



## WHAT'S NEW?

**Important Election Updates**

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**Youth Council Focuses Advocacy**

p. 11

**Healthy Business Initiative**

p. 13

**Holiday for City Staff**

Labor Day,  
Monday, Sept. 7

**Trash collection**

Labor Day, Sept. 7  
Yard waste collection canceled.

Summer Collection Hours: With summer on its way and temperatures higher, the City's collection services have shifted to summer hours. Collection for trash, recycling and food waste now begin at 6:30 am. Please put your items out for collection the night before.



**Look for this icon throughout this issue**

See page 14



## Chalk Riot combines art, support, and protest

By Sean Gossard

For Chelsea Ritter-Soronen and Chalk Riot, creating murals has always been about more than just the art. That's why, when the pandemic was going into full swing and local businesses started taking major hits, she teamed with Takoma Park to find a way to help keep those businesses afloat.

"When we saw the closing of small businesses – especially those owned by immigrants and people of color – we wanted to do something to support them," Ritter-Soronen said.

Takoma Park-based Ritter-Soronen and her team at Chalk Riot



Mural with a safety message

**CHALK RIOT** □ Page 3



## CityTV wins Hometown Media Award

By Sean Gossard

Takoma Park's government access channel CityTV was recently named a 2020 Hometown Media Award winner by the Alliance for Community Media Foundation. The awards are meant to "honor and promote community media and local cable programs that are distributed on Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) access cable television channels," according to the group's website.

"I was happy when I heard that CityTV had won the Hometown Media Award," said Takoma Park City Manager Suzanne Ludlow. "I have always been proud of our CityTV staff and how they cover the people from every country that live in Takoma Park and the activities that take place here. The CityTV staff are great and a tremendous asset to the City of Takoma Park."

CityTV won for Overall Excellence in Government programming in the \$300,000-\$650,000 annual budget category, competing with hundreds of other entrants with funding much larger than the channel's roughly \$350,000 budget. "We were against organizations that have almost double our budgets," said Alvaro Calabia, production manager for City TV. "We won the award in 2002 and 2006, but we were in the smaller category. It's very gratifying and reassuring that we're doing what we should be doing."

This past year CityTV launched several new initiatives, including an increase in productions in languages other than English and Spanish. "Every year we don't want to get in the comfort zone where we're doing the same things," Calabia said, "so this year we started doing programs in Amharic, French, and Haitian Cre-

**CITYTV** □ Page 13



## Q&A with TPPD Chief Antonio DeVaul

By Rick Henry

The first two years of Takoma Park Police Chief Antonio DeVaul's tenure - from January, 2018 to January, 2020 – were full of change, for him and the department he leads. New initiatives, new approaches, and new personnel practices were undertaken and implemented, as DeVaul repositioned and repurposed the department.



Chief Antonio DeVaul

But the six months since that anniversary have made those two years of change pale in comparison. Coronavirus, pub-

lic quarantines, and the "Black Lives Matter," and "Defund the Police" movements have roiled the country and strained the relationship between communities and police.

In a phone interview (Friday, July 17), Chief DeVaul discussed how he and the Takoma Park Police Department are adjusting to the new challenges and shared why he believes the changes that took place during the first

two years of his tenure have left the de-

**Q&A** □ Page 3

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

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

**#TogetherTKPK**



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

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# DOCKET

## City Council & Committee Calendar

### OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

#### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City Council is on recess until Wednesday, September 16, 2020.

#### CITY BOARD, COMMISSION, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

#### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, August 13, 7 p.m.  
Thursday, August 27, 7 p.m.

#### COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, September 14, 7:15 p.m.

#### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 27, 7 p.m.

#### FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, August 11, 6:30 p.m.

#### NOISE CONTROL BOARD

Tuesday, August 18, 7 p.m. (tentative)

#### NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 11, 7:30 p.m.

#### PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Wednesday, August 12, 6:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, August 26, 6:30 p.m.

#### POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, August 19, 7 p.m.

#### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 20, 7 p.m.

#### TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 11, 6:45 p.m. (Meeting).  
Wednesday, August 12, 6:45 p.m. (Appeal Hearing)

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

## City Council Action

### Vacancies on the Tree Commission

There will be three vacancies on the five-member Tree Commission as of September 30. The Tree Commission hears appeals from tree permit decisions, provides advice to the City Council related to trees, and promotes the aesthetic and environmental value of preserving and protecting the tree canopy. The Commission meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:45 p.m. For information about the Tree Commission,

view: <https://bit.ly/tree-commission>. If you are interested in applying, contact your City Councilmember or Daryl Braithwaite, Public Works Director ([DarylB@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:DarylB@takomaparkmd.gov)).

The application can be completed online: <https://takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/f/CommitteeApplication>.

**Application deadline: Friday, September 4.** Residents from Wards 4, 5, and 6 are especially encouraged to apply.



### Notice of Takoma Park Nominating Caucus

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 – 7:30 p.m.

The Nominating Caucus will convene at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, to accept nominations of candidates for mayor and councilmember. The meeting will take place in a remote/virtual format. The meeting is open to all registered voters. Others are welcome to view the meeting. Only qualified voters of the city may place names in nomination or second a nomination.

At the meeting, nominations of candidates for mayor may be made on motion of any voter of the City, and if another voter seconds that nomination, the nominee will be considered a candidate. Nomination of each candidate for councilmember may be made on motion of any voter of her/his ward, and if that nomination is seconded by a voter of the ward, the person so nominated will be considered a candidate. The order of nominations will be published before the meeting.

A person may only accept nomination of one office. The name of each nominee that meets the qualifications of the office shall be placed on the ballot for the November 3, 2020 City Election, unless the nominee files a declination with the City Clerk by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 18.

Please contact Jessie Carpenter, 301-891-7267 or [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) with any questions regarding the Nominating Caucus or running for office in Takoma Park.

### Using 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)

GOVERNMENT	SERVICES	INITIATIVES	NEWS
Boards, Commissions & Committees	Bids & Contracts	Project Directory (All City Projects)	City Council & Mayor Blog
City Clerk	Business & Multifamily	Arts & Humanities	City Manager & Staff Blog
City Council	Recycling	Community Conversations	News & News Alerts
City Manager	Careers/Jobs	Library	Forever Young Newsletter
City TV	Community Partners and Resources	Renovation	Sign Up For e-Newsletters
Communications	Curb-side Collection	Municipal Tax Duplication	
Finance			

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

2. You'll be taken to the "Project Directory" page, which lists all major projects being worked on or planned citywide. Projects are grouped by classification based on their purpose.

Initiatives > Project Directory

### PROJECT DIRECTORY

About the Project Directory

This page lists all major projects currently being worked on or planned citywide, purpose:

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

### POLICE FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

About the Police Facility Improvements

City Council authorized funding to evaluate and redesign the police space in the Community Center. The current goal is to expand and renovate the police facility space. Likely this will reduce the lobby area on the first floor of the police station.

Current Project Status

Preliminary architectural plans completed. Project is currently waiting for future funding.

