

On the DOCKET

CouncilAction

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

JULY 1, 2024

- **Ordinance 2024-16 (1st Reading)**—amending Takoma Park Code, Title 14, Health and Safety, to add Chapter 14.01 Non-Stormwater Discharge
- **Ordinance 2024-17 (1st Reading)**—amending the Takoma Park Code to remove provisions referring to the repealed Law Enforcement Officer’s Bill of Rights and add references to Maryland’s Police Accountability Act
- **Ordinance 2024-18 (1st Reading)**—amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 7, Purchasing and Taxation, Chapter 7.04 General Provisions, Chapter 7.08 Source Selection and Contract Formation to address software and information technology related contracts
- **Ordinance 2024-19 (1st Reading)**—amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 5, Chapter 5.18 Mail-In Ballot Voting and Chapter 5.12 Fair Election Practices to address loans made to candidates and change the last date that ballots may be received when mailed on or before election day
- **Ordinance 2024-20**—approving payment in excess of the contract amount for the Brashear’s Run Outfall Repair and Stream Restoration (Total project cost: \$268,128.41)
- **Ordinance 2024-21**—authorizing renewal of Canon Solutions America lease agreement (4-year lease at \$36,648 per year)
- **Resolution 2024-22**—adopting an Emergency Operations Plan
- **Resolution 2024-23**—providing for appointments to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (Pamela Houedjissi, NR; Faith Ogbonns, Ward 5; Felts Jacobs, Ward 6)

COUNCIL ACTION ☐ Page 3

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK ELECTION FOR MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

November 5, 2024

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, September 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 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 City Election unless the person declines the nomination or does not meet the qualifications for office.

Anyone interested in running for office should review information for candidates at takomaparkmd.gov or email clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

Orientation for Nominated Candidates for Mayor and City Council

After the Nominating Caucus, nominated candidates will be invited to attend an information session on the council-manager form of government, the budget process, and a high-level overview of departments. Individual or small group meetings may be held with the City Manager.

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), 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 COUNCIL

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly City Council agenda and committee calendar update by e-mail can sign up by sending a message to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

The public may comment at regular meetings

of the City Council in person or via Zoom. To comment over Zoom, you must register by 5 p.m. on the meeting date. There is no need to register to comment in person.

The City Council will be on recess until September 4, 2024.

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 virtually on Zoom. Some are holding hybrid meetings (simultaneously in-person and on Zoom)

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 6, 6:30 p.m. (Community Center, Council Conference Room)

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, August 15, 7:30 p.m. (virtual/remote)

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 15, 7 p.m. (Community Center, Council Conference Room with virtual option)

TREE COMMISSION

Wednesday, August 14, 6:30 p.m. (virtual/remote)

ADA NOTICE

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

Public NOTICES

CouncilAction

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JULY 10, 2024

- **Ordinance 2024-16 (2nd Reading)**—amending Takoma Park Code, Title 14, Health and Safety, to add Chapter 14.01 Non-Stormwater Discharge
- **Ordinance 2024-17 (2nd Reading)**—amending the Takoma Park Code to remove provisions referring to the repealed Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights and add references to Maryland's Police Accountability Act
- **Ordinance 2024-17 (2nd Reading)**—amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 7, Purchasing and Taxation, Chapter 7.04 General Provisions, Chapter 7.08 Source Selection and Contract Formation to address software and information technology related contracts
- **Ordinance 2024-19 (2nd Reading)**—amending the Takoma Park Code, Title 5, Chapter 5.18 Mail-In Ballot Voting and Chapter 5.12 Fair Election Practices to address loans made to candidates and change the last date that ballots may be received when mailed on or before election day
- **Ordinance 2024-22**—authorizing the City Manager to enter into a software and services purchase agreement for an enterprise document management system with Cities Digital, Inc. (first year agreement: \$90,230)
- **Resolution 2024-24**—providing for appointments to the Arts and Humanities Committee (Catherine Goode, NR; Linette Lander, Ward 6; John Warren, Ward 5; Taylor Johnson, NR; Joshua Vickery, Ward 1)
- **Resolution 2024-25**—providing for appointment to the Board of Elections (Gregory Lebel, Ward 1)
- **Resolution 2024-26**—providing for appointments to the Emergency Preparedness Committee (Jim Della-Giacoma, Ward 1; Roger McGary, Ward 1; Claudine Schweber, Ward 2; Kathleen Quinn, Ward 2)
- **Resolution 2024-27**—providing for appointments to the Ethics Commission (Adrienne Freeman, Ward 5; Michael Lezaja, Ward 1; Patricia Anne Murphy, Ward 2)
- **Resolution 2024-28**—providing for appointments to the Grants Review Committee (Nadine Bloch, Ward 3; Sarah Michael, Ward 1; Cara Tallo, Ward 2)
- **Resolution 2024-29**—providing for appointments to the Recreation and Community Engagement Committee (Rachna Rikhye, Ward 1; Ken Simler, Ward 1)
- **Resolution 2024-30**—providing for appointments to the Sustainable Maryland Committee (Chiara Atoyebi, Ward 6; Melissa Klein, Ward 2; Janet Owens, Ward 3; Raquel Pichardo, Ward 4; Ian Reichardt, Ward 3; Orissa Samaroo, Ward 2)
- **Resolution 2024-31**—providing for appointments to the Tree Commission (Paul Donowitz, Ward 2; James Woodworth, Ward 2)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

- **Ordinance 2024-23**—Ordinance approving FY25 Community Grant awards: Action Youth Media (\$5,000); Carpe Diem Arts (\$5,652); Community Bridges (\$10,000); Community Food Forest Collective (\$9,760); Dance Exchange (\$10,000); Docs in Progress (\$8,200); Enterprise Community Development (\$10,000); Ethiopian Community Center (\$10,000); Historic Takoma (\$10,000); Rolling Terrace PTA (\$10,000); So What Else (\$9,500); Upwardly Global (\$10,000).

