did you know that unattended cooking is the number one cause of home fires? Keep an eye on what you fry: NEVER leave food cooking unattended. If you must leave even for a few seconds, TURN OFF the stove, burners.

- Move items that can burn far away from the stove: dishtowels, boxes, paper or plastic bags, curtains. Keep children and pets three feet away.

- Don't wear loose clothing while cooking.
- Turn pot handles towards the back of the stove so no one bumps into pot accidentally.
- Use a timer as a reminder that the stove or oven is on.
- Check the cooking area/kitchen before going to bed or leaving to ensure all stoves, burners, small appliances are turned off.

Let There Be Light!

We've been through varied weather conditions this year, including storms that affected power. Given the difficulty and dangers of being in the dark, here are

some reminders.

- Prepare for power outages by charging your cell phone in advance of any storm; purchase and test a portable power charger.
- Have battery powered lights and extra batteries; keep lights near you so you can easily grab them when the power goes out.
- NEVER use lighted candles, or lighted matches.
- If the power goes out, try to use only the text function on your cell phone since that uses less bandwidth.

Community ACTIVITIES

The HalfSmokes

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

Hear favorite tunes from WHFS radio's glory days. Combining melodic pop with rootsy rock, their inspired performances of these eclectic classics will remind you of happier times. More information at TheHalfSmokes.com. No cover charge.

Food Forest Plant out Party

Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Montgomery College
Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus
7676 Fenton St., Silver Spring

Come and help us plant trees, shrubs and herbaceous perennials as we expand the food forest to a beautiful new site at Montgomery College. Please bring your own water, gloves, and planting tools if you can. RSVP via the website: foodforestcollective.org.

Dia de Los Muertos Festival

Saturday and Sunday, November 2 and 3, noon–8 p.m.

Cielo Rojo Parking Lot
7211 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park

Face-painting, papel picado, artesanía, local vendors, menu specials, music. Come festively dressed.

Open Studios at DC Arts Studios

Sunday, November 3, 1–5 p.m.
6925 Willow St. NW,
Washington (Takoma), D.C.

From painters, photographers, mixed-media artists, fiber artists, and more, meet the artists of DC Arts Studios. See their artwork, learn about their processes and inspirations. Large or small handmade treasures from local artists make wonderful gifts. DC Arts Studios has provided a vibrant and collaborative studio community for artists in and around Washington, DC since 1979.

Historic Takoma's Reading Room

Sunday, November 3 and 17, 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.

Parents of Special Needs Adult (POSNA) Support Group

Thursday, November 7, 7 p.m.
Via Zoom

We are a support and advocacy group which meets every first Thursday night via Zoom. We advocate for supportive housing, jobs with dignity, safety, and recreation for adults with special needs, including those with autism and/or chronic severe mental illness. For information about the meeting or about POSNA, please contact infoPOSNA@gmail.com.

Troop 33 Pancake Supper

Saturday, November 9, 4–8 p.m.
Don Patti Memorial Gym
Takoma Presbyterian Church
310 Tulip Ave., Takoma Park

Breakfast for Dinner?! That's right! Takoma Park's very own Troop 33 is delighted to invite the community to the annual Pancake Supper Fundraiser, featuring all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage/veggie sausage, apple sauce, and maple syrup. All funds will go to fund scouting activities and provide scholarships to scouts in need for camping and excursion trips, equipment, and a week-long, sleep-away experience. To purchase tickets and make a reservation, visit troop33.takomaparkscouts.org.

iMusical Improv Musical Performance

Friday, November 15, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park

The iMusical improv comedy group includes talented performers from across the D.C. area who create a new musical live on the spot based on audience suggestions. The cast has performed at comedy festivals and venues across the D.C. area, including the Kennedy Center.

Takoma Park Annual Gift Fair

Saturday, December 7, noon–4 p.m.
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church
310 Tulip Ave.
Online through New Years at aggw.org

Takoma Park will be the location of an

Alternative Gift Fair, organized through Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington (AGGW). In a party atmosphere, connect directly with representatives from different locally run, small, direct-service charities, with approximately 40 different alternative gifts from which to choose. The fair is planned to be held, as usual, at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (check aggw.org ahead of time to make sure). For information or to volunteer, visit aggw.org.