Project Lead & Contact Info

Rich Bowers  
Police Captain  
Phone: 301-891-7104  
Email: [RichBowers@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:RichBowers@takomaparkmd.gov)

Police Facility Improvements Details

Project Info & Timeline

- Target completion date: 2020 – July
- Takoma Park's role in project: Lead
- Departments involved: Police

Budget & Funding Sources

Links & Notes

3. Then click on the name of the project that interests you. In this example, a resident wanted more information about Police Facility Improvements.

### Takoma Park Elections Are Special – No Excuses for Not Voting

- Takoma Park has allowed residents who are not U.S. citizens to register and vote in city elections since 1993.
- Takoma Park was the first jurisdiction in the United States to extend voting rights to residents who are 16.
- Voters who are not yet registered may register up to and including on election day.
- Elections are conducted using Ranked Choice Voting. Voters may rank candidates in order of preference. If no candidate receives a

majority, the candidate with the fewest first choices is dropped, and the second choice on those ballots is redistributed to candidates still in the race. This continues until a candidate receives a majority.

- Any voter may vote by mail.

Questions about Takoma Park elections? Review information at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) or contact the City Clerk's Office at 301-891-7214 or 301-891-7267

See pages 6–7 for Important Election Information.

## CHALK RIOT

■ From page 1

began making colorful murals in chalk in late March on walls and on sidewalks to bring attention to nearly 40 restaurants in Takoma Park.

"It was educational for a lot of people in recognizing that Takoma Park covers more area than people may be thinking," she said. "We put a lot of energy and emphasis on the non-main street and Carroll Avenue establishments."

For two months, Ritter-Soronen and her team of hired artists took to the streets painting words of safety and encouragement and urging people to shop local and support Takoma Park business in a very difficult time. "We just wanted to encourage residents to keep supporting their local businesses as much as possible," Ritter-Soronen said. "We also did some on community safety and health. We had one on mask wearing when it was a new concept, and we did one in front of city hall that said 'Small and Mighty.'"

And although the chalk eventually washed away, there are still pictures and social media posts helping them live on. "Chalk is a beautiful reminder that all things pass, and it could be a good thing that nothing lasts forever," Ritter-Soronen said. "During production of our almost 50 pieces, I listened to stories of grief, joy, resilience, COVID, immigration, birth,



This mural highlights the City's message to residents throughout the pandemic.

death. Public art can connect people, and those connections can enhance community organizing happening in pushes for a better world."

Ritter-Soronen usually works with her Austin, Texas-based partner Liza Fishbone on commissioned murals and other pieces around the country. Ritter-Soronen, who has a background in theater design and

set painting, said she first got interested in chalk art while looking to engage her community in St. Louis. "We were interested in the push for public art locally, and we were looking for ways to engage with the community in an accessible and fun way. Chalk art was the way to do that," she said.

Currently, Chalk Riot is creating a more permanent wall-hung mural that will be placed around Takoma Park once it's finished. "It's still visually tied to the original



Of the 50 murals Chalk Riot created, this one and others reinforce messages about staying safe.

campaign, and it will be a sort of cap-stone to the Takoma Park business initiative we did," she said. "The first place it will go is the Recreation Center since it currently isn't open at the moment, and it will be a way to keep the place active."

Chalk art has also recently seen a major spike in interest nationally with people creating their own art pieces in front of their homes showing support for the Black Lives Matter movement. "It's really been relevant in the past few months especially with people putting down Black Lives Matter messages," Ritter-Soronen said. "You can't even find chalk in stores anymore!"

The name Chalk Riot is an ode to those who used chalk art to spread messages on the women's suffrage movement to raising awareness on the AIDS epidemic of the '80s and '90s. "Suffragettes would use chalk to communicate where meetings would be and relay messages to each other," Ritter-Soronen said.

Chalk Riot is currently working to put together an online toolkit for people interested in using chalk art as a form of peaceful protest with basic how-to's and information on chalk art's history in activism.

Ritter-Soronen is especially grateful Takoma Park and the community took such a unique and artistic way to get the word out about businesses and safety: "It's really encouraging that the city prioritized public art as a tool of communication and support during such a difficult time." For more on Chalk Riot, visit [chalkriotart.com](http://chalkriotart.com) or check them out on Instagram @chalkriot.

## Q&A

■ From page 1

partment well-aligned with the current environment.

**Q: First, how are you personally doing during this difficult time?**

**A:** Well, it's a challenging time, but for me it has been a good opportunity to reflect both personally and professionally.

Personally, it has allowed me extra time to bond with my wife and kids so that has been good.

Professionally, there has been a reckoning with police across the country that is overdue and warranted, and I have had time to re-examine the functions of our police department to make sure we are taking advantage of the opportunity to affect change.

And I believe that whether it's hiring, use of force, or the relationship between the police and the community, we are consistent with the kind of progressive policing policies that people are now advocating.

**Q: Could you expand on that?**

**A:** Let's take recruiting and hiring. Since I have been chief, we have focused on recruiting a diverse workforce. We have hired more than 20 officers in the past two years, and 15-16 of them represent (gender, racial) minority groups. We have officers that speak Spanish, Amharic, Greek and Russian.

We are also focused on hiring people who want to be police officers for the right reasons. It's not about how many pushups someone can do; it's about how well a person can engage with the community. When I came here there was a focus on rewarding enforcement. We've changed that to rewarding community contacts – for instance, how many "Coffee with a Cop," or "Youth Explorers" programs someone participated in. We want to practice positive policing and only issue citations for violations that mean something.

Another area where our policies line up with the reform movement is in trying to take a holistic and proactive approach to public safety, which means having mental health professionals and housing professionals work in tandem with officers to provide services and identify problems before they escalate.

**Q: How has the current climate affected the morale and direction of the department?**

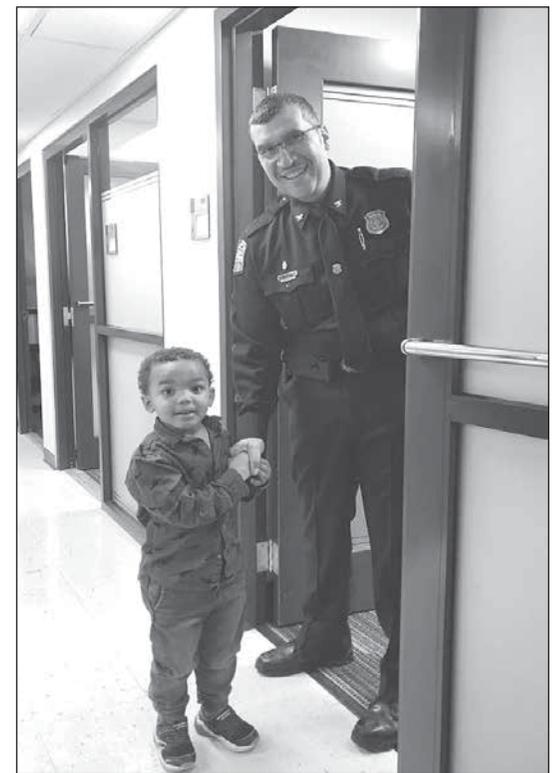
**A:** It has been a positive force. As I said, we already had a lot of progressive policies in place, including many recommended as part of the #8CANTWAIT campaign (eight recommendations for reducing the harm caused by police in the short-term, launched by the police reform advocacy group Campaign Zero).