VOTE

■ From page 1

them voting in 2022, compared to 49% of all registered voters.

The City of Takoma Park uses ranked-choice voting. When there are multiple candidates, voters may rank candidates in order of preference (1, 2, 3, etc.). Follow the instructions on your ballot. A candidate must receive a majority of first choice votes to win. If no candidate receives enough votes, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and those ballots are redistributed to their second choice. This continues until one candidate receives a majority.

State elections

To register to vote in Maryland statewide elections, you must be a citizen of the United States, do not claim the right to vote as a resident elsewhere, are not incarcerated due to a felony conviction, and have not been convicted of buying or selling votes. The state allows 16-year-olds to register but they must wait until they are 18 years old to cast a vote.

For registered voters in the state of Maryland, you can check your registration status at voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch.

For additional information on registering to vote, contact the City Clerk's Office at 301-891-7267 or visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-clerk.

Two Separate Elections on November 5, 2024

- Presidential General Election
- City of Takoma Park Election

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

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

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

If you are already registered at an

address in Takoma Park, you need not register again. If you are not registered, you may register to vote in Takoma Park elections if you

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



Photo by Eric Bond

Members of the Takoma Park Youth Council march in the Takoma Park Independence Day Parade, distributing provisions to the community.



Get Involved! Takoma Park Youth Council

The Youth Council was formed by the Takoma Park City Council to encourage youth participation in local government.

The Youth Council

- informs the City Council and staff about the needs and interests of youth in the community;
- organizes events and service projects;
- provides leadership opportunities for youth;
- promotes community pride; and
- encourages youth civic engagement.

Requirements:

Youth Council members must be Takoma Park residents in grades 7–12. They serve for one year but are eligible to apply for reappointment. Members must attend meetings regularly, maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average, and set a positive example for youth in the community. The City Council will make appointments to the Youth Council in September. If interested, apply by **Friday, August 16**.



bit.ly/4bu5TNB

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:

ኮታቶ ያለውን ደህን ክፉ ይፈልጉ የዚህ መጽሔት አርአያ ራስዎ ፕፖል በኢሉቶ ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ተርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታኩማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀ ካደረግን በኋላ ስጽሑፉ አንገኝ ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥግ ላይ ታኅባሰች የአሰሳ አሞሌን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳጥን.

Building COMMUNITY

Keep Our School Children Safe

by Kaysi-Ann Webley
Special Projects Coordinator

As summer draws to a close, the City of Takoma Park is gearing up for another school year filled with learning, growth, and, of course, safety. Montgomery County Public Schools are back in session on Monday, August 26. Whether your child walks, bikes, or takes the bus to school, it's essential to be aware of the best practices for navigating our streets safely. Here are some valuable tips and resources to help ensure a smooth and secure transition back to school:

Safe Walking Routes: 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 bit.ly/SRTSRoute to access detailed maps outlining the safest paths to each school in our Safe Route to School program. These maps highlight designated crosswalks, crossing guards, where sidewalks are missing, and suggested routes that minimize exposure to vehicular traffic.

Biking Safely: For students who ride their bikes to school, it's crucial to follow all traffic laws and wear appropriate safety gear, including helmets. Ensure bikes are equipped with reflectors and lights to enhance visibility, especially during early morning or late afternoon hours when daylight may be limited. Parents, be sure to reinforce good biking habits with your children.

Crossing Procedures: Teach children to use designated crosswalks and always wait for the crossing signal or for traffic to come to a complete stop before proceeding. Encourage younger children to cross streets



Photo by Sam Kittner

Takoma Park Crossing Guard Jordan Bondo is one of the many safety officers who will be out on the street every day, ensuring that children arrive at school and back home safely.

with a trusted adult or older sibling whenever possible.

Visibility Matters: As the days grow shorter heading into fall, visibility becomes increasingly important. Consider adding reflective gear or clothing to your child's attire, especially if they walk or bike during dawn or dusk hours. Bright backpacks and jackets can also help drivers spot pedestrians more easily.

National Night Out Tuesday, August 6: Mark your calendar for National Night Out, where our community will come together to promote neighborhood safety and build connections with local law enforcement. It's a great opportunity to discuss pedestrian and biking safety with city of-

ficials and neighbors. Get some reflective and safety gear while you're out as well.

Walk to School Day Wednesday, October 9: Join schools across Takoma Park in celebrating this 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.

Volunteer Opportunities: We're seeking volunteers to start and support walking and biking buses throughout the school year. These volunteer-led groups will help ensure safe travels to and from school by organizing supervised walking and biking routes. If you're interested in contributing

your time and making a positive impact on our community's safety efforts, please contact Kaysi-Ann Webley, special projects coordinator at kaysiw@takomaparkmd.gov.

As we prepare for the new school year, let's work together to prioritize safety on our streets. By following these tips and participating in community events, we can ensure a safe and enjoyable school year for all Takoma Park students. For more information and resources, visit bit.ly/TKPKSRTS.

Safety Tips for Parents, Motorists, and Children

- Expect delays near schools. Know your route, start early, and drive the posted speed limit.
- Motorists not involved in dropping off or picking up students should consider adjusting their route or schedule to avoid arrival and dismissal traffic in front of schools.
- Park only in lawful areas. Parking within 20 feet of a crosswalk is against the law and can obstruct visibility for both pedestrians and motorists.
- Unload school children onto the sidewalk or right side of the vehicle. Unloading school children into a traffic lane could put a child in harm's way.
- Instruct children to remain alert and look left, right, and then left again before crossing the street.
- Pedestrians, do not use a cell phone to talk or text when crossing the street; do not wear headphones or earpods when crossing the street.

