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**Holidays for City Staff**

**Christmas Holiday**  
City offices will be closed from 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 24 through Friday Dec. 25.

**New Year's Holiday**  
City offices will be closed at 6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31 and Friday, Jan. 1. The regular schedule will resume on Monday, Jan. 4.

**Trash holidays**

**Christmas**  
Collections scheduled for Friday, Dec. 25 will happen a day early, on Thursday, December 24.

**New Year's**  
Collections scheduled for Friday, Jan. 1, 2021, will happen a day earlier, on Thursday, Dec. 31.

**Look for this icon throughout this issue**  
See page 14



Conveniently located drop boxes made it easy to participate in the City's first ever vote by mail election.

## Takoma Park turned out to vote

The City held its first ever vote by mail election on November 3, 2020. Every active registered voter of the City was sent a ballot by mail. Voters could return their ballots by U.S. mail; place them in a secure drop box at the Takoma Park Recreation Center or at the Takoma Park Community Center, or vote on Election Day at the Takoma Park Community Center.

In sum, 6,549 ballots were counted to

**ELECTION RESULTS** □ Page 6

## Nuclear-Free Takoma Park celebrates 37 years of landmark ordinance

By Sean Gossard

Nearly four decades after Takoma Park passed its landmark nuclear-free ordinance, the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park committee believes there is still plenty of work to be done in the fight against nuclear weapons.

The ordinance (Chapter 14.04 of the Takoma Park Municipal Code), passed in December of 1983, does not allow the producing, storing or transporting of nuclear weapons in the city nor does it allow the city to do business with companies that benefit from the nuclear weapons industry. Takoma Park was one of the first municipalities in the U.S. to enact such stringent anti-nuclear legislation and the first to include the provision prohibiting



The first Nuclear Free Zone sign on Carroll Avenue at the D.C. line is installed after a landmark ordinance was passed in 1983.

**NUCLEAR-FREE** □ Page 7

Information and Resources: Covid19  
[takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov)

Questions, Comments and Suggestions  
[askus@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:askus@takomaparkmd.gov)

**#TogetherTKPK**

## Health services amid growing pandemic

By Sean Gossard

Between a worsening global pandemic and the open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act — or Obamacare — ending on December 15th, now is a great time to learn more about what kind of community health services can be found in Takoma Park.

In Montgomery County and parts of Prince George's County, CCI Health & Wellness Services has been providing primary care and other health services to under-served communities since 1972. Roughly 97 percent of its patients live at or below the poverty line, according to its website.

CCI focuses on services like primary care, dental care and the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) nutrition education and food supplement program. They are also a provider of family planning services as well as maternal aid and infant care.

"We provide comprehensive primary care, so anything you'd see at any doctor's office we also have. Physicals, vaccinations, management of chronic conditions," said CCI president and CEO Dr. Sonya Bruton. "We also, as part of our mission, handle and take care of things that impact your physical health like mental well-being and social assistance."

CCI operates in the Hampshire-Langley Shopping Center in Takoma Park — along with more than a dozen other locations around the two counties — where it provides medical, dental, and behavioral health services to thousands in the community.

In 2015, CCI's Takoma Park Health Center was recognized as a Level Two Primary Care Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance, meaning the provider has invested in a model of care that puts patients at "the forefront and where continuous quality improvement is a priority," according to the group's website.

Bruton likens CCI to the YMCA, in that they are non-discriminatory — taking patients of any socio-economic status — and are very community

**HEALTH SERVICES** □ Page 3

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

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# DOCKET

## City Council & Committee Calendar

### OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS REMOTE/VIRTUAL MEETINGS CONTINUE INTO THE NEW YEAR

We expect that meetings will continue to take place in a remote/virtual format into the new year. For the most current information, visit [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) and click on "Events and Meetings." Information on any meetings taking place will be published there along with information on how the public can observe.

### COMMENTING AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Individuals interested in commenting at City Council meetings must sign up by 5 p.m. on the day of the meeting. The link to sign up will be published on the calendar and on the City Council agenda page. Written comments sent by email or U.S. mail will be shared with the full Council.

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN DECEMBER

- Wednesday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, December 9, 9:30 p.m.  
(note the late start time)

### 20TH DISTRICT DELEGATION AND CITY COUNCIL JOINT PRIORITIES MEETING

Wednesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.  
(Remote/Virtual Meeting)

The annual Joint Priorities Meeting with the 20th District Delegation will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 9. The meeting will include an opportunity for individuals and organizations in the community to inform the Delegation of needs and priorities. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes each. Advance sign up by 5 p.m. on the day of the meeting is required.

### CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Meetings will be held remotely for the duration of the public health crisis.

### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, December 10, 7 p.m.

### COMPLETE SAFE STREETS COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 10, 7 p.m.

### FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, December 13, 6:30 p.m.

### NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 8, 7:30 p.m.

### PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Thursday, December 3, 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 17, 6:30 p.m.

### POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Monday, December 21, 7 p.m.

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 17, 7 p.m.

### TREE COMMISSION MEETING

Tuesday, December 8, 6:30 p.m.

### YOUTH COUNCIL

Sunday, December 6, 3:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 20, 3:30 p.m.

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail can sign up by sending an email to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov).

### ADA NOTICE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities can fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing is invited to contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at [jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267 at least 48 hours in advance.

## City Council Action

Only negative votes or abstentions are reported here. Resolutions and ordinances are published online after adoption.

On **September 23, 2020**, the City Council adopted **Resolution 2020-21** establishing a Task

Force on Reimagining Public Safety to Ensure Racial Justice. The Task Force will make recommendations on 1) the City's policing and public safety policies and procedures, including reviewing disaggregated data on arrests, citations, and stops, to ensure that the City's public safety approaches advance racial justice; 2) approaches to engage and empower residents, particularly groups who have been marginalized, in policing oversight and community policing practices; 3) alternative models to better address issues that are commonly correlated with police interaction, such as mental health, substance abuse, and other social service needs; and 4) the reallocation of the City's budget necessary to fund the Task Force's recommendations.

**Ordinance 2020-26** authorizes the City Manager to enter into a contract

with Habitat for Humanity and use of \$200,000 from the Housing Reserve for 7402 Garland Avenue. Habitat intends to renovate the property into two for-sale units under their shared equity home ownership model.

At its meeting on **October 7, 2020**, the Council adopted **Emergency Ordinance 2020-28**, suspending appointments to boards, commissions, and committees unless an appointment is necessary for the body to perform its function or to increase its diversity. The suspension is intended to enable the Council to complete its review of committees and make necessary amendments to the City Code before resuming routine appointments. By **Resolution 2020-22**, the Council adopted a **Code of Conduct** for members of boards, commissions, committees, and task forces.

Actions taken at the **October 14, 2020** City Council meeting included adoption of FY21 Budget Amendment No. 2 (by **Ordinance 2020-27**). **Resolution 2020-23** was adopted, releasing the hold on public arts expenditures and approving expenditures for public art installations as detailed in the Public Art Works installation and maintenance plan. The

resolution also authorized the removal of the deteriorating mural at B. Y. Morrison Park and its return to the artist.

On **October 21, 2020**, the City Council adopted new Principles of Compensation by **Ordinance 2020-29**. The principles will guide future Council Compensation Committees in making recommendations on salary and non-salary benefits for the Mayor and City Council. By Ordinance 2020-31, the Council authorized a contract with Ex-cel Tree Experts for tree removal and pruning. By request of the Committee on the Environment, the City Council suspended operations of the Committee by adopting **Ordinance 2020-30**. The Council adopted **Resolution 2020-25** approving a retirement incentive program for eligible City staff. **Resolution 2020-24** ratified a collective bargaining agreement between the United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 400 and the City of Takoma Park. **Resolution 2020-26** approved a wage adjustment for non-management, non-union-represented staff. By **Resolution 2020-27**, the Council appointed Bart Sheard (Ward 3) and James Woodworth (Ward 2) to the Tree Commission.

## VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to the public health crisis, the City Council has been meeting remotely by video conference. This will continue as long as necessary. The meetings are available to watch live (or view afterwards) in all the usual ways:

- on the City Council Video Page of the City Website (<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings-and-documents/city-council-video>)
- on City TV  
(RCN - Channel 13, HD Channel 1060 Comcast/xfinity - Channel 13  
Verizon Fios - Channel 28)
- on Facebook  
(@TakomaParkMD/)
- on YouTube  
(<https://www.youtube.com/user/TakomaParkTV>)

The public can comment live during the public comment portions of the meetings by registering and logging into the video conference. The link will be provided by weekly email from the City Clerk and on the City website. For those not able to do so, written comments may be sent by email to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) to be circulated to the Council.



President and CEO of CCI Health & Wellness Services Dr. Sonya Bruton gives a tour of the Takoma Park facility to Mayor Kate Stewart in August.

## HEALTH SERVICES

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oriented. “We are a community health center, which means we exist to support the entire community. We, by mandate, are required to see anyone who needs a medical doctor,” Bruton said. “We see people regardless of their residency status. If they’re undocumented we are part of a health-care safety net that takes care of them.”

CCI is also helping combat the COVID-19 outbreak by offering testing at its sites. According to Bruton, through grants from Montgomery County, CCI will be able to provide rapid testing by the end of 2020, allowing tests to be returned in only 15 minutes. CCI says through the pandemic it has continued to honor its commitment as a local employer and kept its roughly 300 employees — including over 30 in Takoma Park — on staff through the pandemic.

“Our patients have been great about

knowing that we have protocols to make sure we can provide safe visits. We also do virtual visits for people that can’t leave the home,” Bruton said. With open enrollment into the ACA closing on Dec. 15, along with the pandemic, Bruton said now is the most important time to have a handle on your health options.

“Now is the time to really pay attention to be on top of our health,” she said. “Some people might be in a category called medical orphans, who haven’t established themselves with a medical professional for one reason or another. Now is the time to get set up with a steady and consistent provider.”

If you are unsure how to sign up for the ACA or if you need to find out if you are eligible, CCI can help guide people through the process. And she said getting care through CCI is a way to stay healthy and help support Takoma Park and the surrounding communities. “It’s like buying local,” she said. “Those dollars you are spending for care at CCI are working to make the entire community better.”



The Takoma Park Equity Walk makes its debut.

# We Belong Here Equity Walk FAQs

Tired of sitting at your desk or hanging around the house? Need a movement break? Looking for an engaging family activity that’s local, educational and gets you moving? Look no further! Check out We Belong Here, Takoma Park’s new equity themed, interactive StoryMap. Read the FAQs to get started:

**Q: What is the We Belong Here StoryMap?**

**A:** A **story map** is a web tool created with context, maps, text, photos, and video as a stand-alone resource to help users explore the content. We Belong Here is a StoryMap that provides a safe space for discussion and exploration of equity issues.