There has been an outcry to review how we do law enforcement in this country and here in Takoma Park. People are more inquisitive. That being said, we (the department) have been very open to citizen input. For example, we have revamped the Citizen's Advisory Board. We have residents on the board who were selected

because they may have been skeptical of police or they may have alternative views. They participated in a complete review of all of our general orders.

**Q: One area where the citizens' have spoken up recently is in petitioning for the elimination of the K-9 force (after a December 2018 incident where a dog viciously attacked a citizen.) What are your thoughts on that issue?**

**A:** I am aware of the petition and right now we are evaluating all of our units, including the K-9 unit, to determine if they are best suited for the city. When I first got here, we had three K-9 units; now we just have one. We did have a horrific incident in 2018, but that is the only one of its kind involving Takoma Park in more than 30 years of the program. I don't want to make a knee-jerk decision without conducting an educated, calculated review, including considering the racial equity impact of having a K-9 unit.



Earlier this year, the chief received a surprise visitor when a City employee's son dropped by this office.

**Q: Amid all the call for police reform, there has been an uptick in crime in a lot of jurisdictions recently, including Takoma Park, to what do you attribute that?**

**A:** I wish we (in law enforcement) could put a finger on the pulse of what is going on, but I think there is a national narrative related to the times. If people don't have jobs, housing, access to mental health, crime can rise. Here in Takoma Park, we are seeing an uptick, but fortunately, not of the same type of violent crime that other jurisdictions are seeing.

**Q: Any final comments you would like to make?**

**A:** The most important thing we can do in this moment is to acknowledge the role race plays in law enforcement and society. To that end, I believe we have developed a strong relationship with our African-American and Latino communities, especially the youth. As I said, I believe a holistic approach to policing and public safety is the right one, and I believe that is consistent with what we are doing here in the City.



### 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@](mailto:tpnewseditor@)

[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—



# BUILDING COMMUNITY

## Back on the Street

The Neighborhood Services team has returned to work. The goal of Neighborhood Services is compliance and the correction of any violations. Personnel make every effort to work with property owners to see that any violations are fixed.



ected, a Notice of Violation is issued. This formal warning gives the owner 30 days to correct any issues before a citation is issued. The team is also responsible for parking enforcement and parking permits:

### Parking enforcement.

Previously, only serious parking violations were enforced, such parking near fire hydrants, in fire lanes, in handicap spaces and/or blocking a driveway. Beginning Monday, July 13, citations were issued for all parking violations.

**Parking permits.** Residents with expired residential permits have until August 31 to renew them without receiving citations for expired permits. *However, beginning Monday, July 13, if a vehicle does not have a permit at all and is in violation of residential permit parking restrictions, a citation will be issued.* Residents may renew their permits in person at the Takoma Park Police Department.

In most cases, the issuance of a citation is a last resort. Neighborhood Services is also involved in educational activities, such as Safe Grow, Anti-Litter Initiatives as well as educating the public and businesses about the plastic bag, polystyrene and plastic straw and stirrer bans.

Neighborhood Services is following up on open cases from violations that were noted prior to the pandemic, responding to complaints that come in, and conducting inspections on properties where violations are noticed. When violations are identified, a courtesy notice is issued advising of the violation and giving the owner 7-10 days to correct it. If not cor-

## Keep Us Hopping

Peter Zelinsky a Takoma Park teen, contacted Let's Play America (LPA) about repainting the hopscotch boards in the 10 playgrounds the organization painted a couple of years ago. People are thrilled to see the boards painted in bright colors that invite them to play. Takoma Park Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite approved the repainting of the boards. Laura Barclay from Main Street Takoma invited LPA to paint one on Laurel Avenue. Peter is enjoying the painting, and LPA is looking for businesses and residents that may wish to have a hopscotch board painted in their neck of the woods. If you're interested, contact me Pat at [theplaylady@gmail.com](mailto:theplaylady@gmail.com).



## Folk Festival to Celebrate "Voices Heard" as Online Events in September

By Kevin Adler

With restrictions on large gatherings likely to still be in effect this fall, the Takoma Park Folk Festival will not be held at Takoma Park Middle School.

However, with technical support from local recording studio Tonal Park and a grant from the Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Commission, a virtual festival will be presented in September. "We're delighted to continue the Folk Festival tradition, even during difficult times," said Robin Stearn, chair.

Plans are coming together for a total of about six hours of programming. It will include new studio performances, historic footage from Takoma TV, and live emcees, according to rob Hinkal, program chair. "We will present the events over a period of several nights," Hinkal said. "We think it will be an interesting mix. We are trying to offer a little more than many of the virtual concerts that have been presented this spring and summer." The exact dates of the broadcasts are yet to be determined. They will be live-streamed, and they might also be shown by Takoma TV, Hinkal noted



The festival's theme this year is "Voices Heard," which Stearn described as "reflecting the concerns of our community and the nation, as well as the Folk Festival's role to bring people together for positive change."

In addition to music, festival coordinators are bringing to life the other parts of the event. "We want this to be as close to the full Festival as we can do virtually," said Stearn. "Our website and virtual events will include links to community groups and crafters that have participated in the past. And we are exploring a 'supper club' concept that would be a tie-in with local restaurants." For updates on the Takoma Park Folk Festival, visit [www.tpff.org](http://www.tpff.org).

## Weed Warriors Wanted

While most of us have reduced our activity and are maintaining social distance to protect ourselves and our neighbors, the weeds have not. The City is currently working with reduced staffing levels, and our public gardens and planted areas are suffering as a result. If you have the time and interest, the gardens and public planted areas could use your help. Please contact the Public Works Department at 301-891-7615 if you would like to volunteer to do weeding or spreading mulch in a garden or planted area near your home. The City may be able to provide some hand tools and the mulch and also guidance by phone or from a safe distance.