Help with Small Home Repair for Seniors

The City of Takoma Park was awarded \$26,000 from the Maryland Department of Aging's Aging in Place grant program to support the Village of Takoma's Small Home Repair Program. The City of Takoma Park also matches the grant with some of its own funds, bringing the total to \$30,000.

Takoma Park's Code Enforcement division will use the funds to work with the volunteers of the Village of Takoma Park to underwrite the cost of materials for repairs and accessibility modifications for senior homeowners in Takoma Park and Village membership dues for those for whom that expense is a hardship.

The Village has a team of volunteers who perform repairs and modifications for Village members, with members responsible for the cost of materials. Underwriting the cost of construction materials and accessibility aids removes the barrier of members needing to cover those sometimes-costly expenses themselves. Expanding the reach of this program helps ensure that older residents live in homes that are safe and meet their changing needs.



Call the Village of Takoma Park at 301-646-2109 to request help.

Aging in Place Grants

The Aging in Place grants are part of the Maryland Department of Aging's strategy to increase the resources and capacity for local agencies on aging, senior villages, and nonprofit organizations serving older Marylanders and their caregivers. The funds go to providing high-quality services and support, developing social connection and community engagement, and fostering the cultivation of social capital, enabling older Marylanders to thrive in their communities.

Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers Soon to Be Banned

by Sean Gossard

You may have already noticed a stillness and decline in the scent of small engine exhaust wafting through the air of Takoma Park in recent autumns. Many Takoma Park residents have decided to take care of fallen leaves without high-decibel, polluting machines.

And now it's official. The city has banned the sale of gas-powered leaf blowers, starting in July 2024. And on

LEAF BLOWERS □ Page 12



While Takoma Park is phasing out gas-powered leaf blowers, good old-fashioned rakes will remain legal—and encouraged.

Rent Stabilization

The City of Takoma Park Rent Stabilization law was adopted in the 1980's (**City Code Chapter 6.20 Rent Stabilization**). The law maintains the affordability of rental units in the community and sets the limits on yearly rent increases that a landlord can charge on an occupied or vacant unit.

Multi-family rental with two or more units and individual rental condominiums are subject to the rent stabilization law. Some properties are exempt from rent stabilization because they file an application for exemption with the city and got ap-

proval. The exemptions are 1) the Housing Choice Voucher (Section 8); 2) properties that have an agreement with HUD, the state or county, such as LITHIC or nonprofits; and 3) newly constructed rental properties for a period of five years. Rental properties totally exempt from the law are single family rentals; accessory apartments; owner-occupied group homes; and two units, where the owner lives in one unit as their primary residence and rents the other unit.

Generally, the rent may be increased

RENT □ Page 12

Community NEWS

Celebrate the End of Summer with the Takoma Park Folk Festival on Sunday, September 8

by Eric Bond

For many people in Takoma Park, the annual Folk Festival marks the official end to summer and the beginning of the fall—with a day of music and community as we prepare to knuckle down at school and work.

Traditionally held on the second Sunday in September, this year's Takoma Park Folk Festival falls on Sunday, September 9—from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Takoma Park Middle School once again.

Following the renovation on Lee Jordan Field, the Field stage has been moved to the basketball court, but still honors Takoma Park hero Lee Jordan as the Jordan Court stage. This year introduces the Tom Prasada-Rao Memorial stage in honor of the Takoma Park singer-songwriter legend, who passed away in June of this year. Late Takoma Park Mayor Sam Abbott, the driving force behind the first Folk Festival in 1978, is honored once again with the Abbott stage. Other stages coming back this year are the Silk Road, Grove, and Crossroads stages.

The festival offers an array of musical experiences—Americana, folk-pop, country blues, klezmer-fusion, soulful lounge, indie rock, ska, and more—44 acts across six stages.

From its beginning, the Folk Festival has taken a broad approach to the term “folk music,” which became pigeon-holed by the folk revival of the 1950s and 1960s.

“It could really be any kind of music from any place,” says Candice Broda, Folk Festival publicity chair. “The programming group has really worked hard to make a diverse lineup so that it's not your grandpa's folk music. They want it to be more diverse and have younger people, too. They've picked a few that they're calling emerging artists—we have four of them.

“They don't want to have the same performers year after year,” continues Broda, “so if you've performed one year, they won't choose you for the following year. You can apply and be chosen the next year. But they



Forty-four acts perform at the Folk Festival this year, including the Washington Balalaika Orchestra, playing Eastern European folk instruments; Takoma Park's own Country Queen, Karen Collins; Silver Spring singer songwriter Juels Bland, playing jazzy folk, rock, and soul; D.C.'s Strangers That Clique, bringing an array of funk, hip hop, and soul; and Rebecca Berlin, performing traditional folk with a twist of musical theatre. Check tpff.org in mid-August for more information about the line-up.

try to not have the same exact lineup every year just to give other people a chance to come in and show what they can do.”

“We have so much talent in our region; it's great to be able to share that with people,” says Robin Stearn, Folk Festival chair, “But it's so much more than music—there are lots of things to do all day long.”

Broda reminds residents that the festival will also feature “food from all over the world—food trucks and coffee, and sweets. And there's also a juried craft show, with amazing pottery, soap, jewelry, art-work, everything you can imagine. And we're kind of ramping that up children's activities this year.” Broda also points to

the community tables as an important tradition of the folk festival, with the opportunity for festival-goers to connect with local groups and initiatives.

The first Folk Festival was held in 1978 with one stage, organized to raise money to save the Takoma Theater, on 4th Street in Takoma D.C., from being demolished by a developer. That first festival set the tradition of a yearly gathering to celebrate live, local music, entirely organized by volunteers.