**Q: This sounds fun, how do I get started?**

**A:** Visit We Belong Here the Takoma Park Community Center or Anne Street. Look for activities stenciled on the sidewalk and the QR code nearby. Scan the QR code with your smartphone and We Belong Here will pop up! Each station has a physical activity and thoughtful questions to prompt discussion equity issues. Start at any

station, visit one at a time of all at once. Check out the resources tied to each station.

To plan your visit ahead or access the resources later, find We Belong Here on the City website. Browse through the stations, discussion questions, resources and book suggestions for all ages from our Takoma Park Librarians. You can even check the Takoma Park Library catalog for book availability! You’ll even find We Belong Here is Spanish and Amharic!

**Q: What are the links to find this great resource?**

**A:** We Belong Here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a6924aled86f432f9b8c7ee14cf84340>

We Belong Here on the City website: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/planning-and-community-development/we-belong-here-the-takoma-park-equity-walk>

## Important City Department Phone Numbers

City Information .....	301-891-7100
City Clerk.....	301-891-7267
City Manager .....	301-891-7229
Communications.....	301-891-7236
Finance .....	301-891-7212
Housing & Community Development.....	301-891-7119
Library.....	301-891-7259
Neighborhood Services.....	301-891-7113
Police .....	301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
Public Works.....	301-891-7633
Recreation/Facilities Rental.....	301-891-7290



### THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley  
Assistant: Sean Gossard  
[www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)  
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Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov)

[takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified or political advertisements.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled— content paper.





# BUILDING COMMUNITY

## Apply for food stamp benefits today

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program, is the largest federal nutrition assistance program. SNAP provides benefits to eligible low-income individuals and families via an Electronic Benefits Transfer Card. This card can be used like a debit card to purchase eligible food in authorized retail food stores. SNAP benefits can ease some of the tough choices many households have to make like deciding between food and housing and medicine or bills.

Maryland has one of the highest costs of living of any state in the country, making it tough for many individuals and families to make ends meet. SNAP offers benefits to many groups:

**Food-insecure Marylanders** – SNAP provides supplemental nutrition to more than 610,000 Marylanders in an average month. This includes working families, seniors, and other vulnerable Marylanders.

**The local business community** – Every \$1 spent through the SNAP program has nearly double that economic impact on the local community, spreading the investment out to small businesses and food providers. These are dollars that our small businesses need now.

**Communities statewide** – Food security

can have a big impact on the stability of families and communities statewide, positively impacting health, safety, education, and our local economies.

### How to Apply

#### Online

You can apply for SNAP online at [mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us](http://mydhrbenefits.dhr.state.md.us). You can also apply by mail or fax. If you apply online, please capture and retain the control number provided (a nine-digit number starting with the letter "S") so that you can track your application until you are contacted by a staff member to complete the interview and application evaluation process.

#### Telephone

Montgomery County DHHS - Silver Spring Center  
240-777-3100

Montgomery County DHHS - TESS Center  
240-773-8260

Maryland Hunger Solutions  
1-866-821-5552

## Rental Housing License Renewal

All rental housing license holders with licenses expiring on 12/31/2020 have been notified via email of the renewal process. The licensing fee for annual and biennial licenses renewed for, or initiated in, 2021 is \$111 per unit. If you have questions about the renewal of your rental housing license, or the process of obtaining a new rental housing license, please contact Patti Mallin, licensing specialist, at [pattim@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:pattim@takomaparkmd.gov) or 240-315-6721.

## WINTER COAT DRIVE

Do you have coats, gloves or scarves that you don't need anymore? Please consider donating them! The Takoma Park Police Department, in partnership with the Takoma Park Adventist Church, is 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.

### Drive Duration

**Start date:** Monday, November 2

**End date:** Friday, December 18, at 4:00 pm

A large box will be in the lobby of Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Takoma Park Police Department will ensure that they are given to the church during and after the drive. Give warmth to those in need this winter! Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions, please contact Catherine Plevy at 301-891-7142 or [cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov).



## New ADU Grant Program announced

"Up to Code" is a new grant program to help Takoma Park residents complete the last step in bringing an Accessory Dwelling Unit into compliance with Montgomery County Code.

The City is full of single-family homes with basements or other spaces very close to qualifying as Accessory Dwelling Units, leftover from a time decades past when such accessory apartments were encouraged. Often these spaces require modification to meet current Montgomery County safety codes, such as egress windows, widths of doorways, or ceiling height. It is in the best interest of the City, property owners, and potential tenants that these spaces are made safe and become licensed rentals with all the protections licensing provides.

The Takoma Park City Council has set aside \$80,000 for the current fiscal year (ending June 30, 2021) to assist in bringing these units up to code. Up to Code grants will be awarded on a first come, first served basis to applicants fulfilling all requirements. Qualified applicants are eligible for a grant (minimum \$1,000; maximum \$10,000) to bring a unit into code-compliance in response to issues identified by County inspectors during an ADU permit application inspection. The grant amount will be paid either to the applicant as a reimbursement for approved work or directly to the licensed contractor.

Visit [takomaparkmd.gov/grants](http://takomaparkmd.gov/grants) for details on eligibility and the application process. Contact Patti Mallin, licensing specialist, at [pattim@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:pattim@takomaparkmd.gov) or 240-315-6721.

## COVID-19 TESTING

### WEEKLY FREE COVID-19 TESTING

Sligo Adventist Church  
7700 Carroll Avenue

Every Wednesday  
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

#### Details:

- Walk-in and drive-thru COVID-19 testing
- Testing is **FREE**
- Testing Helpline: **240-777-1755** for questions or assistance with testing

No identification cards, insurance card, doctor's note, or payment required!



# Giant Robot and Bear Tracks Spotted at B.Y. Morrison Park

A giant robot, floating balloons, and trails of animal tracks have been spotted at B.Y. Morrison Park.

The colorful stencils are part of a new public art project from the City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Division to enliven the park at the corner of Carroll Avenue and Ethan Allan Avenue. Thousands of children are staring at computer screens at home for online learning because many local schools have been closed due to COVID-19 concerns. Kids need more places to play and socialize with each other, said Arts and Humanities Division Coordinator Brendan Smith.

"B.Y. Morrison Park is underused now, so we wanted to add some fun elements so that children and their families will have another place to go outdoors," Smith said. "People should still wear masks and practice social distancing as long as those restrictions are in place."

The stencils were painted on Nov. 10 by City of Takoma Park employees and Gloria Tseng-Fischer, a local architect and artist who serves on the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission. Local artists Chris Ha and Ami Hernandez also painted three picnic tables with colorful fruit designs through funding from the Arts and Humanities Division and Main Street Takoma.

The *Guardians of the Neighborhood* mural that was in the pavilion at the park has been removed and returned to the artist because it has been severely damaged from the elements since it was installed 28 years ago. The Arts and Humanities Division plans to hire an artist to paint a new chalkboard wall there, so kids and adults can share their own thoughts and artistic creations.

"Public art is crucial during times of crisis," Smith said. "It provides a creative outlet and a source of community spirit that is really needed right now. The arts help keep us connected even when we're apart."



Check out the new murals and artistic picnic tables that brighten the space at B.Y. Morrison Park located at the intersection of Ethan Allen and Carroll Avenues in the Takoma Junction. The work was done in November by staff, volunteers, and a member of the Arts and Humanities Commission.

**TAKOMA PARK**  
**ARTS**  
 ONLINE

Arts events at the Takoma Park Community Center have been postponed so the Takoma Park Arts cultural series has moved online with new film screenings, concerts, and poetry readings. You can find more details and sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at [takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts).

# ELECTION RESULTS

■ From page 1

obtain the election results listed on page 6. Voter turnout exceeded 50 percent.

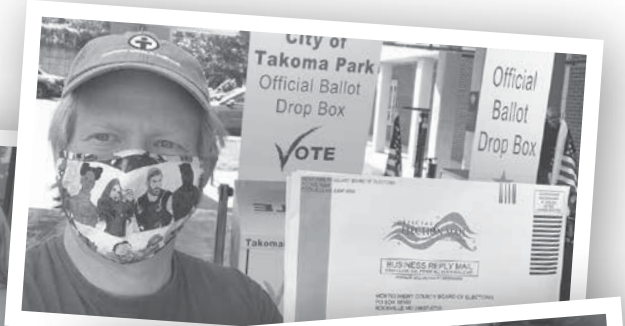
Detailed voter turnout information and other statistics will be provided in the February issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter. For now, we can report that the number of votes far exceeds that of recent elections. In 2017, 2,581 voters participated in the election. In 2015, 2,552 voters cast ballots. Almost 69 percent of 16- and 17-year old registered voters cast ballots in the 2020 election.

*“The Board of Elections, Jessie Carpenter, Irma Nalvarte, the two elections interns, City TV, and Donna Wright are truly heroes in handling this election. Lars Desalvio and the IT staff spent many, many hours doing what was needed to record and store the security video of the elections drop boxes. John Lupari and our facilities staff decorated the building with flags and helped get things set up to accommodate the voters and elections staff.*

*It was all awesome to see.”*

*—Suzanne Ludlow, City Manager,  
City of Takoma Park*

Mayor	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Total	% of Total	Elected
Roger Schlegel	599	462	645	141	263	276	2,386	36.7%	
<b>Kate Stewart</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>944</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>4,083</b>	<b>62.8%</b>	<b>X</b>
Write In	9	11	3	1	1	4	29	.5%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,488</b>	<b>1,417</b>	<b>1,558</b>	<b>661</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>6,498</b>	<b>100%</b>	



Residents turned out to vote solo and with family.

City Council - Ward 1		% of Total	Elected
<b>Peter Kovar</b>	<b>1,403</b>	<b>97.8%</b>	<b>X</b>
Write In	32	2.2%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,435</b>	<b>100%</b>	

City Council - Ward 4		% of Total	Elected
<b>Terry Seamens</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>98.5%</b>	<b>X</b>
Write In	9	1.5%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>100%</b>	

City Council - Ward 2		% of Total	Elected
<b>Cindy Dyballa</b>	<b>1,241</b>	<b>94.7%</b>	<b>X</b>
Write In	69	5.3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,310</b>	<b>100%</b>	

City Council - Ward 5		% of Total	Elected
Sawa Kamara	212	35.9%	
<b>Jarrett Smith</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>63.8%</b>	<b>X</b>
Write In	2	.3%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>100%</b>	

City Council - Ward 3		% of Total	Elected
<b>Kacy Kostiuk</b>	<b>1030</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>X</b>
Olly Swyers	502	32.6%	
Write In	6	.4%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>100%</b>	

City Council - Ward 6		% of Total	Elected
<b>Talisha Searcy</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>98.1%</b>	<b>X</b>
Write In	14	1.9%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>100%</b>	

**NUCLEAR-FREE**

■ From page 1

the city from doing business with industries and institutions engaged in the production of nuclear weapons.