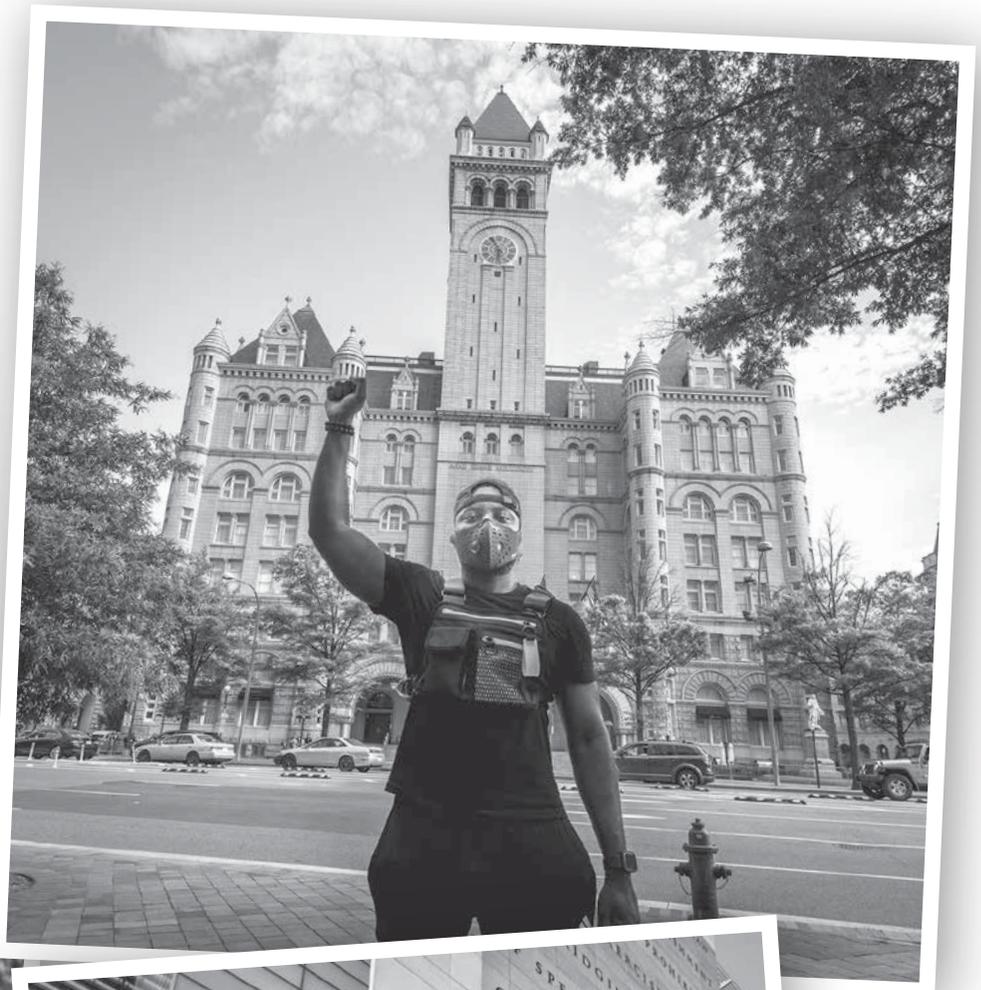


## COVID-19 Testing in Takoma Park

On July 16, Montgomery County's Department of Health and Human Services hosted a second pop up COVID-19 testing event at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. During the event, the Montgomery County DHHS team tested 612 people during the course of four hours. This was 212 tests higher than expected, due in part to the County allowing walk-ins in addition to people with scheduled appoint-

ments. DHHS would like to continue to test at a higher pace and has asked to move to a larger space in Takoma Park with more parking, so the City is currently exploring options for an alternative site. In the meantime, residents can now make an appointment for any of the testing sites in Montgomery County online at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing/appointments-en.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19/testing/appointments-en.html).

## Faceless Faces and Protests in Public Places



Civil Rights Pleas and Please Collection Photos by Sam Kittner

As centuries of racial injustice boiled over after the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, protesters across the country were faced with a difficult choice. Should we raise our voices in the streets to demand change despite the health risks from the coronavirus pandemic?

Before the protests, local commercial photographer Sam Kittner was photographing people wearing masks in Takoma Park and across the D.C. area for his *Faceless Faces in Public Places* series. He wanted to show how the pandemic was altering public life and our interactions in public spaces.

"We're all exhausted from the weight of this pandemic and are looking for strength wherever we can find it," he said. "It's interesting to me to photograph these familiar public spaces, capturing the relationship of people to their neighborhoods, and look at the mask wearing as a visual cue that something is amiss in our world at large."

During his trips, Kittner always wore a mask and tried to maintain social distancing while photographing other people wearing masks in candid street scenes. "In hindsight, I may have been trying to convey an idealized notion of how we all should be wearing masks," he said.

Then Kittner photographed protests in Takoma Park and Washington, D.C., even though social distancing was difficult and some protesters didn't wear masks.

"It was disturbing to be in a crowd, but the demand for change in our society overwhelmed the desire to stay at home during the pandemic for many people," he said. "Overall, the mood was very uplifting and peaceful. However, there also was a lot of anger, understandably, in the air at times."

Those photos became his *Civil Rights Pleas and Please Collection*. You can see more photos on Instagram at @samkittner and at [www.kittner.com](http://www.kittner.com).

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).

## IMPORTANT ELECTION NEWS

# City Election Voters Will Vote by Mail in November

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States, the Takoma Park Board of Elections (BOE) has been monitoring the situation and its potential impact for the conduct of the 2020 City election for mayor and city council.

### Vote by Mail for Mayor and City Council

At its June meeting, the BOE unanimously decided to recommend that the City move to a vote-by-mail election in November. This recommendation was made to protect election workers and voters. With vote by mail, voters would complete the ballot at home and drop it off at predetermined locations or mail it back to the City. On Election Day, in-person voting would be available on a limited basis to accommodate same day registration and other special circumstances.

The City Council received the recommendation and authorized the BOE to continue planning for voting by mail. This is quite a change from what was envisioned just a few months ago. Details are being worked out and more information will be available for the September issue of the Newsletter and on the City website.

### Candidates for City Office

In the meantime, nothing changes for candidates. The Nominating Caucus will take place on September 15 at 7:30 p.m. It may be a virtual/remote meeting. The new campaign finance information and other important information for candidates is available



on the City website. Campaign finance registration is required before any campaign contributions can be accepted or before making any campaign expenditures.

### Prepare to Vote: Voter Registration

Voters should prepare for the presidential election and the election for mayor and council by making sure they are registered at their correct address in the City. Remember that 16/17 year old Takoma Park residents, and City residents who are not citizens of the United States, are eligible to be registered and vote for mayor and city council, but not for any other offices.

View election information at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). Please contact the City Clerk's Office at [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) with any questions about the election.

## NOTICIAS IMPORTANTES DE ELECCIONES

# Los Votantes de la Elección de la Ciudad Votarán por Correo en Noviembre

Desde la epidemia de COVID-19 en los Estados Unidos, la Junta Electoral de Takoma Park ha estado monitoreando la situación y su impacto potencial para la realización de las elecciones municipales de 2020 para alcalde y miembros del concejo.



### Votación por Correo para Alcalde y Miembros del Concejo

En su reunión de Junio, la Junta Electoral decidió por unanimidad recomendar que la ciudad pasara a una elección por correo en Noviembre. Esta recomendación se hizo para proteger a los trabajadores electorales y a los votantes. Con el voto por correo, los votantes completarían la boleta electoral en casa y la entregarán en lugares predeterminados o enviarán la boleta por correo a la ciudad. El día de las elecciones, el voto en persona estaría disponible de manera limitada para acomodar el registro el mismo día y otras circunstancias especiales. El Concejo recibió la recomendación y autorizó la Junta Electoral a continuar planificando la votación por correo. Esto es un gran cambio con respecto a lo que se imaginó hace unos meses. Se están elaborando detalles y se encontrará más información disponible para la edición de Septiembre del boletín y en el sitio web de la ciudad.

### Candidatos para la Oficina de la Ciudad

Mientras tanto, nada cambia para los candidatos. La Reunión de Nominaciones tendrá lugar el 15 de Septiembre

a las 7:30 p.m. Puede ser una reunión virtual/remota. La nueva información de financiamiento de campañas y otra información importante para los candidatos está disponible en el sitio web de la ciudad. Se requiere el registro de financiamiento de campaña antes de que se puedan aceptar las contribuciones de la campaña o antes de realizar cualquier gasto de campaña.