“I've been volunteering with TPFf since 2017,” says Joy Markowitz, Folk Festival secretary. “It's a lot of work to pull off a big festival, but the satisfaction of seeing

a diverse group of people enjoying music, crafts, and community is very uplifting. I've been introduced to new music that I continue to listen to regularly, and I've made some new friends along the way.”

“The festival is a volunteer-run event, so we are constantly looking for people to help produce the festival to help out,” says Broda. Potential volunteers can visit the festival's website at tpff.org or send an email to volunteer@tpff.org.

At the press time for the August Takoma Park newsletter, the schedule has not been established. Check tpff.org in mid-August to see the line-up and for information about the crafts and other details.

And the Emmy Goes to ... Bien Martinez

by Sean Gossard

Takoma Park's own Bienvenido (Bien) Martinez was awarded a regional Emmy by the Capital Emmy chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences in the category of Societal Concerns—Long-form Content.

Martinez, who works for Takoma Park's CityTV, was honored for his camera work on the documentary *Linea Directa—Peligro del Fentanilo—Entrevista con Elena Suárez*. The story follows one family's heartbreaking journey into the Fentanyl world, a teenager's overdose, and the devastating consequences and the loss of their daughter.

“When I was nominated I was happy, but I never thought I was going to win, so it was a great surprise,” Martinez said. “But, most important to me is that I won with the help of my co-workers Alvaro Calabia, my direct supervisor, and my co-workers John Pitt and Dylan Cecil. Also, another person who is no longer here in Takoma Park, Rob Ratcliffe. All of them, besides being co-

workers, are my friends and most if not all I have learned from them. My hope or dream is that next time I win another Emmy to win it with the whole team: my family.”

The award was presented by WUSA9 anchor Simone De Alba at the 66th Capital Emmy Awards on Saturday, June 22, at the Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center.

Each year, the Capital Emmys receive well over a thousand entries and award trophies in over 140 categories ranging from breaking news to historical and societal documentaries and sports coverage, among many others.

Takoma Park CityTV has partnered with the production of *Linea Directa*, one of the oldest local TV shows that deals with topics that affect the Hispanic Community. The shows air on Telemundo and City of Takoma Park TV channels.

You can see the video on [youtube.com/watch?v=udMYQAGiDjg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=udMYQAGiDjg).



Bien Martinez won a regional Emmy for his camera work on a documentary about one family's tragic encounter with Fentanyl.



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.

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 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 August 6 with Noa



Nahom Aklilu (right) and Nebaioth Asnake play a round of chess on the permanent chess board in the Library. Everyone is welcome to play, and the pieces for this board are kept at the front desk. Photo by Anne LeVeque

Baum. 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 chessboards and pieces. Players of all levels are welcome. There will be group instruction once a month. Please register if you want to receive updates. There will be NO chess instruction in August!

LEGO Club. Block time on your calendar for fun with LEGOs. Sunday, August 4 at 2 p.m.

Kids' Art. Next Kids' Art will be Sunday, August 18 at 2 p.m. Come make a fun art project!

National Night Out! August 6, 6–9 p.m. in front of Piney Branch Elementary School on Maple Avenue. The Library is once again participating in National Night Out, a nationwide safety event sponsored in Takoma Park by our Takoma Park Police Department. The Library will be giving away bags of LEGO, so come by and get yours! We will also be renewing library cards and making new ones.

Yard Dramas is back! At the Crossroads Farmers Market located on Anne Street at University Boulevard East in Takoma Park. The market meets weekly on Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. throughout the summer. Yard Dramas will meet on August 7, 14, 21. *Sponsored by Maryland State Arts Council.* We are looking for teen and adult volunteers. Please email Verónica Rivera-Negrón at veronican@takomaparkmd.gov for details.

El Cuento 2024: Storytelling Workshops for Adults. Saturday, September 14, 10–11:30 a.m. and 2–2:30 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. and *Outdoor Storytelling Using Props*, facilitated in English by Jennifer Ridgway of 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. (5-minute walk from the Library). In case of inclement weather, both workshops will be at the Library. More details and registration at tinyurl.com/ElCuento2024

Social work help from CE-CG. Social work help at the library. The library staff often find that they are called on by patrons to help solve problems that might be better addressed by a social worker. While the staff tries to help make appropriate referrals and recommendations, there are many things we simply cannot do, or don't have the best information about. The Community Engagement and Consultation Group (ce-cg.org) has stepped up to help our patrons find the best resources, depending on their problem. CE-CG can help patrons with SNAP (food stamps) and Medicaid enrollment, finding food assistance, health and wellness education, referrals for affordable healthcare, English language learning classes, workforce training and employment assistance, and more. If they cannot address your problem themselves, they can refer you to someplace that can. CE-CG will have a table in the library once a month, on the second Thursday of the month through October. The next time they will be at the Library is August 8, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

SummerQuest returns! The library's adventure reading program has returned, this time with **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

Fall Book Club Delves into the Wild Woods

by Tim Rahn

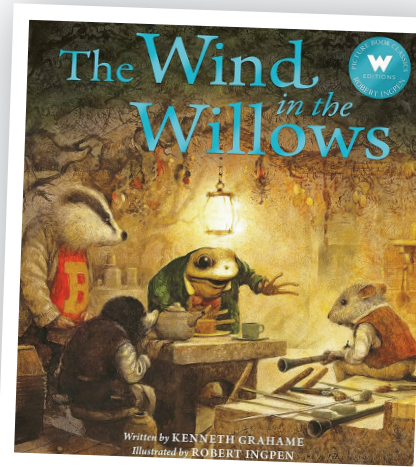
The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame, long considered one of the great works of children's literature will be discussed by the Friends Book Group on Thursday, September 12 from 7:30 to 9 in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center.

Online accessibility to the discussion of *The Wind in the Willows* will also be available by invitation. If you are interested in joining online send your request to ftmplbookgroup@gmail.com.