“Our city doesn’t do business with nuclear weapons contractors,” longtime Takoma Park activist Susan Abbott told The Washington Post in 1983 after the ordinance’s passing, “but we have a real democracy in this town. We have the power to set an example for communities where this might make an economic difference.”

What started around the kitchen tables of several Takoma Park residents has turned into a life-long mission for some. “Basically in 37 years, we’ve kept our mission,” said Jay Levy, Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee chairman. “And people say that’s old-time stuff and who cares, but it’s not. We are still fighting for a ban on the City doing business with banks who contribute to nuclear production through loans.”

In 37 years since its enactment, according to Levy, there have only been three exceptions allowing the City to do business with companies that benefit from the nuclear industry, including buying computers from Hewlett-Packard for the library. “I took all the strongest legislation I could find and put it into one piece that passed the City Council,” Levy said. “Very frankly, we have international recognition



Artwork from posters the committee had printed in 2018]

because of the ordinance.”

One issue the committee has set its sights on for the past few years has been the city’s banking through SunTrust, which invests in companies that make nuclear weapons. “Takoma Park has been banking with SunTrust for 15-20 years and does more than 20 banking services with the city,” Levy said. “About four years ago, we asked the city to change banks.”

So far, the city has not budged on

changing banks, but that has not slowed the committee, and there is still plenty to get done. “We think we’re still relevant and looking at the bigger picture,” Levy said. “Under [President Barack] Obama, legislation was passed to refurbish existing nuclear weapons. And under [President Donald] Trump it got a lot worse. They got out of two nuclear treaties, so it’s even more reason to keep doing what we’re doing.”

To commemorate the anniversary of the ordinance passing, the committee will be holding a screening of “The Nuns, The Priests, and the Bombs” at 8 p.m. Dec. 10 on Takoma Park City TV. The documentary follows nuclear disarmament activists challenging the security and legality of the U.S.’s nuclear weapons when they break into top-secret facilities in Tennessee and Washington state. The showing will be followed by a short discussion and coincides with International Human Rights Day.

And if you are interested in volunteering with the Nuclear-Free committee there are a few seats open. “We haven’t had a full board for many years. we’ve just had four or five people working on this,” Levy said. “We’ve been operating with a less than full deck, but we’re still very active.”



Production still from the film, Credit: Passion River Films]

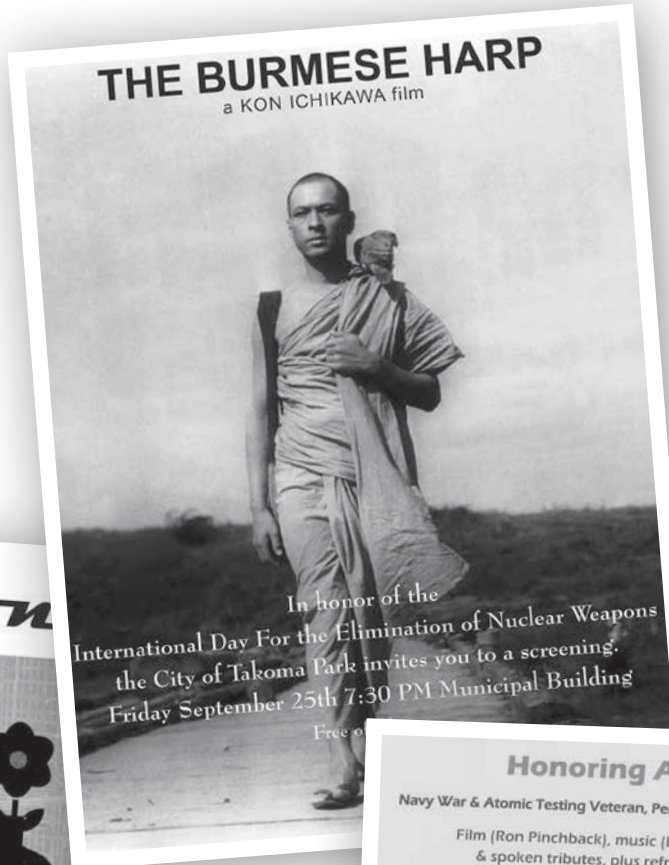
*Editor's Note: Even though the Council would like to see the City's banking services and investments be more community-serving and not indirectly supporting the nuclear weapons industry, the Council was concerned about the financial cost of the transition and the race equity impacts on Public Works and other staff regarding cashing their payroll checks. A request for proposals for banking services would need to be issued to help determine the options available to the City. The Council will be setting its 2020-2022 priorities in January and may consider proceeding with the request for proposals process.*



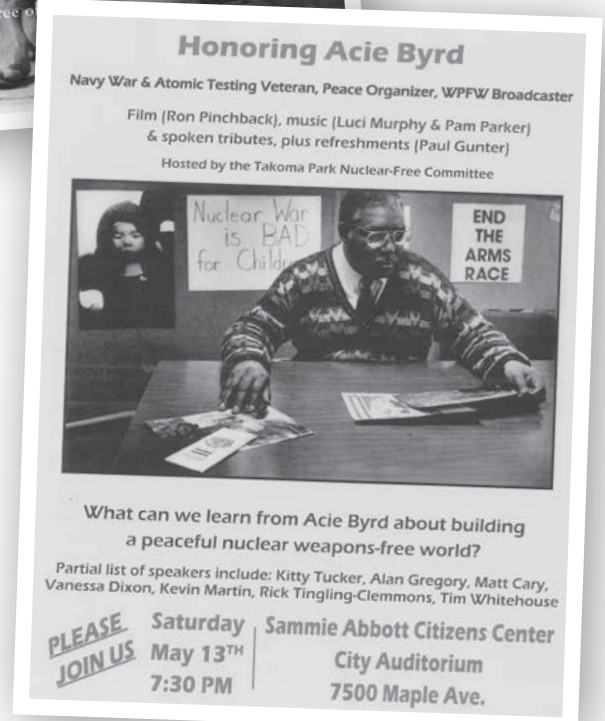
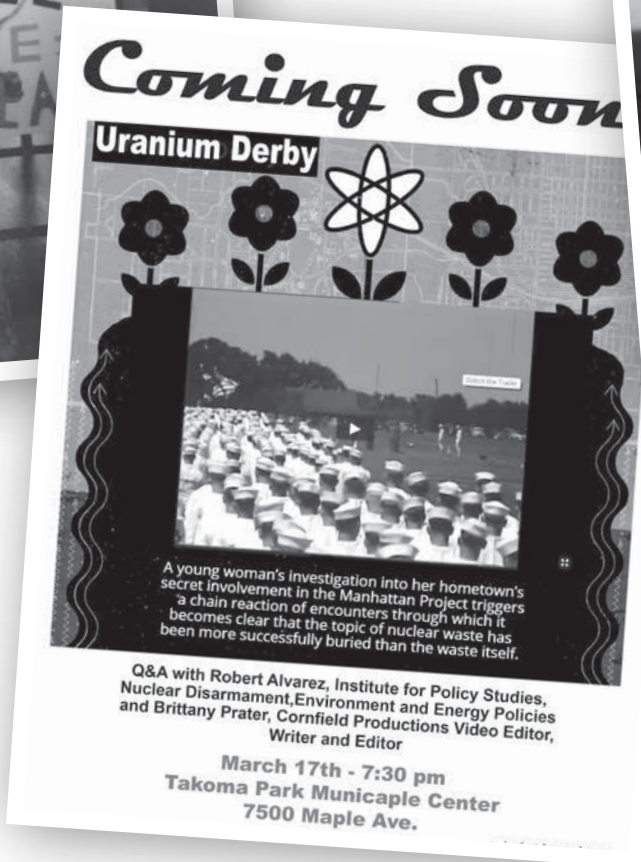
Above: The City of Takoma Park celebrated 25 years a nuclear free city on Dec. 12, 2008 with great presentations, great music, and great ice cream.

At right: Flyer advertising a film screening held last year

At right: Advertisement for a 2015 film screening



Below: The committee hosted a panel in honor of activist Acie Byrd in May 2017.



Special thanks to Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee Member Julie Boddy for providing these images

# RECREATION

Virtual class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page: [takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc](http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc).

## VIRTUAL CLASSES

### TOTS

#### FITNESS

##### Creative Movement & Literacy with Carla

These 30-40-minute classes will include creative movement, dance, music, songs, and books. Classes will be fun and enhance body awareness, physical fitness, creativity, ability to follow directions, sequencing, number recognition and reading readiness. Children that are six will be asked to be leaders for the classes and demonstrate for the younger children. Instructor: Carla Perlo  
4-6 years  
Thursdays, 5-5:30 p.m.  
Starting January 14  
Free

### YOUTH

#### ART

##### Be Creative Arts & Crafts

Have fun being creative. Turn household recycled items into art and useful projects. Each week we will create a new project using paper, plastic bottles, cans, yarn, embroidery thread, magazines and more. Learn to braid, sew, embroider, make paper beads and more. Instructor: Carla Perlo  
6-12 years  
Saturdays, 12-12:30 p.m.  
Starting January 16  
Free



#### DANCE

##### Youth Dance

We encourage you to join us as Ms. Charonne teaches a different dance technique weekly. Show off your skills in this free and fun class. Be sure to get to class a few minutes early. Clear the floor and get ready to move! Instructor: Charonne Butler  
5-12 years  
Sundays, 11-11:30 a.m.  
Starting January 10  
Free

#### FITNESS

##### Recess Break

It's Zoom Recess! Join Ms. Charonne for stretching, fun and fitness! Spreading the word spreads more fun! Instructor: Charonne Butler  
5-12 years  
Saturdays, 10-10:30 a.m.  
Starting January 9  
Free

### TEENS

#### EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

##### The College Accommodations Process

Students with health conditions and physical disabilities have a different set of considerations to navigate when transitioning to college. This free webinar will explore the additional challenges that these students may face. Topics include self-advocacy, IDEA vs. ADA, expectations, and how to document a disability. For more information, contact [javontem@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:javontem@takomaparkmd.gov).  
Grades 6-12  
1 Day Session  
Wednesday, 4-5 p.m.  
December 2  
Free

##### Crafting for Cash

Crafting for Cash will teach participants to create custom craft pieces like dolls, felt books, scarves, hats, and lip balms that can then be sold to generate income (or keep as mementos). Participants will learn how to sew, crochet, and make homemade lip balm as well as the tools needed to plan and market small home business. Registration is required, and materials will be provided.  
Grades 6-12  
Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
January 12-March 30  
Free

#### French for Teens

It's never too late to learn another language. As a matter of fact, right now is the perfect time! This class will offer a great opportunity not only to practice French, but also to meet and learn about different cultures from around the world. This class is a play-based education course in a full-immersion language setting. You will learn to communicate in French through songs, games, books, stories and much more. Participants will meet twice per week and will have access to an online curriculum that will complement the work performed during live sessions. Registration is required. Learn a language. Link to other cultures. Be a global citizen!