### Prepararse para Votar: Registro de Votantes

Los votantes deben prepararse para la elección presidencial y la elección para el alcalde y el consejo de Takoma Park asegurándose de que estén registrados con su dirección correcta en la ciudad. Recuerde que los residentes de Takoma Park, de 16/17 años de edad, y los residentes de la ciudad que no son ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos, son elegibles para ser registrados y votar por el alcalde y el consejo de la ciudad, pero no para ninguna otra oficina.

Para más información de las elecciones en [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). Comuníquese con la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal al [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) con cualquier pregunta sobre la elección.

## Important City Department Phone Numbers

City Information .....	301-891-7100
City Clerk.....	301-891-7267
City Manager .....	301-891-7229
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



# Thinking About Running for Office in 2020?

## How to Place a Name on the Ballot

In Takoma Park, a resident who wishes to have their name placed on the ballot for the office of mayor or city councilmember must be nominated at the nominating caucus. This year, the caucus will take place on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. virtually/remotely.



## Candidates for Mayor:

Nominations of candidates for mayor shall be made on motion by any qualified voter of the city, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of the city, the person so nominated shall be considered a candidate. The candidate must be at least 18 years of age on the day of the election, must have resided in the city for at least six months immediately preceding their election, and must be a qualified voter of the City. The mayor must maintain principal residence in the city during the term of office. Term: 2 years. Salary: \$14,771 annually (paid biweekly)

## Candidates for City Council:

Nomination of each candidate for ward councilmember shall be made on motion of any qualified voter of the ward, and if such nomination is seconded by a qualified voter of the ward, the person so nominated shall be considered a candidate. The candidate must be at least 18 years of age on the day of the election, must have resided in the city (and ward from which they are elected) for at least six months immediately preceding their election, and must be a qualified voter of the city. Councilmembers must maintain their principal residence in the city and in their ward during their term of office. Term: 2 years. Salary: \$11,362 annually (paid biweekly)

## Campaign Finance and Registration:

Potential candidates for office may register with the City Clerk beginning Monday, June 8. Registration is required before any campaign contributions can be accepted or before making any campaign expenditures. New campaign finance requirements take effect this year. See [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) for information or call Jessie Carpenter at 301-891-7267.

# ¿Está Pensando en Postularse para un Cargo en 2020?

## Cómo Colocar un Nombre en la Boleta Electoral

En Takoma Park, un residente que desee que su nombre aparezca en la boleta electoral para el cargo de alcalde o miembro del concejo municipal debe ser nominado en la reunión de nominaciones. Este año, la reunión de nominaciones se llevará a cabo el Martes, 15 de Septiembre a las 7:30 p.m. virtualmente / remotamente.



## Candidatos para alcalde:

La nominación de candidatos para alcalde serán hechas por nominación por cualquier votante calificado de la ciudad y si dicha nominación es secundada por un votante calificado de la ciudad, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato. El candidato debe tener al menos 18 años de edad el día de la elección, debe haber residido en la ciudad durante al menos seis meses inmediatamente anteriores a su elección y debe ser un votante calificado de la ciudad. El alcalde debe mantener la residencia principal en la ciudad durante el mandato. Plazo: 2 años. Salario: \$ 14,771 anualmente (pagado quincenalmente).

## Candidatos para el Concejo Municipal:

La nominación del candidato para miembro del concejo de cada distrito se hará por nominación de cualquier votante calificado de tal distrito, y si dicha nominación es secundada por un votante calificado de tal distrito, la persona nominada será considerada como candidato. El candidato debe tener al menos 18 años de edad el día de la elección, debe haber residido en la ciudad (y en el distrito donde fue elegido) durante al menos seis meses inmediatamente anteriores a su elección, y debe ser un votante calificado de la ciudad. Los miembros del concejo deben mantener su residencia principal en la ciudad y en su distrito durante su mandato. Plazo: 2 años. Salario: \$ 11,362 anualmente (pagado quincenalmente)

## Financiamiento de Campaña y Registro:

Los candidatos potenciales para el cargo de alcalde o miembro del concejo pueden registrarse con la Secretaria Municipal a partir del Lunes, 8 de Junio. Se requiere registro antes de que se acepten contribuciones de campaña o antes de realizar cualquier gasto de campaña. Los nuevos requisitos de financiamiento de campaña entrarán en vigencia este año. Consulte la página web [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) para obtener información o llame a Irma Nalvarte al 301-891-7214.

# Voter Registration

If you are already registered at an address in the City, you need not register again.

If you are not registered, you may register to vote in Takoma Park elections if you:

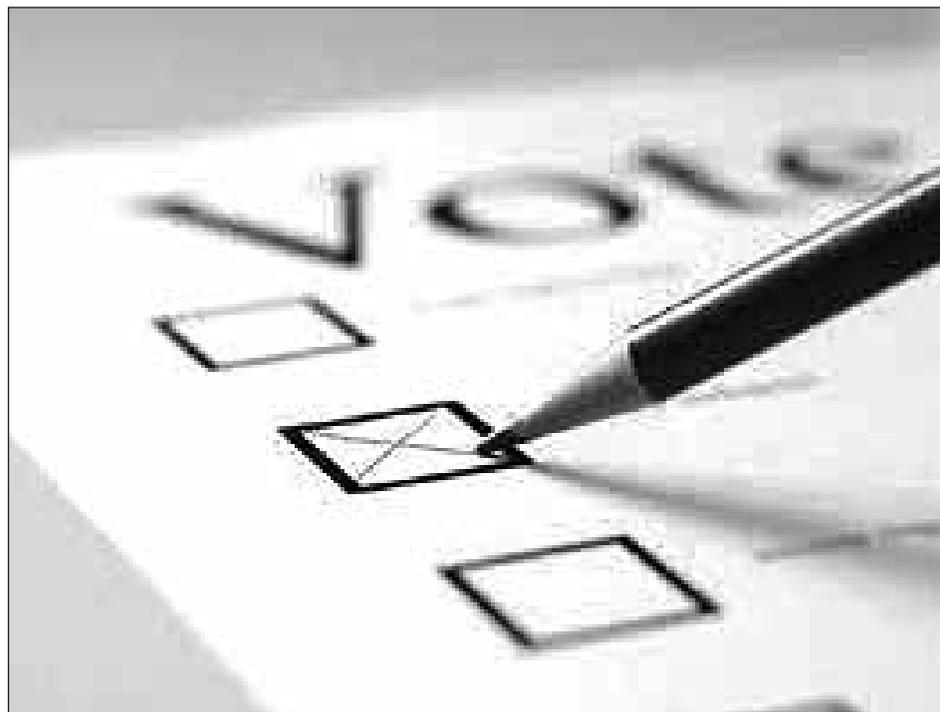
- are a resident of the City of Takoma Park;
- will be at least 16 years old on election day; and
- do not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

U.S. citizenship is not a requirement for voting in Takoma Park elections.

Not everyone who registers to vote in City elections will be eligible to vote in county, state or national elections. Review the registration form carefully to understand the requirements for voting in the State of Maryland.