Published in 1908 during the Edwardian Era, Gra-

hame introduced the world to Masters Toad, Badger, Mole, and Rat and their delightful adventures in the land of Wild Wood. Although Grahame's use of animals to portray his characters has pigeon-holed *The Wind in the Willows* as children's literature, neither Grahame nor his publisher thought of the novel as a children's book.

Initial reviews of *The Wind in the Willows* were lukewarm. Publishers in England and the United States were disappointed that Grahame had not written a novel that followed on his previous work, *The Golden Age*. Yet the public quickly warmed to the story of the four friends. Theodore Roosevelt wrote Grahame



Ivan Turgenev. More on this in the September issue of the Newsletter!

to tell him that he had, "read it and reread it, and have come to accept the characters as old friends."

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

Copies of *The Wind in the Willows* can be borrowed from the library. It is available as an ebook and as an audiobook on Hoopla, the library's digital book program.

The Big Book Group's fall selection will be *Fathers and Sons*, by

El rincón de Verónica

El Cuento 2024: ¡Registro abierto! Registration Open!

por Verónica Rivera-Negrón

El Cuento 2024: Talleres de narración de cuentos para adultos

- Aprende cómo hacer que la lectura sea más atractiva para los niños.
 - Descubre libros fabulosos en español e inglés disponibles en la biblioteca.
 - Conéctate con personas que quieren promover la lectura en nuestra comunidad.
- Los talleres son gratuitos y serán relevantes para adultos con niños en sus vidas: padres/madres, cuidadores, educadores o profesionales juveniles.
- ¡Participa en uno o ambos talleres!

Musicalización de un cuento

- Facilitado en español por Melissa Strova-Valencia / TE-LAS Colectivo Teatral
- Sábado, 14 de septiembre de 10:00 - 11:30 AM.
- Biblioteca interina en 7505 New Hampshire Ave, Suite 205

Outdoor Storytelling Using Props (Narración de cuentos al aire libre con utilería)

- Facilitado en inglés por Jennifer Ridgway / Yard Dramas
- Sábado, 14 de septiembre, de 1:00 - 2:30 PM.
- Afuera del Takoma Park Recreation Center en 7315 New Hampshire Avenue (a 5 minutos caminando de la

GRATIS



El Cuento 2024:
Talleres de narración de
cuentos para adultos

- Aprende cómo hacer que la lectura sea más atractiva para los niños.
- Descubre libros fabulosos en español e inglés disponibles en la biblioteca.
- Conéctate con personas que quieren promover la lectura en nuestra comunidad.

¡Padres/madres, cuidadores, educadores y
profesionales juveniles son bienvenidos!







biblioteca)

- En caso de mal tiempo, el taller será en la biblioteca.

El espacio es limitado. Debes registrarte en línea o mediante llamada telefónica para participar. Registro en línea: tinyurl.com/ElCuento2024

Se servirá un almuerzo ligero para llevar entre talleres.

¿Tienes hijos?

Estos talleres están dirigidos a adultos. Sin embargo, si eres padre/madre o cuidador, entendemos que es posible

que tengas que traer a tus hijos.

Para traer a tus hijos, debes estar de acuerdo con lo siguiente:

- Debes informarnos al momento de la inscripción los nombres, las edades y cualquier restricción alimenticia de los niños (serviremos un almuerzo ligero para llevar).
- Los niños pueden quedarse contigo en todo momento o, si tienen 4 años o más, pueden unirse al Kids Zone. (El Kids Zone estará a la vista. Un bibliotecario y adolescentes voluntarios facilitarán actividades sencillas. No se debe esperar cuidado de niños especializado en el Kids Zone.)

¿Listo para registrarte?

Por favor, llena este formulario de registro en línea.

O regístrate mediante llamada telefónica. Contacta a Verónica para coordinar un horario para hacer una “entrevista”. Se te harán las mismas preguntas que en el registro en línea.

¿Preguntas?

Comunícate con Verónica Rivera-Negrón, Gerente de Servicios para Niños y Jóvenes, en VeronicaN@TakomaParkMD.gov o al 240-997-8453.

¡Gracias, auspiciadores!

¡Gracias a Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library y a Takoma Foundation por patrocinar *El Cuento 2024: Talleres de narración de cuentos para adultos*!

El Cuento 2024: Storytelling Workshops for Adults

- Learn how to make reading more engaging for children.
 - Discover great books in Spanish and English available at the Library.
 - Connect with people who want to promote reading in our community.
- Workshops are free and will be relevant to adults with youth in their lives: parents, caregivers, educators or youth professionals.
- Join one or both workshops!


Musicalización de un cuento (Adding Music to a Story)

- Facilitated in Spanish by Melissa Strova-Valencia / TE-LAS Colectivo Teatral
- Saturday, September 14, at 10:00 - 11:30 AM
- Interim Library at 7505 New Hampshire Ave, Suite 205

Outdoor Storytelling Using Props

- Facilitated in English by Jennifer Ridgway / Yard Dramas
- Saturday, September 14, at 1:00 - 2:30 PM
- Outside the Takoma Park Recreation Center at 7315 New Hampshire Avenue (5-minute walk from the Library)
- In case of inclement weather, the workshop will be at


FREE








El Cuento 2024:
Storytelling Workshops
for Adults

- Learn how to make reading more engaging for children.
- Discover great books in Spanish and English available at the Library.
- Connect with people who want to promote reading in your community.

Parents, caregivers, educators,
and youth professionals welcome!







the Library.

Space is limited. You must register in person or via phone call to participate. Online registration: tinyurl.com/ElCuento2024

A light to-go lunch will be served between workshops.

Do You Have Kids?

These workshops are geared towards adults. However,

if you're a parent or caregiver, we understand you might need to bring your kids with you.