Instructor: Link Education

Grades 6-12

Mondays & Wednesdays, 4-5 p.m.

January 11-March 24

(No class 1/18 & 2/15)

Free

#### Spanish for Teens

It's never too late to learn another language. As a matter of fact, right now is the perfect time! This class will offer a great opportunity not only to practice Spanish, but also to meet and learn about different cultures from around the world. This class is a play-based education course in a full-immersion language setting. You will learn to communicate in Spanish through songs, games, books, stories and much more. Participants meet twice per week and will have access to an online curriculum that will complement the work performed during live sessions. Registration is required. Learn a language. Link to other cultures. Be a global citizen!

Instructor: Link Education

Grades 6-12

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4-5 p.m.

January 12-March 25

Free

#### FITNESS

##### Commit 2 B Fit

Get your yoga mats and water bottles and join us virtually on Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. for a fun and energized session to work out and get fit. Limited spaces available; registration required. For more information, contact Leicia Monfort at [leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov).  
Grades 6-12  
Saturdays, 10:30-11:30 a.m.  
Starting January 9  
Free

#### MULTIMEDIA

##### Madden NFL 21 Tournament (XBOX)

This tournament places the best 16 Xbox One players against each other for a single game elimination tournament. Players will invite each other to a match and play online every Thursday. Requirements: Xbox Live Subscription, Xbox One Console, Madden 21 Game, Email Address, Internet Connection. For more information, contact [javontem@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:javontem@takomaparkmd.gov).  
11-16 years  
Thursdays, 5-6 p.m.  
December 3-December 10  
Free

### ADULT

#### ART

##### Pandamit Painting

This class offers instruction in how to paint with acrylics with topics such as values, color mixing, complimentary colors, and mixed media. The purpose is also to support and assist each other in this time of restrictions and to provide a fun and informative activity. The students are responsible for their own materials. Money saving tips will be given to students. A list of the suggested supplies will be given to students. Instructor: Alice Sims  
16 and older  
Saturdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.  
Starting January 16  
Free



#### FITNESS

##### Fitness for Life

This class is for anyone looking to reach their health, fitness, and life goals. Whether you are an athlete, novice exerciser, or looking to enhance your current workout routine. Your coach will ensure you are performing the exercises in a safe and effective manner. This class is designed for you to work at your own pace.

18 and older

Thursdays, 11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Starting January 28

Free

##### Foundational Fitness & Training II

FFT II is a fitness program for participants that have or are currently involved in a fitness regimen. The program builds on the concepts of Classic FFT, which utilizes various movements from numerous disciplines while incorporating minimal resistance and multiple repetitions. This advanced class adds more resistance and incorporates floor or mat exercises using hand weights, bands/tubes, abdominal rollers, and exercise balls. Equipment is not provided. FFT II will enhance, tone, and strengthen all major muscle groups as well as increase stamina and flexibility. Instructor: Michael Williams  
18 and older  
Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.  
Starting January 16  
Free



##### Let's Move Caribbean Dance

Dance your worries away with this fun, energetic, and easy to follow dance workout. Afro-Caribbean fitness dance class is for all ages and will get the body moving to build cardio endurance and coordination. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness  
All Ages  
Fridays, 6-7 p.m.  
Starting January 15  
Free

##### More Five Animal Play Qi Gong

This form of Qi Gong is one of the most ancient continuously practiced healing exercising systems in the world. Enjoy peaceful movements modeled on the Crane, Bear, Monkey, Deer and Tiger. Participants will develop more strength, grace, flexibility, balance, and healing in a relaxed virtual group setting. You will feel the effects in your body, mind, and spirit as you find harmony with nature and yourself. Open to all; no experience needed. Your health is in your hands. Instructors: Patrick Smith & Joann Malone  
16 and older  
Tuesdays, 7-7:30 p.m.  
Starting January 12  
Free

##### Meditation, Mudras & Tea

Meditation, Mudras and Tea is part class, part experience. Dive into the world of guided meditation along with hand mudras, gestures that promote healing, psychological balance, and spiritual awakening. The Sanskrit word "Mudra" can be translated as "gesture," "seal," "attitude" or "signature," and the use of mudras has been incorporated into almost all wisdom traditions throughout the world and notably in yoga. Option to pair your meditation practice with a cup of tea (specific teas will be suggested) with teachings on that particular flower/herb as both a physical and mental healing aid and how to use this calming time with tea to encourage your meditative/stress-decreasing experience. Instructor: Beth Mwano  
16 and older  
Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.  
Starting January 13  
Free

#### ReVamp Fit Home Workout

Fitness class will entail movements to work on your total body endurance, strength, and flexibility. Move with us to get your day started on a strong note!

Instructor: Abel Asafere

16 and older

Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m.

Starting January 13

Free

#### Rise and Move

This class will strengthen your muscles (including your heart), increase mobility in your joints, provide you with energy, and improve your coordination. Your coach will educate, guide, and assist you throughout the entire class to ensure you are performing movements safely and effectively. Equipment needed: Floor space, high back chair, mat, and weights (optional).

18 and older

Mondays, 10-11 a.m.

Starting January 25

Free

#### Spirit Group Fitness

Class will be geared toward supporting all members of the community, as each class spotlights trainers leading different versions of the exercises for those standing, seated, progressed, and exercising alongside a supporter (which is a great option for those with limited mobility or with a developmental disability). Truly, a person of any fitness and ability level can get a meaningful exercise experience from these classes. Instructor: Spirit Club

16 and older

New videos uploaded to website each Wednesday

Starting January 13

Free

#### Total Body Blast

Provides a mix of calisthenics, balance, strength training and cardiovascular exercise in one dynamic session. Participants will work at their own pace to complete the workout that focuses on all major muscle groups. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness

16 and older

Saturdays, 9-10 a.m.

Starting January 16

Free



#### Yoga (Beginner)

This Zoom class will get you on your feet, stretching and reaching; energize you when you feel dull and bring calm on stressful days. Appropriate for seniors. No prior experience needed. Suggested equipment: Yoga mat, two blocks, two blankets, one belt. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri

18 and older

Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Starting January 13

Free

#### EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

##### Writing Life Stories

Are you at home thinking about life? This is a terrific time to write about your life. Whether you have been writing for years or are a beginner, this class is for you. We help each other with constructive feedback and complete optional homework. We will read the book *Writing the Memoir* by Judith Barrington. Bring a notebook and pen to each session. Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt  
16 and older  
Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.  
Starting January 13  
Free





# RECREATION

Virtual class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page: [takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc](http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc).

## VIRTUAL CLASSES

### RECREATION

■ From page 8

### MULTIMEDIA

#### Digital Marketing

We are all experts of something, and someone is looking to benefit from your expertise. Learn the key digital marketing skills that can help you monetize your expertise. In this course, you will learn how to navigate the digital world to sell a product or your services. This virtual class will cover ideation to activation and market research; which platforms are best for your business; effective social media ads and how to set them up; how to build a website layout that converts into sales; live interviews with digital consultants, hairstylists, clothing designers and organizational leaders on how they use the digital world to grow their businesses. Instructor: Vinny Mwano  
16 and older  
Thursdays, 6–7 p.m.  
Starting January 14  
Free

#### Mobile Photography

Learn the secret formulas to capturing beautiful moments and memories for any occasion season on your phone. This course will cover manual mode; composition portraits; landscape; street photography; lighting; group photography; selfies and storytelling. Instructor: Vinny Mwano  
13 and older  
Tuesdays, 6–7 p.m.  
Starting January 12  
Free

### 55+

### FITNESS

#### Classic Foundational Fitness & Training

Classic is a group exercise program that is appropriate for all age and skill levels, but especially

for those who are new to fitness training. Classic is designed to improve health and skill-related fitness components with focus on muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, agility, balance, coordination, speed variance and power. The program is designed to enhance muscular definition and strength; decrease fall risks; improve cardiovascular capacity; increase physical fitness level; improve movement efficiency and range of motion; and enhance general sense of well-being. The exercises and movements can be modified to challenge all levels of fitness. Classic utilizes a high back chair; light hand weights (one-, two-, or three-pound weights depending on fitness level) and or a resistance tube; also have a towel and water bottle nearby. Equipment is not provided. Instructor: Michael Williams  
55 and older  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10–11 a.m.  
Starting January 12  
Free

#### Enhance Your Fitness

The class focuses on core strengthening utilizing various body strength training exercises. Instructor: Adriene Buist  
55 and older  
Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.  
Starting January 12  
Free



#### Line Dance

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise and an enjoyable social activity that leads to meeting new people and making new friends in a virtual environment. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary. Instructor: Barbara Brown.

55 and older  
Wednesdays, 1–2 p.m.  
Starting January 13  
Free

#### Yoga for Healthy Aging

This class helps build strength and endurance, increase flexibility and range-of-motion, improve posture and balance, and create a general sense of well-being. Special attention is paid to bone health and preventing/reversing bone loss related to osteoporosis. Work at your own pace in this carefully sequenced class that uses a series of seated, chair, standing, and floor poses and incorporates breathing and relaxation techniques. Students need to provide their own yoga sticky mat, a straight-backed chair, access to a wall, a yoga belt (or equivalent, e.g., a necktie), a tennis ball, preferably a yoga block and blanket. Instructor: Carol Mermey  
55 and older  
Wednesdays, 2:15–3:15 p.m.  
Starting January 13  
Free



#### “Zumba” Gold

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

55 and older  
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.  
Starting January 15  
Free

### MULTIMEDIA

#### TPTalk55

As part of the Recreation Department’s effort to address social isolation during the pandemic, TPTalk55, a live chat room for Takoma Park 55 plus residents Monday afternoons at 1 p.m. beginning on Zoom, was developed as another way to help seniors to stay connected and informed. The zoom meeting includes a call-in option available for seniors without internet access. This weekly hour is a chance for seniors to communicate and catch up with friends, classmates and neighbors they have missed seeing while participating in past activities at the Takoma Park Community and Recreation Centers. Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, will be part of the friendly chat and listening to issues that are important to the seniors in Takoma Park. To participate in the chat room, email: [paulal@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:paulal@takomaparkmd.gov) or call Paula at 240-687-4132 to request the meeting information. We would love for you to join the conversation.  
55 and older  
Mondays, 1–2 p.m.  
Free

#### Phone a Neighbor

We are looking for Takoma Park Seniors who would like an occasional phone call during this time of uncertainty. All participants must have a landline phone or cell phone. To sign up, email [javontem@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:javontem@takomaparkmd.gov) or call Ms. Paula at 240-687-4132.