Pajamarama and Holiday Market

Sunday, December 8
Old Takoma on Carroll Avenue (Takoma Park) and Carroll Street (Takoma D.C.)

Roscoe the Rooster crows early at this annual holiday shopping event. Pajama-wearing patrons are rewarded with early morning discounts at participating Takoma businesses (8–11 a.m.). Find unique holiday gifts including home decor, kitchen items, books, toys, puzzles, games, bikes, plants, pottery, lamps, clothing, shoes, jewelry, beads, pet supplies, baked goods, groceries, and personal care items. Holiday shopping continues at the Holiday Market at the Takoma Theater at 6833 4th Street in Takoma, D.C. (10 a.m.–3 p.m.). Local artists, makers, and collectors set up outdoors with unique, handmade holiday gifts. More information at mainstreetakoma.org.

Takoma Park Gift Market

Friday, December 13, 5–9 p.m.
201 Ethan Allen Ave., Takoma Park

Celebrate the holiday season under the stars and surrounded by holiday lights at the Takoma Park Gift Market, a curated opportunity to shop small. Enjoy a special evening with a variety of local and handmade gifts, delicious foods, and festive libations. More information at mainstreetakoma.org.

Takoma Cocoa Crawl

Saturday, December 14, 1–4 p.m.
Old Takoma

Enjoy cocoa at area restaurants and cafes during the Takoma Cocoa Crawl! Make one stop or many. Adult versions available too. Businesses will provide single use mugs or to-go cups. Prices and sizes vary by business. Check back for specific offers. More information at mainstreetakoma.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 Ave. for a mix of 25 vendors with seasonal produce, pasture-raised meat and eggs, artisan cheese, grains, bread, baked goods, and more. Find breakfast and lunch at the market, including empanadas, egg sandwiches, burgers, pastries, and more. 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.

Takoma Spark Open Mic

Tuesdays, 7–9:30 p.m.
School of Musical Traditions
7112 Willow Ave.

Hosted by Rob Hinkal of ilyAIMY and sponsored by Institute of Musical Traditions. Signup starts at 6 p.m. All musical genres and poetry and all abilities/ages welcome. No amps or drum kits. For updates, follow Rob's Open Mics on Facebook or visit ilyaimy.com/robsopenmics.

Vote for Where to Spend Community Dollars

The Takoma Foundation has partnered with a group of young people in Wards 4 and 5 to develop proposals and budgets for spending \$20,000 in the community. Now it is your turn to vote on the two final proposals. Voting will continue until January 15, 2025. The winning proposal will be announced in early 2025. To learn more and to vote, visit takomafoundation.org/stories/about-community-dollars.html.

If you'd like to support *Community Dollars* (either through a financial contribution or supplying project materials) please contact us.

Takoma Jazz

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

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



Questions, concerns, or ideas?

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

LARSON

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ual to be transported to the hospital for further evaluation and treatment," says Larson.

Larson points out that this is an important step forward in public safety. Police and the crisis intervention team are co-responders.

"I think that this is the paradigm shift that we talk about in policing," she says. "Our primary goal is really to improve safety and the concern that when officers show up on scene, there is a component that we want to make sure everybody is safe.

"We're going to be very caring and compassionate. And we're also going to make sure that we are reducing trauma and building trust.

Larson points to a recent success.

"We had an individual who was a missing,

It was at the street festival"

Larson and Officer Emmanuel Ayala searched and found her.

"She was crying hysterically, and she was scared and was worried that she was going to get hurt.

"And so I sat on the ground with her and I said, 'Hey, everything's going to be okay. And we're going to get you reunited with mom. You're not in trouble. Sometimes we just get upset, but I'm glad that you're safe.'"

"And just the fact that I got her talking meant that we were able to deescalate and, plant those seeds—like we are a safe entity. We're going to help when we show up, and we're going to make sure that you're connected with your family.

"It's always a good feeling at the end of the day when you can make a positive impact. I

absolutely love getting hugs when those situations happen, and we are glad that everything is okay."

This pilot program is a collaboration between the City of Takoma Park and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). It aims to implement and evaluate a counselor-only response system for mental health calls, moving away from traditional police-only or police and counselor models.

An additional mental health counselor is expected to join the program in the coming months.

Jill Larson can be reached via email JillL@takomaparkmd.gov or by phone 301-891-7149.