To bring your kids, you must agree to the following:

- You must let us know at the time of registration the kids names, ages, and any dietary restrictions (we will serve a light to-go lunch).
- Kids can stay with you at all times or, if they are 4 and up, they can join the Kids Zone. (The Kids Zone will be within sight. Simple activities will be facilitated by a librarian and teen volunteers. Specialized childcare should not be expected at the Kids Zone.)

Ready to Register?

Please submit this online registration form. Or register via phone call. Contact Verónica to coordinate a time to do an “interview.” You will be asked the same questions as in the online registration.

Questions?

Contact Verónica Rivera-Negrón, Manager of Children and Young Adult Services, at VeronicaN@TakomaParkMD.gov or 240-997-8453.

Thank You, Sponsors!

Thanks to the Friends of Takoma Park Maryland Library and Takoma Foundation for sponsoring *El Cuento 2024: Storytelling Workshops for Adults*!

Listen to This!

by Gene Miller

Rather than a review of an entire podcast series, this is a review of three episodes of the *Reveal* podcast by the Center for Investigative Reporting and PRX (Public Radio Exchange) along with Mother Jones and the Center for Public Integrity.

40 Acres and a Lie, episodes one, two, and three explore General William T. Sherman's Field Order #15, which came to be known as “40 Acres and a Mule.” With that Order, Sherman set aside a strip of land from northern Florida all the way up to the border of North and South Caro-



lina, reserving that land for the formerly enslaved to set up living for themselves. Each head of household was given a certificate entitling him/her to a certain acreage – often on the plantation where they had been enslaved.

President Lincoln supported this plan, but within a few months of the Order having been handed down, Lincoln was assassinated. He was replaced by Andrew Johnson, who vitiated and ultimately rescinded the Order, leaving the formerly enslaved people with worthless pieces of paper – and also depriving them of the possibility of creating generational wealth in the form of property to be handed down to subsequent generations.

Episode 1 is of particular interest to me

because it concerns Edisto Island, which some of you know that Jane and I have both great interest in and affection for – in large part because her second great-uncle was on Edisto Island in the wake of the rescission of Order #15, helping formerly enslaved Edistonians become landowners in spite of it all. He and that work are the subject of the book I wrote that was recently added to the TPML catalog, *John S. Thorne: A “Black King of Edisto.”*

I also worked with April Simpson, one of the chief investigators/reporters for this series, as she was beginning her research. And Greg Estevez, who is interviewed at some length, has been my main contact on Edisto for a number of years. This episode covering Edisto Island is both thoughtful and impassioned: a job well done.

You can find these episodes at reveal-news.org/episodes/ or wherever you get your podcasts..



Fix-It Clinic
Sunday, August 25, 2–4 p.m.

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library is sponsoring Fix-It Clinics at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. An army of handy volunteers bring a variety of fixing expertise, including the ability to work on electronics, small appliances, lamps, bicycles, and furniture.

Ahead of the Fix-It clinic, people can sign up for a slot at tinyurl.com/yvykumps. More information at ftpmi.org or email Fixittakoma@gmail.com. See story on page 1 of the newsletter.

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

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.
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 with one to perform, 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. 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 before care. 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 is 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 Oct-May.

Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue Before The Bell & After The Bell

Transportation is not provided through the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Contact Montgomery County Public Schools transportation to set up a bus stop. 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 Avenue Morning Addition & Afternoon Addition

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

SPORTS

Basketball Skills

This class will teach the fundamentals of the sport. Good Sportsmanship will be emphasized. 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

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, 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
MCPS 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 on out to a night of games and other activities. Bring your friends for a night out of the house. 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 6-December 6
Free with membership

SPORTS

Teen Basketball Fundamentals

We are excited to now offer Basketball skills to upcoming teens! This program will assist in the individual skill improvement for teens, which is one of the guiding philosophies of this basketball program. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching which allows each person to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit the individual needs of each participant.

Takoma Park Recreation Center (Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 12-17
Sunday, 9–10 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, which was voted the best screampark 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 if you would like to take advantage of this. Additionally, there will be carnival games with tickets available onsite. Participants will meet in the Teen Lounge 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

RECREATION

■ From page 8

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 pickleball practice and play in the Gymnasium. This activity is geared toward beginners. Two courts and limited paddles available. This is a 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, meaning that you can show up to the courts and pick up a game. It doesn’t matter what your age is; you can just play.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Gymnasium)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 18 and up
8 Week Session
Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

September 9-October 28
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

Adult Kickball League

The Takoma Park Adult Kickball League is a fun and exciting recreational program for competitive adults of all skill levels. Games will be played on Sundays. Put together your winning team and go against other area 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
7350 Takoma Ave.
Ages 18 and up
Sundays, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
September 15-November 3
Resident team: \$200 / non-resident team: \$300

Takoma Park Adult Volleyball Club

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
8 Week Session
Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
September 11-October 30
Resident: \$20 / non-resident: \$30

55+ ACTIVITIES

ART

Arts and Crafts with Alice

Brighten 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
4 Week Session
Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m.
September 18, October 16, November 20, December 18
\$6

CAMP

Pickleball Summer Camp

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

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

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



The Power of Mindful Movement Benefits of Yoga, Tai Chi and Qigong for Healthy Aging

We’ve all heard it’s important to move more and if you want to increase your activity level, then yoga, tai chi and qi gong are great ways to start exercising and develop a fitness routine. Yoga, tai chi and qi gong combine low-impact, gentle physical movements; breathing techniques; and meditation to connect body, breath, and mind. Many movements are performed standing, however variations can be performed seated, as well. Research has proven that these practices can have wonderful health benefits such as improving balance, strength, flexibility, heart health, and immune function—while lowering the risk for falls. Exercise has long been tied to improved mental health, and yoga, tai chi and qi gong may be useful for the mind-body workouts needed to boost mood, reduce anxiety and stress, and improve sleep.