An individual is not eligible to be a registered voter of the City if the individual:

(1) has been convicted of a felony and is actually serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment for the conviction; (2) is under guardianship for mental disability and a court of competent jurisdiction has specifically found by clear and convincing evidence that the individual cannot communicate, with or without accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process; or (3) has been convicted of buying or selling votes.



# Registracion de votantes

- Si está registrado para votar con una dirección en la Ciudad de Takoma Park no necesita registrarse de nuevo.
- Si no está registrado para votar, usted puede registrarse para votar en las elecciones de Takoma Park si:
- Es residente de la Ciudad de Takoma Park;
- Declara no tener derecho a votar en ninguna otra elección;
- Tendrá al menos 16 años de edad en el día de la elección.

Tanto los ciudadanos estadounidenses como los residentes de Takoma Park tienen derecho registrarse para votar en las elecciones de Takoma Park.

No todas las personas que se registren para votar en las elecciones de la ciudad

tendrán derecho a votar en las elecciones del Condado, Estatales o Nacionales. Lea con cuidado los requisitos para votar en el Estado de Maryland.

No puede votar en las elecciones de Takoma Park si: (1) ha sido condenado por un delito y está actualmente encarcelado por orden de la Corte; (2) este bajo custodia por discapacidad mental o, si lo estuviese, no ha sido determinado por la corte que usted no puede comunicar su deseo de votar; o (3) ha sido condenado por la venta o compra de votos.

# RECREATION

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

## YOUTH

### DANCE

#### Dance Class

This class explores various dance styles that can be tried at home that include, but are not limited to, Hip-Hop, Ballet and Jazz. Instructor: Charonne Butler  
6–12 years  
Thursdays, 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Free

### FITNESS



#### Recess

Here is an opportunity for youth to virtually participate in exercise and communicate with their peers while remaining inside. Instructor: Charonne Butler  
6–12 years  
Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.  
Free

## TEENS

### ART

#### Art Elements

This virtual class engages grades 6–12 in a variety of arts and crafts techniques. Using easy-to-source materials (inexpensive, common household items, etc.), students will be able to create a finished piece of artwork by the end of each class. All while in the safety and convenience of their own home. Registration is required. Contact [javontem@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:javontem@takomaparkmd.gov) for more information. Instructor: Shannon Tomac  
Grades 6–12  
August 28, September 16, September 25  
Register per date  
4–5 p.m.  
Free

### EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

#### Teens Entrepreneurship Class

This virtual class will empower teens to follow their passions and inspire them to create their own businesses. George Washington University professor Ellen M. Zavian will lead students in unlocking their new entrepreneurial skills as they work in teams to develop a venture idea that creates economic and social value. Registration is required. Contact [javontem@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:javontem@takomaparkmd.gov) for more information.  
Grade 6–12  
First & Third Wednesdays  
Two time slots:  
4–5 p.m. (15 and under)  
5–6 p.m. (16+)  
Free

## ADULT

### HEALTH & FITNESS

#### Everyday Qi Gong

This class features simple gentle movements to improve health, mobility, flexibility and general happiness and peace of mind. We will share exercises from many different classes, culling the ones that we practice regularly in the morning and throughout the day. You will find benefits quickly as these exercises invigorate energy systems, open joints and relax our bodies, minds and spirits. 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.  
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 offered to try, but it’s okay to go with your own.) with teachings on that particular flower/herb as both a physical and mental healing aid, as well as 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.  
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, 5–6 p.m.  
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.  
Free

# Virtual. Virtual. Virtual.

By Javonte Mcdonald

This Covid-19 outbreak would be impossible to manage without our adaptability to the technology we have today. Instead of emails and text messages, we would be reduced to phone trees or individual faxes. Without video conferencing, we would risk exposure with in-person interactions.

What can our youth do for fun when our options are significantly limited for leisurely activities? Answer: Get more creative. Through our virtual Art Elements class, teens in grades 6–12 are able to use common household items to engage in a variety of arts and crafts techniques. These classes have resulted in finished artwork such as reusable bags from old shirts, and marble paintings from shaving cream. In each class, teens are able to express their creativity without the concerns of materials. Takoma Park resident Shannon Tomac leads this free class, providing guidance throughout the session.

Virtual classes have become the norm



Examples of the kinds of projects participants make during Art Elements

in the past months. However, it was not the predominant choice before the Covid-19 outbreak. Conveying as much of the in-person experience as possible, Shannon answers questions and cracks jokes all while the students create finished products. Instead of pre-recorded

videos that limit participant engagement, Art Elements occurs in real time. Students are able to see mistakes, learn how to fix them, and ask questions.

As time passes, and we regain the confidence to venture outside, we all will have learned something from this

experience. As in our Art Elements class, we will continue to create new alternatives that work efficiently and effectively. Adaptability continues to be the theme and a most important skill during this outbreak.

# RECREATION

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



## Spirit Group Fitness

Class will be geared toward supporting all members of the community, as each class spotlights trainers leading 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 site each Wednesday  
Free

## Total Body Blast

This class provides a mix of calisthenics, balance, strength training and cardiovascular exercise in one dynamic session. Participants will work at their own pace to complete a workout that focuses on all major muscle groups. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness  
16 and older  
Saturdays, 9–10 a.m.  
Free

## MULTIMEDIA

### Online Mobile Photography Course

Part of life is all about capturing beautiful fun moments and creating memories. In this class, learn the secret formulas to capturing those moments on your phone. Whether it is portraits, a scenic walk, a street market, a birthday or your pet, we can help

you get those timeless moments translated into a picture in the best possible way. In this course you will also learn to take better food photos, group photos, and interior and exterior portraits. You will also be practicing composition, shutter speed, iso, and aperture adjustment with built-in native apps and manual mode function to get the best photo out of your phone. At the beginning of each class, the instructor will review your photos and provide professional feedback that will help you take better photos. At the end of each class, there will be an assignment to get you practicing the skills taught in class. Instructor: Vinny Mwano  
16 and older  
Tuesdays, 5–6 p.m.  
Free

### 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 knowledge and talent. In this course you will learn how to navigate the digital world in order to sell a product or your services. There are a lot of online courses that will teach you how to use SEO, content marketing, social media, and Google analytics, but none of them walk you through the proper steps from ideation to your first customer or client. In this course, the instructor walks you through the steps that have helped over 35 companies (artist, start-ups, education, independent consultants) start monetizing on their digital platforms. Each lesson in this course is designed to get you to narrow your idea to where you can start monetizing your expertise online. Instructor: Vinny Mwano  
16 and older  
Thursdays, 5–6 p.m.  
Free

55+

## FITNESS

### Enhance Your Fitness

Start your morning right! The class theme is improving posture, focusing on core strengthening and utilizing various body strength training exercises. Instructor: Adriene Buist  
55 and older  
Tuesdays, 8:45–9:45 a.m.  
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-



## 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.

follow Zumba choreography that focuses on balance, range of motion and coordination. Instructor: Yesika Flores  
55 & up  
Fridays, 10–11 a.m.  
Free

# Going the Distance with Distance: DIY Bike Rodeo

With more time and quieter roads, many in the City have taken to bike riding for recreation and entertainment. The extended closure of Sligo Creek Parkway offers a perfect place to practice new skills or just enjoy a scenic ride. Alas, cars are returning to the roads, increasing the risk for our young riders. Since our students will most likely not benefit from an in-school Bike Rodeo this year, why not do it yourself? Along with baking bread, making masks, and planting a garden, you can now add a DIY Bike Rodeo to your list of new skills prompted by our current situation.