## Virtual Karate Self Defense

If you are looking for a class during the winter months, try our Virtual Karate Self Defense Class. This class will provide you with a skill, and it will get you in shape or keep you toned. This will be a beginner class, so do not feel intimidated. We have the right instructor to teach you the correct way to punch, kick and maneuver. Ellen Marcus, a Takoma Park resident, will be leading this virtual class. Ellen is a student of the Karate Club that meets at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Ellen is currently a green belt. Her next goal is a brown belt, which will put her one step away from her ultimate goal: a black belt. Let’s learn a little more about Ellen.

#### Q: When did you become interested in Karate and why?

A: I spent a good portion of my career working in animation, and I have always had a passionate interest in the mechanics behind human locomotion. I have also been in situations where I have needed to defend myself. Back in grade school, I dabbled in Tae Kwon Do because I was getting pushed around a lot. It helped build confidence, and I was bullied a lot less after just six months of training. I stopped taking it for a long time. Then, many years later (after moving to Maryland in 2018), I discovered

the Isshin-Ryu Karate Club of Takoma Park. I initially joined because I wanted to connect with my new neighborhood, show my young daughter that girls can take karate, and be as prepared as I can be if someone were to behave dangerously towards me or my family. My reasons for continuing include my interest in basic physics and movement of the human body.

#### Q: What do you hope people will take away from your class?

A: Virtual classes pose many challenges



Ellen teaching class from home

to teaching something like hands-on like karate. The good news is you can still successfully practice and learn many things in Karate without physically engaging with a Sensei (instructor). The “kata” (sequence of movements that make up a battle scenario where you are defending yourself) are almost always practiced without physical contact and require the use of your imagination. This class will focus primarily on punching, kicking, and maneuvering around (the building blocks of every kata). My hope is that it will acquaint the beginner with some Isshin-Ryu karate stances, blocks, kicks, and punches as well as offer some insight into body mechanics. Anyone with more experience will gain a workout and a refresher course.

#### Q: Why do you think it’s important to learn Karate and self-defense?

A: Taking self-defense classes can prepare your mind and body for situations that you never see coming. It’s not like putting on a bullet-proof vest, though. You do not become skilled in defensive strategies after taking just a few classes. Self-defense is something you need to keep working at to maintain. I say it’s important to take it, but it’s equally as important to continue to practice, to learn new things, and to practice those new

things until they become second-nature and then continue to maintain memory of those things. I think of Karate as an important tool in helping a person stay focused and interested in both learning and practicing self-defense strategies over the course of a lifetime. In addition, the importance of learning how your body moves can be your greatest ally in preventing injury while performing any sport or exercise.

#### Q: What are your hobbies?

A: I run about 3 times per week. Running helps clear my mind and reduce stress. I never have time for it, so I must make time because it’s important for my well-being. Same thing for Karate, which I practice on the days I’m not running. I also love to garden with native plants whenever I can catch a spare hour or two. Lately I’ve been using all my spare time to sew facemasks, but I hope to get back to gardening soon.

This sounds like an interesting class and a great time to learn some self-defense skills while in the comfort of your own home. This eight-week class will start on Monday, January 25 at 6:30 p.m. Find the link to this and other virtual classes at: [takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc](http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc).

# LIBRARY



## Holiday Reading

The holidays – Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa – are coming up, and we have some great holiday books for all ages. For young readers, you can request a bundle of holiday picture books (specify which holiday you're interested in) through our "Books-to-Go" curbside service program, and we'll choose some books for you.

If you prefer to browse online through our holiday books to see what we have, go to: [www.takomapark.info/library](http://www.takomapark.info/library). Click on the Catalog button, then click on Advanced Search (one of the purple and white boxes right under the white search box). In Advanced Search, click on "Subject" at the top of the search page and put in the holiday in which you are interested. Then, scroll down further in "Advanced Search" to find further ways to limit your search; if you're looking just for kids



books, for example, click on "Juvenile Book," or if you're looking for holiday music, click on "CD-Music."

This year may be a good time to bake or craft some gifts. While the Internet has plenty of recipes and craft ideas, for many of us there's still something special about holding a book in your hands and browsing through its pages. The library has an extensive section of cookbooks for adults, as well as some great cookbooks for kids. Plus we have craft books for both kids and adults. Use our catalog to find what you're looking for, or – to have us choose some cookbooks or craft books for you – use our "Books-to-Go" program and send an email to [librarytakomapark@gmail.com](mailto:librarytakomapark@gmail.com). Let us know what kinds of cooking or crafts you are interested in, as well as whether it is for kids or adults, and we'll pull together a selection of books for you!

## BOOK REVIEW

*Editor's Note: These reviews are from a student who writes for SSL hours. Thank you, Amy, for choosing diverse books by women of color about girls of color.*

*Front Desk* by Kelly Yang is about a little girl named Mia. She is going through a tough time working at a motel trying to earn money for her family. Her parents hopped around looking for a job to support their family. Finally, they come across a motel job. Will they be able to earn enough money from this job?

Some readers might really enjoy this book because they might say, "Hey, that's what I'm going through right now." They could feel a bit better if they are upset because they also live in a motel. Since Mia could achieve her dream, they might think, "Hey, if I work hard enough like Mia, I might be able to do the same." (*Editor's Note: Check out Yang's follow-up, Three Keys. These*



*books are based on Yang's real life experience.)*

*Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan is about Amina and her struggles at home and at school. Will she lose her best friend to someone who was once their enemy? Readers would enjoy this book because they might feel lost about losing their best friend to someone they don't like. This happened to Amina in the book. On the other hand, some people might dislike this book because they might not be able to understand the foreign language in the book. Also, they might not like the main character, Amina, because she doesn't speak up, and some people might find it frustrating.

—Amy

*If your student likes to read and is interested in writing reviews for Student Service Learning hours, contact Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi at [kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov).*

## CALENDAR

The library building is closed, but we're continuing to offer several great library programs – weekly and monthly – via Zoom. To participate, go to <https://zoom.us>. Click on "Join a Meeting" and put in the Meeting ID (and Meeting PW, if any) listed with each program. Registration isn't required for these programs, but if you are registered, we will send reminders as well as notices of any changes or cancellations. To register, go to [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryprograms). Please refresh your browser first as our line-up has recently changed and also please make sure you register for the "Zoom" version of these programs.

**PROGRAMS:** To keep up with all our programs, go to [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents).

**Zoom Circle Time:** Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID is 995-4901-8825 and Meeting Password is 178851.

**Zoom Comics Jam:** Once a month on a Wednesday at 4 p.m. The next date is December 9. To keep up with the schedule, please register for Zoom Comics Jam at [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents); we'll send an email with the next date to all registered. The Meeting ID for Zoom Comics Jam is 734-913-6285. **No Meeting Password needed.**

**Zoom Spanish Circle Time:** Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID is: 966-2757-5745 and the Meeting Password is: 437375.

**Zoom Scribbler's Cabal:** Fridays at 4 p.m. Meeting ID is 734-913-6285 (same as Comics Jam), no Meeting Password needed.

## LIBRARY BRIEFS

**Returning books:** A reminder that when you return library books, they are quarantined for up to five days, for staff and patron safety, before they are checked in, so they will remain on your library card until then. There are no overdue fines for late books, but if you have overdue books on your card, then you will not be able to check out more books until they are returned and checked in.

**Storytime videos:** Children's Librarian Kati Nolfi is continually adding new Storytime Videos on her YouTube channel, Kati Knows Storytime. The videos are brief, free, and fun as Kati reads a picture book from the library's vast collection. Among her most recent Storytime Videos is one highlighting the new picture book, *We Will Rock Our Classmates*, a sequel to the best-selling, *We Don't Eat Our Classmates*, both written and illustrated by Ryan Higgins. Ms. Kati also has posted a video of her two young kids doing the Activity Walk around

the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave. It's a great way to get the kids moving outside, even on a rainy day!

**Kid-tested crafts:** If you're looking to keep your kids busy with crafts, check out Facebook page as Ms. Kati regularly posts kid-tested crafts there. Among the most recent crafts are rock painting (add some google eyes for a distinctive touch!), making a paper lantern, or creating an inspiration board.

**Book reviews:** We regularly feature book reviews written by teens for Student Service Learning Hours on our Facebook page. A student named Amy recently reviewed three books: *Front Desk* and its sequel *Three Keys* by Kelly Yang and *Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan. Another review, by a student named Alex, spotlights a memoir by Jason Schmidt titled *A List of Things That Didn't Kill Me*. If your middle school or high school student is a good reader and writer who wants to write book reviews for SSL hours, contact Ms. Kati at [kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:kathrynn@takomaparkmd.gov).

## WinterQuest

Mark your calendars for Monday, December 21, when we will launch this year's WinterQuest reading adventure! Created each year by Library Associate Dave Burbank, WinterQuest consists of a story and a gameboard; embedded in the story are 10 reading challenges, and each time you complete a challenge, you get to move along the gameboard. In WinterQuest, reader's choice reigns. The idea is just to keep kids interested in reading through the winter by choosing whatever books they want to read to complete the reading challenges.

WinterQuest will be available both online – on the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library's website – and in a paper version. There's no deadline to finish! The paper version



will be available for pick-up on Saturdays from 12–3 on Jan. 9, Jan. 16, 23, and 30. Just look for the purple cart near our "Books-to-Go" pick-up area; we'll place paper copies on one of the cart's shelves. Thanks, as always, to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring WinterQuest!



Here are your book requests, all lined up in alphabetical order this morning (Nov. 14). It was a record-breaking number of requests. There are 90 bags in this picture.

## New Editions

Although our building is closed, we are continuing to add new books to our collection – both in print and online – for all ages. To check out our new digital offerings, head to Hoopla (go to our website, [www.takomapark.info/library](http://www.takomapark.info/library) then click on “e-books” and then “Hoopla”). To see the newest books and audiobooks (and movies, music, and TV shows as well), look for – and click on – the “Advanced Search” button under the search bar. Go down to the “Date Added” category and choose one of the options (last 7 days, last six months, etc.). That will bring up the most recent e-books, which currently include *The Deep End*, the latest volume in the bestselling *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

series by Jeff Kinney. If you’re not yet a Hoopla user, here’s how to get started: [www.takomapark.info/library/hoopla.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/hoopla.html).

As for print books, we’ve got lots of great new adult titles. Look for the list of these books in the sidebar. For a look at our newest kids and teen print books, check out the blog maintained by Karen MacPherson, children’s & teen services coordinator: [childrenscornerkm.blogspot.com](http://childrenscornerkm.blogspot.com).

All of our new print books for adults, kids and teens are available for check-out via our “Books-to-Go” curbside service program. Here is the link for more info: [www.takomapark.info/library/curbside.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/curbside.html).