Since 2016, Master Robert Thompson’s Tai Chi Strength class has been a popular course in the Takoma Park Recreation Department’s Forever Young 55+ fitness program. Master Thompson keeps his in-person class small in order to give individualized attention to his students. Because of this, his class tends to fill up fast and carry a waiting list. Therefore, we are happy to offer a second Tai Chi Strength class beginning this fall, Wednesdays at noon, at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave. We hope this will provide an opportunity for more people to participate in his class, and, in his words, “spread good health and balance



Tehseen Chettri (above and below left) will be teaching yoga this fall, and Robert Thompson (below right) continues his popular tai chi instruction.



to the Takoma Park senior community.”

In addition, we welcome Tehseen Chettri to the Forever Young 55+ fitness program as an instructor! This fall, Tehseen will be teaching Iyengar yoga for 55+, Tuesdays, noon-1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. In this class, the basic postures are introduced, whole body awareness is created, and energy is generated to bring into alignment the different parts of the body to associate the breath and mind and release tension and stress. Tehseen Chettri has been practicing yoga for more than 20 years and has taught adult yoga evening classes for several years at the Takoma Park Community Center.

“I’m excited for this opportunity to offer Iyengar yoga to older adults in Takoma Park,” says Chettri.

Our popular qi gong class with Anne Harrison, Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. and Yoga for Healthy Aging class with Carol Mermey, Fridays at noon will continue.

For these and other class descriptions, dates, times, and costs, go to the Takoma Park Recreation website: takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation

To register for classes, click on ActiveNet. Don’t forget about our scholarship program, providing city residents who qualify an opportunity to apply for a lesser fee than the published amounts.

As always, you are welcome to contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290 for more information.

RECREATION

■ From page 9

Takoma Park Recreation Center
(Back Activity Room)
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Ages 55 and older
14 Week Session
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 drop-in activity, once a month, no registration required. Host: Paula Lisowsk
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
14 Week Session
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 astep-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
14 Week Session
Tuesdays, noon-1 p.m.
September 3-December 10
No class on November 5.
\$6



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



FIX-IT

■ From page 1

"Sometimes something just needs to be cleaned," remarked Leonard as he hit a little service bell, which indicates that a repair has been completed and the appliance has earned its wings.
As the Takoma Park Green Elf, DeKona volunteers as a reuse coordinator, Montgomery County recycling educator, and trash team member of several organizations, including Friends of Sligo Creek.
"So many things are simple to repair." Says DeKona. Recycling, in my opinion, should be your last resort. Reuse something 'til it's dead.
"That was something my father and I did habitually. It was very exciting that I was able to observe and then he would always instruct and explain what he was doing and then give me a chance to then engage by turning the screws or whatever it was."
"I don't know if I call myself a great fixer," says Leonard, who is 17. "I think it's mostly just the compilation of years of

random projects, finding free things and taking them apart, seeing if I can get them back together. Just fixing stuff that I need to work but don't want to pay someone else to fix. So, yeah, just years of experience, no specific training."
Anne LeVeque, the Computer Center instructional associate at the library, helps patrons with sewing issues. She says that the library is a natural place for the Fix-It Clinic.
"A library is a community center, a third place, which means a place that's not work, that's not home," says LeVeque. "And it's also a place where you don't have to pay for things. And so all of this is provided absolutely free, and we are also trying to help people learn how to do the repairs themselves."
"It's part of this whole ethos of making things, mending things, et cetera. It's a type of frugality that's not stinginess, but not being wasteful. And the folks who know how to fix things and know how to build things are going to do better [during an emergency]. It's good to have these sorts of skills."

LeVeque says that there are simple things, like hemming a pair of pants, that most people can do. And the sewing machines at the library make it possible for those who don't own a machine.
"One of the things that does have to happen is that people do have to register for this," says LeVeque. "You can't just walk in with a broken appliance and say, 'Oh, hey, can somebody fix this, we do provide links and email addresses and stuff like that for people to communicate with the organizers and say what they need to have fixed and to pick out a time slot and that sort of thing. That way we're not inundated with here in the sewing corner with 15 people who need those pants hemmed right away."
Ahead of a Fix-It clinic, people can sign up online at SignUpGenius.com, with information about the item that they are bringing in. At times, another part is needed, so the Fix-It volunteer will help their client order a part and come back to the next clinic.
Information about the Fix-It clinics is

announced on the Friends of Takoma Park Maryland Library website: ftpml.org. Community members can sign up for the Friends newsletter, which will announce the date and time ahead of the clinic. In addition, the monthly Takoma Park Newsletter will announce the dates on the library page.
Mulbry says that he and his volunteers plan to hold a clinic every month throughout the balance of the year. The third Saturday of October (October 19) is International Repair Day, and Mulbry does plan to hold a clinic on that date.
"Fixing things in general is terribly frustrating," says Mulbry. "The first time you do it, you're just like, 'Oh my God, I have the wrong tool.' Or 'Oh, how do you do this?' And then you're like, 'Oh, gee, I don't want anybody else to go through that.' Let's share that knowledge.
The next Fix-It Clinic will be on Sunday, August 25, 2-4 p.m. To sign up for a slot, visit tinyurl.com/yvykumps. You can also email any questions to Fixittakoma@gmail.com.

Stay Informed

To receive notifications directly from the police department, register at takomaparkmd.gov/police.

Notifications include, but are not limited to, crime alerts, traffic, weather, missing persons, and lost pets. For more information, contact Cathy Plevy at cathyp@takomarkmd.gov.

Give a Local Kid a Backpack

School will be back in session before you know it. Help us make the first day of school a happy one for every kid! We are collecting backpacks through Friday, August 16. Drop off a backpack for a local child in the bin in the Takoma Park Police lobby on the lower level of 7500 Maple Ave. You can also drop off school supplies for local kids in the bin.