Let's get started. After you choose a date and time for your Bike Rodeo, request a street closure permit to close your road ([takomaparkmd.gov/services/permits/street-closure-permit](http://takomaparkmd.gov/services/permits/street-closure-permit)). Public Works is willing to loan out cones along with the barricades that come with the street closure permit. Just like when the students attend the bike rodeo during physical education class, you can address the skills you want to practice. When Safe Routes works with the students, we cover the following:

### Before riding:

1. Helmet Fitting
2. Rules of the Road
3. ABC Spin Check
4. Signaling



### On the bike:

1. Mounting and Dismounting
2. Starting and Stopping
3. Straight Line Control
4. Weaving
5. Turning and Signaling

You can set up a course in the shape of a figure eight with straight lines, turns, weaving and an intersection. Or you can set up several point-to-point activities that serve the same purpose. For example, you can organize three or four columns: riding a straight line from cone to cone; weaving around several cones; ride to a stop sign, stop, get off

the bike, walk across the "crosswalk," get back on and ride to the cone. Use chalk or tape on the road to set up the course.

Helmets are required at all times, of course. Teach kids about helmet use, rules of the road, ABC Spin Check (Air, Brakes, Chain) and signaling before getting on the bikes. Allow riders to enter the course a few at a time. Position adults along the course to remind riders how to stay safe and follow the rules. Let them ride and have fun while learning to keep themselves safe.

Check out these resources to get started:

- ABC Quick Check: [www.pedbikeinfo.org/bicyclesaferjourney/abcquick-check.pdf](http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/bicyclesaferjourney/abcquick-check.pdf)
- Bike Helmet Fitting: [www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/8019\\_fitting-a-helmet.pdf](http://www.nhtsa.gov/sites/nhtsa.dot.gov/files/8019_fitting-a-helmet.pdf)
- Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA): [waba.org](http://waba.org)
- League of American Bicyclists: [www.bikeleague.org](http://www.bikeleague.org)
- Safe Kids Worldwide: [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)
- Traffic Gardens: [www.trafficgardens.com](http://www.trafficgardens.com)

# LIBRARY



photo - Maurice Belanger

A library staffer fulfills book orders

## Books-to-Go Is Up and Running!

We're delighted to start our curbside service, but please be patient with us as we settle into this new system. **Note:** This system is a work-in-progress, and if needed, we may make changes.

Here are the basics:

- 1. If possible, check your account online before you request books.** To check out books, all overdue books on your library card first must be returned! **Note:** Once you return your books in the book-drop, they are quarantined for four days, so they will still appear on your account for a few days after you've returned them.
- 2. We'll be taking 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. Email for book requests is: [librarytakomapark@gmail.com](mailto:librarytakomapark@gmail.com)  
To request kids/teen books, call: 301-580-0085  
To request adult books, call: 240-507-0229
- 3. Before requesting books, please check our catalog,** <https://takoma.bywatersolutions.com> to see if we have the book, and if it is available. If it is checked out, you will see — in red let-

ters — CHECKED OUT.

- 4. 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.
- 5. When you request books, by email or phone, we will need your name plus either your birthday (month and day) or the last 4 digits of your library card number.** We need this information, so we can call up your account, and also to ensure you get the books you order. For 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. Call when you get to the Library.** The number to call is 301-580-0085. We'll bring out your books and leave them on a table for you to pick up.

LIBRARY □ Page 12

## CALENDAR

The library is closed, so there are no in-person programs. But we're continuing to offer several great online Library programs each week 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.

*Note: Our Zoom Comics Jam and Zoom Scribbler's Cabal programs are on a summer hiatus.*

### PROGRAMS:

We're continuing to offer weekly online library programs via Zoom. Click on "Join a Meeting" and put in the Meeting ID listed with each program. To keep up with all of our programs, go to [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents).

**Circle Time:** Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID is 936-5544-4072 and Meeting Password is 740663.

(Note: Those log-in credentials may change, so please confirm by going to [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents).)

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

**Zoom Family Yoga Storytime:** Fridays at 10:30 a.m. Meeting ID is: 669-381-6885 and the Meeting Password is: 423812.

## LIBRARY BRIEFS

- Join the quest.** There's still plenty of time to join the SummerQuest fun! What is SummerQuest? It's our annual summer reading program, with a story and artwork created by Library Associate Dave Burbank and sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. There are 10 reading challenges embedded in the story, and we also have special challenges for Pre-K kids and for adults. This year, due to the pandemic, Sum-

merQuest is online for the first time ever. For information, go to: [www.ftpml.org/summerquest](http://www.ftpml.org/summerquest).

- Get carded.** Have an issue with your Takoma Park Maryland Library card? Want to get one of our Library cards? Go to <https://tinyurl.com/tkpklibrarycard> to get help.
- Enjoy a story.** Kati Nofli, our children's librarian, regularly creates Storytime videos featuring a book (or two!) and songs. To check out these videos, go to [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Kati Knows Storytime. These brief videos are a great way to take a fun Storytime break with your children.



photo - Maurice Belanger

A resident picks up books

### Email Requests

The email for book requests is [librarytakomapark@gmail.com](mailto:librarytakomapark@gmail.com).

- 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, <https://takoma.bywatersolutions.com>.

com, and provide us with the title, and call number (not the barcode). Also, please make sure it is available.

- We will reply when we have fulfilled your request, and let you know when you may to pick up your books. Incomplete information will delay the process.

### Phone Requests

To request kids/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).

### Call Numbers

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.

# Takoma Park Youth Council Focuses on Advocacy

By Rick Henry

Schools may have shut down early and in-person meetings may have disappeared, but that has not diminished the enthusiasm and commitment of the members of the Takoma Park Youth Council. In fact, the group's activism and calls for action have grown more urgent and powerful during these times.

"During the pandemic, we've been focusing more on advocacy, since the other main [activity] we do is plan and host events, and that's obviously not possible right now," said Youth Council Chair George Ashford, 17.

As evidence of that advocacy, consider the statements the Youth Council issued recently in support of the Black Lives Matter (BLM) Movement and on the special appropriation to expand the Montgomery County Mobile Crisis Response Team.

Both statements were released through the group's email listserv, on posted on its Facebook and Twitter pages. The Black Lives Matter statement was also shared on the City of Takoma Park's official website.

Youth Council Vice Chair, Asha Henry, a 16-year-old rising senior at Montgomery Blair High School, said that even though the group had never issued a formal statement before, council members felt compelled to issue one given the circumstances and the protests taking place across the country.

"We decided to make this statement because of the nationwide and global protests. It was important to express

## Takoma Park Youth Council Statement in Support of Black Lives Matter

The Takoma Park Youth Council supports the Black Lives Matter Movement and all people who strive to make their communities safer and more livable for Black Americans.