## Books-To-Go Basics

**Note:** This system is a work-in-progress, and if needed, we may make changes.

**Special Note:** Book-To-Go will not be available on Dec. 24-27 (It will resume Monday, Dec. 28.) and Jan. 1-3 (It will resume Monday, Jan. 4.).

Residents can place book orders by email (strongly preferred) and phone. Emails can be sent any time, of course. Phone requests can be made Mondays and Wednesdays 10–12 and 4–6, and Saturdays, 10–12.

Before requesting books, check our catalog to see if we have the book and if it is available. If it is checked out, you will see “checked out.” But don’t rely on the list of search results; actually click on the title to open up the catalog record. You will not only see much more information, if you scroll down, you can check on the actual status.

Patrons are limited to five books per order. There are also limits on the total number of items you can have checked out at one time (see below).

When you request books, by email or phone, we will need your name plus either your birthday or the last 4 digits of your library card number so we can call up the correct account, and ensure you get the books you order. If this is an email request, this information should go in the subject line, along with an indication as to whether you are asking for adult books or children’s/teen books.

Once we have fetched your books, we’ll give you a pick-up window. Regular pick-up times will be Mondays and Wednesdays, 12–2 and 6–8, and Saturdays, 12–3. Note we will fulfill the requests in the order received, and it may take a few days before we get to yours. We are less busy on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, so those may be the best times to send your email or call.

Call when you get to the library (301-580-0085). We’ll bring out your books and leave them on a table in back of the library for you to pick up.

### EMAIL REQUESTS

The email for book requests is [library@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:library@takomaparkmd.gov).

- The subject line should include your name (even if it is part of your email address), the type of books you want (A for adult books, J for children’s/teen books), and either the last four digits of your library card or the month and day of your birthday.

- In the body of the email, list the books you are requesting. It will help us to help you if you first search our online catalog, and provide us with the title, and call number (not the barcode). Also, please make sure it is available. If it is a fiction work, please use what we have in the catalog. For instance, the call number for *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger is FIC SALINGER. For a non-fiction book, such as *Birds of Eastern North America* by Paul Sterry, the call number is 598.097 STERRY.
- We will reply when we have fulfilled your request, and let you know when you may pick up your books. Incomplete information will delay the process. Once a request is filled, the email exchange is archived. If you wish to place a second order, please start a fresh email request.

### PHONE REQUESTS

To request children’s or teen books, call 301-580-0085.

To request adult books, call 240-507-0229.

- We will ask you for your name and the last four digits of your library card number or the month and day of your birthday.
- When you give us the titles of the books you want, please give us the author and call number as well (if you are using the catalog).



## Special alert!

Here is just a sample of our newest adult fiction – now available with Books-To-Go!

- The Finisher* by Peter Lovesey
- The Searcher* by Tana French
- Memorial Drive* by Natasha Trethewey
- The Paris Hours* by Alex George
- Glorious Boy* by Aimee Liu
- Just Like You* by Nick Hornby
- Memorial*, by Bryan Washington
- What You Are Going Through*,

- by Sigrid Nunez
- The New American* by Micheline Marcom
- Adrienne Gelfel* by David Hajdu
- Last Tang Standing* by Lauren Ho
- Love and other Crimes* by Sara Paretsky
- Attack Surface* by Cory Doctorow
- The Boy in the Field* by Margot Livesey
- Song for Dark Times* by Ian Rankin
- Deadly Education* by Naomi Novik

## Online Access to Consumer Reports

Shopping for the holidays? Don’t forget that you have online access to Consumer Reports. Your tax dollars have already paid for this.

- Go to the library’s website [www.takomapark.info/library/index.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/index.html).
- From there, click on online or digital services.
- Then click on Magazines.

You will see a wide white bar with Magazine Collection, National Geographic, and Print. Beneath that you will see a search window with the green CR Con-



sumer Reports logo. Enter your search, such as “wireless ear buds.” You will be prompted for your Patron ID, which is your library card number. Enter that, and your results will appear. You might prefer the PDF full text over the html because it looks like the magazine page.


Don’t know your library card number? Go to [www.tinyurl.com/tpklibarycards](http://www.tinyurl.com/tpklibarycards).

**Takoma Park  
Maryland Library**

**Books-to-Go  
Pick-up Schedule**

**Mondays: 12-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.**  
**Wednesdays: 12-2 p.m. and 6-8 p.m.**  
**Saturdays: 12-3 p.m.**

**Call 301-580-0085 when you ARRIVE**



[takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov)

# CHRISTMAS TREE SALE



Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department will be selling Christmas trees again this year. We will have Douglas and Frazier Firs, and we're adding a new tree this year, White Firs.

### Tree Lot Hours

- Sunday: 9 a.m.–9 p.m.
- Monday to Thursday: 12– 9p.m.
- Friday: 12–10 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m.–10 p.m.

When visiting the tree lot, please remember your masks and plan to social distance. Safety restrictions will be in place. Debit/credit cards preferred, but cash and checks will be accepted. Limited delivery will be provided; however, trees will be left on the front porch only. To protect our members, no indoor deliveries will be permitted.

## The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library Annual Holiday Book Sale

The sale is going virtual! Shop our online collection of more 800 new and used books. Search the library catalogue for your favorite authors, titles, and genres. Books are priced to sell at \$3 each or 10 for \$25. The book sale opened to members on November 27 and will be open non-members on Friday, December 11. Don't miss out. The best books will go fast. To shop during the members only window (through Thursday, December 10) **join the Friends or renew your membership.** Information about how to access the book sale was sent via email to members. Proceeds from the sale will support the Library's ever-popular WinterQuest reading challenge. Pick up of purchases will be at the Takoma Park Maryland Library or at another location in the Takoma Park Community Center.

## Hanukkah Highlights

### Virtual Hanukkah Candle Lighting

Join Washington Hebrew Congregation clergy online via Zoom each night of Hanukkah at 6:45 p.m. on Zoom to light the candles and say the blessings. For more information, visit [www.whctemple.org](http://www.whctemple.org).

### Chanukah Wonderland (Reservations Required)

December 6 - 13, 2020, Simcha Educational Center, 15021 Dufief Mill Road, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Chanukah Wonderland is a project of Chabad of Upper Montgomery County together with JCrafts. This event is being conducted following all health guidelines. Seating is by family. Each family has their own table and is socially distanced from other families. Masks are required. Two Workshops are available, Olive Oil Pressing and Menorah Making. To attend both workshops please make two reservations. As time slots fill up, we will open up additional time slots. For more information and to make

reservations, visit [www.ourshul.org](http://www.ourshul.org).

### Community Chanukah Concert with Rick Recht

December 13, 2020, 5:30 p.m. at Gordon Outdoors

Light it up with this interactive musical gathering on the big screen, hosted by nationally renowned Jewish musician, Rick Recht. Hear inspiring stories that shed light on the miracles in our community, sing Jewish songs, and join in blessings led by members of the Baltimore Jewish community. Attend in person for the concert with the Gordon Outdoors and receive a participation kit that will include materials, activities, and ritual items relevant to the theme of the concert. Can't make it to the big screen? Tune in on a device with the virtual admission option. Part of the Jewish Community Center of Baltimore's interactive Virtual Community Concert Series. Visit [www.jcc.org/schedule/upcoming-events](http://www.jcc.org/schedule/upcoming-events).

### Donate Toys and/or Cash/Gift Cards for the Holidays for those in Need

Help local families in need; partner with the Takoma Park Police Department to give joy this holiday season.

Monday, November 16 thru noon December 23, we are collecting unwrapped toys for girls/boys between 2-12 years old. We are also accepting cash/gift cards. Due to COVID concerns, we cannot accept toys that are not in their original packaging.

Please drop off toys and/or cash/gift card donations at the Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Avenue - there will be a box in the police lobby.

\*\* If donating cash and/or gift cards, please visit the Administrative Desk (between 9 am - 5 pm, M-F) to drop off directly with a Police Department employee; please do not put these items in the box with toys. Please place cash/gift cards in an envelope addressed "Holiday Toy Drive." \*\*



## Editor's Note

These event listings are by no means comprehensive. Our goal was to present a small sample of what is available to local families as we go into this very unique holiday season. The City of Takoma Park in no way endorses these events. For questions about scheduling, etc., contact event sponsors directly. Happy Holidays!

A great holiday gift for family and friends, near and far!

2020 WINTER SOLSTICE

Revels

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 7 PM

TICKETS & INFO: [REVELSDC.ORG/SEASON](http://REVELSDC.ORG/SEASON)

Be part of this live virtual event!

Plus relive the revelry with on-demand access

CELEBRATE WITH US AT HOME!

WASHINGTON REVELS A SEASON OF REVELING



### Annual Kwanzaa Celebration (Virtual)

December 11, 12 to 4 p.m. Sponsored by Banneker-Douglass Museum

Celebrate the seven principles of Kwanzaa through musical performances, games, crafts, and more! The program will include: Spoken Word Performance; Zawadi (Gift Making) Session; Live Music; Discussion on the Importance of Community and Intergenerational Engagement; Virtual Lighting Ceremony; and a Virtual Buy Black Marketplace. Visit [www.visitannapolis.org/events/8233](http://www.visitannapolis.org/events/8233).

### It's a Kwanzaa Celebration (Virtual)

This year, Substantial Art & Music with Creative Suitland Arts Center will host its 2nd annual "It's a Kwanzaa Celebration." It will be a virtual holiday program featuring performing artists and educators from the DMV area. Visit <https://creativesuitland.org/kwanzaa-2020>.

# How to Use the Takoma Park Project Directory

What is going on in Takoma Park? The Project Directory can fill you in! The Project Directory lists all major projects currently being worked on or planned citywide and includes need to know information for each one.

[takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory](http://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory)

To access the Project Directory from the City of Takoma Park website, on the home page under initiatives, select "Project Directory" as shown at right.

GOVERNMENT	SERVICES	INITIATIVES	NEWS
Boards, Commissions & Committees	Bids & Contracts	<b>Project Directory (All City Projects)</b>	City Election Information
City Clerk	Business & Multifamily	Arts and Humanities	City Council & Mayor Blog
City Council	Recycling	Census 2020 – Everyone Counts in Montgomery County	City Manager & Staff Blog
City Manager	Careers/Jobs	Community Conversations	News & News Alerts
City TV	Community Partners and Resources		Forever Young
Communications	Curbside Collection		

You'll be taken to the "Project Directory" page, which lists all major projects being worked on or planned citywide.

Projects are grouped by the following classifications based on their purpose:

- Crime & Safety
- Customer Service / Community Engagement
- Economic Development
- Internal Projects
- Policy Priorities
- Public Infrastructure
- Regional
- Sustainability

Projects are then organized by title, classification, target completion date, and ward.