Thank you for your generosity!



Free Vacant House Checks

Going away for a summer vacation in August? Did you know that Takoma Park Police offer FREE vacant house checks while they are away? For more information and an application, visit the Police page at takomarkmd.gov.

(And here's a police tip: Do not mention that you are out of town on social media.)

Labor Day Closure

The Takoma Park Police Department offices will be closed on Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day. However, please remember that police are available 24/7 for emergency services.

At Your SERVICE

Come Out to Our Block Party

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 6, 6–9 p.m.
Piney Branch Elementary School
7510 Maple Ave.

The Takoma Park Police Department aims to heighten safety and crime prevention awareness with an annual community block party, featuring games, food, and music. Come out for summertime fun with your city police department—and learn more about how you can promote public safety.

National Night Out will feature police vehicles and police horses, McGruff the Crime Dog, child i.d. kits, games from Let's Play America, a dunk tank, basketball, face painting, a moon bounce, food trucks, and sand art.

We all need a night out before summer ends!



Photos by Cathy Plevy]]



Be Prepared for August Weather

by Claudine Schweber,
Emergency Preparedness Committee

Beat the Heat: Don't Take Chances

Take precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones against heat-related illnesses, such as heat stroke and heat exhaustion. Please note the following days and times when Takoma Park facilities are open to the public and offer cool refuge:

Takoma Park Community Center,
7500 Maple Ave.
Sunday, noon–5 p.m.
Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–9:30 p.m.
Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–9 p.m.
Saturday, 1–9 p.m.
Closed on Sunday

Takoma Park Maryland Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave.
Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–8 p.m.
Friday–Sunday, noon–6 p.m.

For more information, tips, and cool facilities throughout Montgomery County, please visit montgomerycountymd.gov/OPI/alerts/Heat.html.



Contact Information for Emergencies and/or Services During Bad Weather

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

- Call 911 for any storm-related emergencies, including any injury, a tree fallen into a structure, or downed power lines that could still be electrified.
- 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 esti-

mated restoration times, call Pepco at 1-877-737-2662 or visit its 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.
- For issues with cable lines or internet, call your service provider.

Also, make sure you have several battery operated flashlights on hand. In case of an outage, do not use lighted candles.



Community ACTIVITIES

The HalFSmokes

Friday, August 2, 7–10 p.m.
VFW Post 350 in Hell’s Bottom
6420 Orchard Ave.
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.

Historic Takoma’s Reading Room

Sunday, August 4 and 18, 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.

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 6, 6–9 p.m.
Piney Branch Elementary School
7510 Maple Ave.
The Takoma Park Police Department aims to heighten safety and crime prevention awareness with an annual community block party, featuring games, food, and music. Come out for summertime fun with your city police department—and learn more about how you can promote public safety.

Fix-It Clinic

Sunday, August 25, 2–4 p.m.
Takoma Park Maryland Library
7505 New Hampshire Ave.
Don’t trash it—fix it! The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library is sponsoring Fixit Clinics at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. An army of handy volunteers bring a variety of fixing expertise, including the ability to work on electronics, like stereo systems and computers; small appliances; lamps; bicycles; and furniture. The library also hosts a congregation of sewing machines and skilled tailors who can help repair clothing and other cloth items, while showing the owner how to make such repairs themselves. Even knives and lawn mower blades can be sharpened. Ahead of a Fixit clinic, people can sign up online at SignUpGenius.com. More information at ftpm.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 a.m.–7 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 information at tpff.org.
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 Rd.
It’s time for put on your comfy shoes and play for a change! 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 on 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 mainstreettakoma.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.

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.

LEAF BLOWERS

■ From page 4

July 1, 2025, the **use** of those gas-powered leaf blowers within the city and county will also be banned.
“Gas leaf blowers emit toxic pollutants, particulate matter, and noise that creates negative health impacts for people nearby,” says Rick Baravechia, the city’s Code Enforcement manager. “The city is concerned for the environment and the health of its residents.”

The measure was brought by Ward 2 Councilmember Cindy Dyballa and was unanimously passed by the Takoma Park City Council in March.
To help residents make the transition from gas-powered to electric leaf blowers, Montgomery County has set up a rebate program. Businesses and residents with a Montgomery County address are eligible. Depending on the size of the business, landscapers can receive up to \$1,500 in rebates over a 12-month period. Residents and property managers can receive up to

\$100 for one rebate. Applicants will only receive rebates if the address is for a business or a property that maintains landscapes necessitating the use of leaf blowers.
To see if you’re eligible for an electric leaf blower rebate, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/property-care/leaf-blowers/electric-leaf-blower-rebate.html.
Meanwhile, rakes remain pollution-free and fully encouraged by the City of Takoma Park.

RENT

■ From page 4

only once in a 12-month period, and rent increases are limited to the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Landlords subject to the rent stabilization law must submit rent reports on an annual basis. In reviewing the 2023 Annual Rent Stabilization Report, a total of \$26,022 was reimbursed/credited to tenants for overcharge in rents from July 1, 2022–June 30, 2023. The CPI for that period was 7.3%.

The previous CPI was 3.7% (July 1, 2023–June 30, 2024). The new CPI for this period is 3.4% (July 1, 2024–June 30, 2025).
If you have any questions regarding your rent, please contact Jean Kerr at jeank@takomaparkmd.gov or at 301-891-7216.



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



Watch Takoma Park City TV on Your Phone!

You can now watch live city council meetings, Takoma Park Arts performances, public service announcement and much more on the new Takoma Park City TV App. The app is available for download at Android Mobile, Apple TV and Apple Apps, Roku, and Fire TV.
Takoma Park City TV is an award-winning government access channel that can now travel with you. Connect to your community through City TV and your phone!