Project Title & Link	Project Classification	Target Completion Date	Ward
Library Renovation Project	Public Infrastructure - Buildings	2017 - TBD	Citywide

Table: City of Takoma Park project directory listing all of the major projects currently being worked on or planned.

Project Title & Link	Project Classification	Completion Date	Ward
Washington Adventist Hospital	Regional Project	2019	Citywide
Dorothy's Woods	Public Infrastructure - Property	2018	3
Police Chief Search	Recruitment	2017-12	Citywide

Then click on the name of the project that interests you. In this example, a resident wanted more information about the Library Renovation Project.

## LIBRARY RENOVATION/RECONSTRUCTION

### About the Library Renovation/Reconstruction Project

Based on the results of a 2014 needs assessment and long-time community interest and support, the City plans to reconstruct its Library. The current facility has served the community well for decades, but it no longer adequately meets our collections and programming needs and is in need of accessibility improvements.

When discussions about renovations began, the assumption was that we would work within the existing building and modernize and improve the space. However, in the course of our due diligence after engaging an architect to assist with conceptual design, it was determined that the City needed a flood plain delineation study to ascertain whether the current flood wall (which was planned to be incorporated into the expanded Library building) was adequate.

A preliminary report was concluded in August of 2018, and submitted to the Montgomery County Department of Permitting Services for review. Based on the conclusions of the flood plain study, it was determined that a higher elevation for the Library was needed. In 2019, the architect submitted design options for a library building that would meet the elevation criteria but would preserve the same footprint.

### Current Status:

On February 26, 2020, architect Greg Lukens of RUMM Lukens Architects made a presentation to the City Council on the current status of plans for a replacement Library. Regarding the flood plain study, an initial flood plain study was accepted by the County. The second flood plain report has just been completed, and shows that the expanded Library footprint causes minimal impact on the heights of the flood plain. While it still needs to be submitted to the County, the findings mean that substantial regrading is not required for the new Library. The current plans for the project were submitted to an independent cost estimator. The report, received on February 25, estimated construction costs at \$13.5 million, including a large contingency. The previous estimate was about \$7.6 million. The difference reflects more increases in construction material costs of about 5%, labor costs of 10-12%, and a difference estimate for site work costs. The architect also shared drawings of a preferred interior and several possible exterior options for the new building. The current library is 9,400 square feet – the proposed design increases the square footage to 19,025 square feet.

Additional information was presented by the architect and discussed at the Council Work Session of March 11, 2020. In sum, floodplain findings were consistent with earlier projections that raising the floor of the building would be sufficient to meet flood plain requirements without substantial redesign of the site. And, the estimated total hard and soft costs of the project are very close to the amount of funds available for the project – \$9.8 million.

On April 15, 2020, the City Council considered and voted unanimously to authorize the City Manager or her designee to enter into a contract with RUMM Lukens Architects for the next phase of the project: conceptual design and potential detailed design and engineering for library renovation, at a cost of \$499,835. Funding for this contract and the Library project overall is available through the State Infrastructure Loan Program, Maryland Capital Grants, and City Cable Grant funds.

Updated Plan 0220-01-203

### Project Lead & Contact Info

Jessica Clarke  
Deputy City Manager  
Phone: 301-891-7202  
Email: [jessicac@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:jessicac@takomaparkmd.gov)

Eileen Arnold-Robbins  
Library Director  
Phone: 301-891-7258  
Email: [EileenR@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:EileenR@takomaparkmd.gov)



### Library Renovation/Reconstruction Details

#### Project Info & Timeline

- Target completion date: To be determined
- Takoma Park's role in project: Lead
- Departments involved: Administration, Library, Public Works

#### Budget & Funding Source

The FY18 approved Budget contained funding for completion of the concept design, detailed design development, construction of a renovated and expanded Library, and relocation of collections and services during construction, at a total cost of approximately \$7,000,000. In March of 2017, the City was awarded \$250,000 in Bond Bill Funding. In June of 2017, following two public hearings on the Budget, the City Council voted unanimously to approve funding for the Library Renovation, and the subsequent borrowing of \$7,000,000 through the Maryland State Infrastructure Loan Program. In 2018, the city was awarded an additional \$250,000 in Bond Bill Funding. Funding for the Library project overall is available through the State Infrastructure Loan Program, Maryland Capital Grants, and City Cable Grant funds.

A schedule of loan payments is being included.

Funding Source: CIP – General Fund

#### Links & Notes

##### 2020 Updates

RUMM Lukens Architects is working on a final design and construction estimate to present to the City Council in September 2020. The final design of the library exterior will be a blend of the architectural elements displayed in the exterior options below. 577 people voted in a July public survey on the three options. The results of the public survey were presented to the Council during the July 13 Council hearing.



##### 2019 Updates

On July 13, 2019 the City Council authorized a contract with architect Greg Lukens, RUMM Lukens Architects, to begin detailed design necessary to determine cost estimates for construction. This phase is expected to last until late winter of 2020.

The most current information about where things stand, including a presentation by architect Greg Lukens and Jason Fritz of Adtek Engineers, is available at the following links:

- Overview of Library Project and Discussion of Architect's Contract
- PowerPoint Presentation

The most recent concept design options are available here.

Earlier designs under consideration are available here.

Preliminary Library Flood Plain Conditions Report

In general each project page contains the following information: project status, lead contact information, timelines, budget/funding source, and links and notes. If residents have questions or need additional information about a specific project, they should contact the project lead person listed.

Below is a partial list of the projects included in the directory.

- ADA Sidewalk Compliance Program
- Cultural Plan
- Donate to Assist Small Businesses
- Flower and Sligo Creek Traffic Calming
- Inter-jurisdictional Cooperation Agreements
- Library Renovation Project
- Montgomery County Bicycle Master Plan
- Multifamily and Business Recycling Initiative
- New Hampshire Avenue Initiative
- Purple Line
- Racial Equity
- Sidewalk Design and Construction
- Small Business Mini-Grant Program
- State Highway Administration Projects
- Stormwater Management Projects
- Street Resurfacing
- Streetlight Replacement Project
- Takoma Junction Redevelopment
- Takoma Park Middle School Addition
- Tree Ordinance Review
- Tree Pruning Information
- Update of Financial Policies



## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

### Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of November 23, 2020, 39 people have died in fires, compared to 57 in 2019.

### Hot vehicle deaths

As of November 23, 2020 24 children across the country have died in hot vehicles. Keep in mind this can also happen in the cold weather. We must make sure we check the back seat when leaving the vehicle, everyone goes with you. Also don't forget to lock it.

### Holiday decorating fire safety tips

- Be careful with holiday decorations.
- Choose decorations that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Keep lit candles away from decorations and other things that can burn.
- Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Replace any string of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections.
- Read manufacturer's instructions for number of light strands to connect.
- Use clips, not nails, to hang lights so the cords do not get damaged.
- Keep decorations away from windows and doors.
- Blow out lit candles when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Turn off all light strings and decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

### FACTS

- More than **one-third** of home decoration fires are started by candles.
- More than **two of every five** decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.



## Holidays 2020: A Different Holiday Season

By Claudine Schweber, co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

### Q: Why is this holiday season different from all others?

**A:** This time, the corona virus pandemic is part of our lives, an unwanted and unwelcome guest. What does this mean in terms of our usual travel plans and/or getting together with friends and family to share stories and exchange gifts? It means that we need to take new precautions and change or give up some experiences.

### Precautions for holiday gatherings or travel during the pandemic

- This is not the season to be travelling or dining with extended family unless everyone has been tested and quarantined prior to the gathering.
- More infections are now associated with family gatherings, not isolated exposures. Asymptomatic individuals can still be highly infectious. Just because they are your family doesn't mean they can't be infected. When in doubt, get a test!
- Wearing a mask correctly and maintaining at least a 6-foot distance in social gatherings is still the cornerstone of prevention.
- Outdoor gatherings are safer because of airflow and ventilation. Sitting "outdoors" in a closed-up garage or tent defeats that benefit.

### Holiday travel: Taking care of yourself and not putting others at risk

- Consider the health of those with whom you have contact, such as gas station attendants, hotel staff, and store employees in addition to family. Besides wearing a mask and distancing, you may need to quarantine for two weeks.
- Although the risk of COVID exposure while being properly masked on an airplane appears to be relatively low, the multiple exposure risks associated with air travel (like waiting at the airport and going through security) make it inadvisable.
- Ask yourself: is there any part of the trip where I'm in an enclosed space with other people and cannot socially distance? (Thank you Martha Pierce, MD, at MidMaryland Internal Medicine for assistance with this section – www.midmarylandinternalmedicine.com)

### Winter threats—storms, power outages, and illness

If you're stuck indoors with no/very low power, consider the following:

- Make sure you have battery-powered cell charger, several working flashlights, battery- or solar-powered radio, extra batteries, canned food and pull-up can opener.
- Do not light candles or turn on gas stoves; this can lead to a post-disaster disaster, such as a fire, gas inhalation and worse.
- Have an emergency supply kit on hand with food for three days, safe drinking water, and first aid kit. These supplies will also help if you must evacuate (See [www.ready.gov/build-a-kit](http://www.ready.gov/build-a-kit)).
- Be sure you have prescription medication for at least one week, doctors' contact list, copies of health insurance information, and critical medical records as well as information about the nearest hospital and emergency room; if traveling, bring same details to new location. Note: Keep paper and electronic copies; share with contacts.
- Maintain a list of emergency contacts with names, relationship, and contact information.
- Make arrangements for your pet in the event that you need to evacuate.

## TPPD Tips: Holiday Packages

The holiday season is upon us, and it's an opportune time for burglars and thieves to commit crimes. Typically, there's a jump in packages stolen from homes during the holidays. During the pandemic, even more people are shopping online and having packages delivered. Solutions to the problem include:

- Tracking your deliveries online
- Reporting missing bundles as soon as possible
- Trying to be home when you're expecting something valuable to arrive or making arrangements with a neighbor
- Checking for an expected package at the usual time your postal carrier delivers to your home
- Asking a neighbor if they will accept a package for you or asking them to keep an eye out if you know you have a pack-

age being delivered. In addition to these solutions, please consider the following:

- If you are sending something to someone, please let those people know they need to be expecting it.
- If using a shipping company or service, ask about other measures they offer to ensure delivery. The best way to do it is to require a signature, especially if you are sending a high-value item.

A lot of times the thefts are not reported to police because those receiving the packages assume there was a problem with the delivery. We do encourage anybody who is missing a package after it has been verified through the shipping company to contact police and make a report.

## 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.

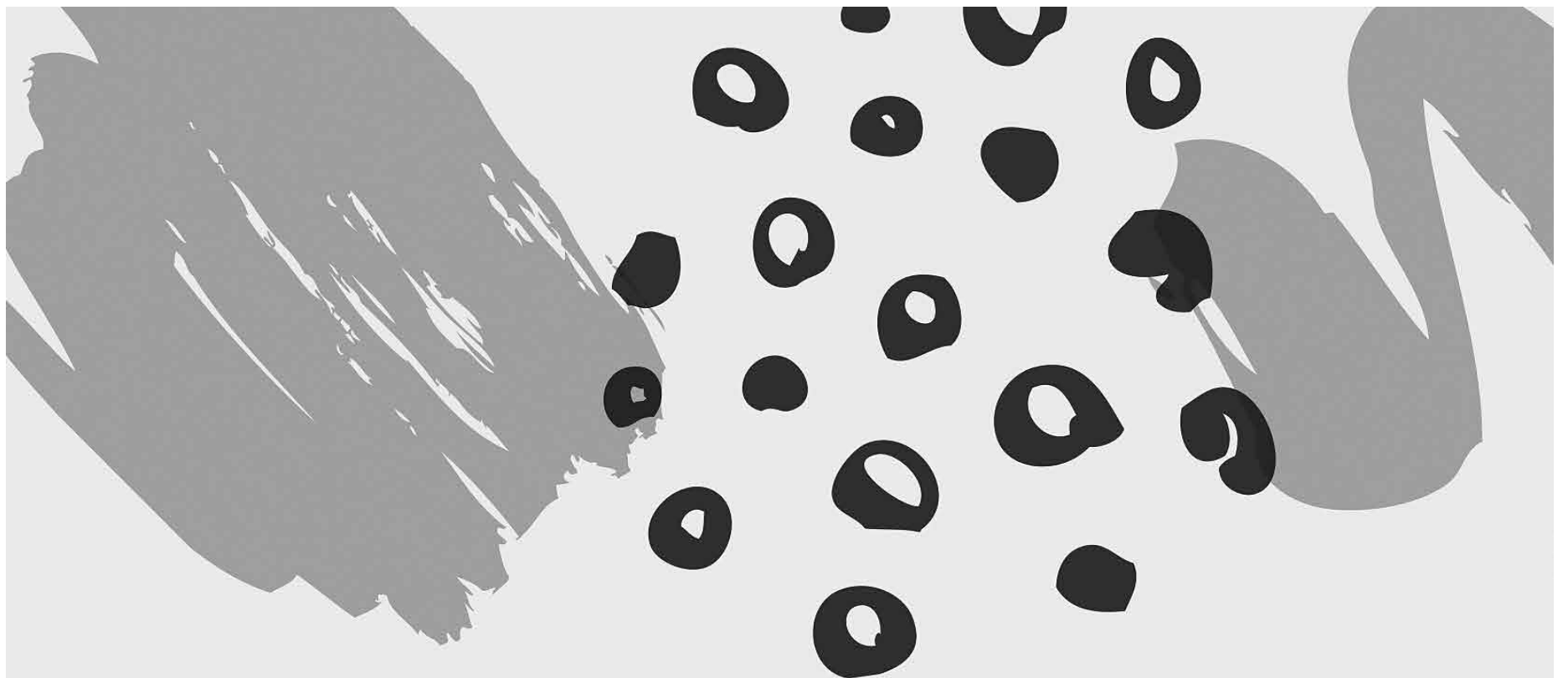
### Spanish:

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:

የተገኘውን አንቀጽ ለማንበብ ወይንም ለማንበብ ሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመጠቀም ማንበብ ይቻላል። ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታክሚ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የገጽ ገጽ ጠቅላይ ገጽ ለማግኘት ስንድምሪት በላይኛው ቀኝ ግንባር ጋንባሎች የሥነ ምግባር ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልጭ ሳሳን።



**TAKOMA PARK RECREATION CENTER**

# COMMUNITY ART CONTEST

**The City of Takoma Park is rebuilding the recreation center on New Hampshire Avenue and we want your input! Use your creativity and share your ideas with us by participating in our Community Art Contest. Make your own art by hand or submit your work digitally. Flip to the back of this page for instructions.**

**ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL BE ENTERED INTO A RAFFLE FOR PRIZES & FINAL WINNERS WILL HAVE THEIR ART DISPLAYED IN THE NEW RECREATION CENTER.**

For more information visit [bitly.com/TkPkArtContest](https://bitly.com/TkPkArtContest) or contact Molly Jamison at 267.983.7006.

# December 2020 Calendar

For the foreseeable future, we'll use this space to feature city resources and provide important updates on city services. However, let us know if you have a virtual, nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the January issue is Dec. 4, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Dec. 18. To submit virtual calendar items, email [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov).

## Event Cancellations

Due to COVID-19 concerns, please be advised that all events and meetings held in City facilities have been cancelled or postponed until further notice. Updates will be provided when events have been rescheduled.

The Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

For information on Takoma Park Arts online events, visit [takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities](http://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities).

## PUBLIC DAYS OF NOTE

### Christmas - City Offices Closed

Thursday, Dec. 24 - Friday, Dec. 25

City offices will close at 12:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve. All City offices and facilities will be closed Dec. 25, for the Christmas Day holiday. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

### New Years - City Offices Closed

Friday, Jan. 1

All City offices and facilities will be closed Jan. 1 for the New Year's holiday. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

## SHARE IDEAS

### Attend virtual City Council meetings!

**Wednesday, December 2, 7:30 p.m.**  
City Council Regular Meeting

**Wednesday, December 16, 23, & 30**  
The City Council will not meet.

**Wednesday, December 9, 7:30 p.m.**  
20th District Delegation and City Council Joint Priorities Meeting

**Wednesday, January 6**  
The City Council will not meet.

**Wednesday, December 9, 9:30 p.m.**  
City Council Regular Meeting  
(Note the late start time.)

**Wednesday, January 13, 7:30 p.m.**  
City Council Regular Meeting

Detailed agendas are available for review online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas).

Due to the public health crisis, the City Council has been meeting remotely by video conference. This will continue as long as necessary. The meetings are available to watch live (or view afterwards) in all the usual ways:

- on the City Council Video Page of the City Website (<https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings-and-documents/city-council-video/>)
- on City TV (RCN - Channel 13, HD Channel 1060 Comcast/xfinity - Channel 13 Verizon Fios - Channel 28), and Comcast/Xfinity HD Channel 997
- on Facebook (@TakomaParkMD/)

- on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/user/TakomaParkTV>)

The public can comment live during the public comment portions of the meetings by registering and logging into the video conference. The link will be provided by weekly email from the City Clerk and on the City website. For those not able to do so, written comments may be sent by email to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) to be circulated to the Council.

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail can sign up by sending an email to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov).

## STAY ACTIVE

All virtual class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page: [www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation).

### 5 Animal Play Qi Gong

Participants will develop more strength, grace, flexibility, balance and healing in a relaxed virtual group setting.

Instructors: Patrick Smith & Joann Malone

Tuesdays, 7–7:30 p.m.

### "Zoomba" Gold

For active older adults, this class introduces easy-to-follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Instructor: Yesika Flores

Fridays, 10–11 a.m.

### Let's Move Caribbean Dance

Dance your worries away with this fun, energetic, and easy to follow dance

workout. Afro-Caribbean fitness dance class. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness  
Fridays, 6–7 p.m.

### Total Body Blast

This class provides a mix of calisthenics, balance, strength training and cardiovascular exercise in one dynamic session. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness

Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.

### Recess

Here's an opportunity for youth to virtually participate in exercise and communicate with their peers while remaining inside. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Saturdays, 10–10:30 a.m.

## SUPPORT THE ARTS

### Washington Revels & Carpe Diem Arts Daily Antidotes of Song

Each day at noon, Washington Revels and Carpe Diem Arts will share some "notes of hope" as a song leader from their roster of local, national and international guest artists offers a song online. Watch their website for specially-themed weeks and for instructions on how to participate. You can also watch most days on Facebook Live. Visit their website for instructions on how to join online. Free, but donations to the "Antidote Fund" are encouraged and support the artists. Info: [info@revelsdc.org](mailto:info@revelsdc.org); [revelsdc.org/2020/daily-song](http://revelsdc.org/2020/daily-song)  
Online/Virtual Daily, noon (ongoing)

### A Season of Reveling Throughout the month of December

Free and ticketed virtual events  
The magic of Washington Revels has moved online and, like a band of jolly wassailers, we hope you'll invite us in to share our fall theme, Hearth & Home, from the comfort of your own home! Our "Season of Reveling" celebrates the closeness of family, the comfort of friends, and the many holidays that mark our journey from autumn to winter. In December, Revels community members

will invite us (virtually) to light menorah candles for Hanukkah, to celebrate Nordic musical traditions in a Sankta Lucia festival, and to welcome the Shortest Day during our Winter Solstice Revels. Info: [info@revelsdc.org](mailto:info@revelsdc.org); [revelsdc.org/season](http://revelsdc.org/season)

### Winter Solstice Revels Sunday, December 20, 7 p.m.

Gather the family and join Washington Revels for this "Season of Reveling" highlight! Our Winter Solstice Revels will kindle the spirit of the season. This year the glow may come from our favorite devices rather than the flaming Yule log, but the warmth will be just as real as we celebrate with traditional Revels sing-alongs, performances by our virtual choruses of adults, teens and children, and the cheerful sound of the Washington Revels Brass. Mark Jaster, Sabrina Mandell, and their friends at Happenstance Theater join us for a special 2020 mummies play, and Foggy Bottom Morris brings the haunting Abbots Bromley Horn Dance to life. Revel with us, wherever you may be, as we take joy together on the Shortest Day. Tickets required; post-event access is included with your purchase. Info: [info@revelsdc.org](mailto:info@revelsdc.org); [revelsdc.org/season](http://revelsdc.org/season)

## COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

### Takoma Cocoa Crawl

Saturday, Dec. 12, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Multiple locations around Takoma Park  
Grab a Takoma Mug and enjoy cocoa at area restaurants and cafes during the Takoma Cocoa Crawl. Make one stop or many. Adult versions are available too. Get your Takoma mug anytime at Old Takoma Ace Hardware, 7001 Carroll Ave or Artspring, 7002 Carroll Ave. Mugs from previous crawls welcome. Proceeds from mug sales go to Main Street Takoma to fund community initiatives. Stay tuned for updates to make this a COVID-safe event.

### Alternative Gift Fair

Through December 24  
The Alternative Gift Fair is open online. This year you can give holiday gifts that help others less fortunate in your community at the touch of a button. You can connect with representatives from 16 different locally run, small direct-service charities. Gifts are priced from \$10 to \$100. You can purchase your alternative gifts between now and December 24, 2020 at [www.aggw.org](http://www.aggw.org). For information or to volunteer, contact Mimi Ikle-Khalsa, fair director, at 301-613-6830 or [aggw\\_inc@yahoo.com](mailto:aggw_inc@yahoo.com)