Though we are a diverse city, there is much progress to be made in Takoma Park and it is everyone's responsibility to support policies conducive to racial equity. As a community, we must be actively anti-racist, educate our family and peers on the systemic racism that plagues our country, and constantly examine our own institutions for how they could better serve our most vulnerable community members.

Right now, it is essential that everyone does what they can to support the Black community. Through taking direct action such as protesting, signing petitions, donating to Black organizations, uplifting Black voices, and supporting Black businesses, you can make an impact in our community.

It is up to each and every person to take steps both large and small towards dismantling white supremacy, to help our community and country become one of acceptance, peace, and joy.

solidarity," she said. "As this issue is very important to the youth, we felt that it was our responsibility to speak out and to affect any changes that might help to prevent such heinous crimes within our community."

According to Henry, the idea came about during a Youth Council meeting where the members were discussing an incident where a City police officer removed pro-Black Lives Matter signs posted in downtown.

"That demonstrated to us that a lack of empathy and an 'it can't happen here' attitude could be a slippery slope," she said. "We decided as a council that it was im-

portant for us to take a definitive stance on the issue and encourage our community leaders to make lasting change on the local and national level."

Once the decision had been made to issue a statement, Henry, who has been a council member since its inception in 2017, offered to draft it. "As a Black Takoma Park resident and one of only two black students on the council, I felt particularly close to this issue," she said. "I offered to write the statement and my fellow councilmembers made slight additions and edits before we voted to release it." Henry said the reaction to the statement has been positive, noting that Ta-

koma Park Mayor Kate Stewart was one of many residents who liked and retweeted his statement.

Concerning the statement related to the special appropriation to expand the Mobile Crisis Response, Ashford, who graduated from Blair in June said members thought that the original proposal of only six new hires was nowhere near ambitious enough, and that the money for those hires should come out of the police budget, since the new social workers hired for the team will be handling behavioral health situations to which police currently respond.

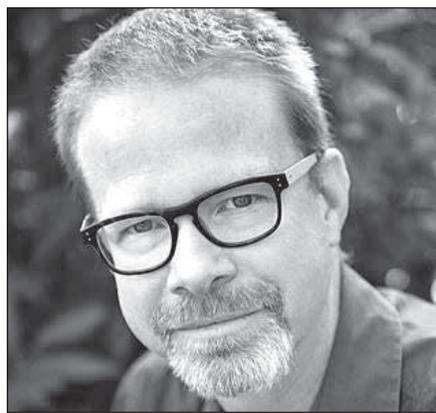
"We also put out a statement asking them to pass the proposed use-of-force standard that would, for example, require officers to exhaust all other options before using deadly force," he said. "Racism in policing is an example of an issue that isn't only about young people, but it affects young people nonetheless, and so we have a duty to advocate for its amelioration."

The Takoma Youth Council's mission is to help the City Council better understand the needs of its youth residents, promote 16+ voting in City municipal elections, promote youth voting to municipalities, inform youth about job opportunities, and host events such as Day of Service and documentary film series. And, as their recent statements of advocacy prove, speak out when history beckons.

## So Many Memories

*Editor's Note: This is the second of a series of articles reflecting on death and grief that will run under the thematic heading, "So Many Memories." With many people in the Takoma Park Community experiencing the loss of friends and loved ones, we decided to provide a forum for thought leaders in the community to offer their reflections on grieving and loss. If you have questions or would like to contribute, please email me at [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov).*

—Apryl Motley



John Robinette

### A Reflection on Grief

By John Robinette

Five hundred words on coping with grief. That is the assignment.

Impossible.

There are no words, let alone five-hundred, or five million for that matter, that can do it. That is the thing. Some of you have experienced grief. Gut-wrenching, nauseating, confusing, searing grief. Maybe you are experiencing it right now, and reading this is an act of courage no one can comprehend; the words blurring and dancing about on the page through tears and fever-like hallucinations. Others of you have

borne witness to a friend or loved-one navigating the tumult and delirium of a full-on bout of the condition. Helpless you are to their helplessness – wondering what magic you can conjure from Earth or the Gods or the wind to ease their pain even a nanometer. And if it is a child's grief, you'd happily hand over a limb or two as sacrifice if given even a probability of success.

There are those who speak knowingly of the stages of grief. Some offer insights on how long before you get on with life. Some invoke a deity's plan in hopes of comfort. Or you may have

your own ways to cope, like turning to drugs or alcohol like I did when my wife died suddenly at age 42. And do you want to know a secret? It works. At least scotch worked for me. For a while. And then it stopped working.

There are other things that help. Being with people helped me cope. So did being alone. Physical exercise was important as was sleep. My grief made me nauseous, and I barely ate for two weeks and lost 15 pounds. There are some who eat for comfort and gain 15 pounds.

I no longer subscribe to a specific faith. I lean Buddhist or Unitarian-Universalist. But for my money the wisdom in Ecclesiastes is hard to beat:

For there is an appointed time for everything. A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot the plant. A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to tear down, and a time to build. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

There was grief in the Old Testament. Lots. They got it – the cyclical and transient nature of life. Strange comfort comes with the awareness of our own short lives and that all things, even my grief, will come to pass. And dancing? I

added that. My late wife loved to dance, and whether in ecstatic joy or ecstatic misery, dancing is proper therapy.

I'm afraid I have no list of 7 items or 9 tips, for coping. I'm sorry about that. What I can say is this: Be yourself. Don't let anyone say you are grieving wrong. The proper amount of time is the amount of time it takes. Ask for help; there is no shame in it. Get plenty of rest and exercise. Eat healthy food, and go easy on the liquor and drugs. There are people who love you.

Remember that.

You can do this.

*John Robinette is a father and husband, re-married after the sudden death of his wife in 2010. In John's book, *Never Stop Dancing: A Memoir*, which he wrote with close friend and co-author Robert Jacoby, such issues as male friendship in our modern era, how we look at life differently in the aftermath of a terrible tragedy, and how we understand the concepts of love, God, and religion in our lives are explored. The book is based on John and Robert's conversations during the year after John's wife Amy died.*

# Service Salute: Wolfgang Mergner

By Taylor Dibbert

Wolfgang Mergner is a 2020 Montgomery Serves Award winner. He won the Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award. As noted on website for the award, honorees “have demonstrated remarkable commitment to direct volunteer service in our community, earning them Montgomery County’s highest recognition for volunteerism.”

Mergner has lived in Takoma Park since 1987. His deep and meaningful engagement with the community began almost immediately. “At that time, we had a lot of problems in our neighborhood ... and crime, so we formed a neighborhood patrol with the help of the police,” he said. “We would walk every night in our neighborhood.”

Mergner subsequently worked with others and approached the Takoma Park City Council about creating a safety committee. He became the first member and then chair of the Public Safety Committee. The body was created in 1995. He chaired the committee from 1997 to 2001.

“Then emergency preparedness became an important thing; so the Emergency Preparedness Committee was formed,” he said. Mergner was a member of the committee from 2004 to 2011; he served as chair from 2008 to 2010.

Additionally, he was involved in creating the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). According to him, that CERT was very active for emergencies, including heavy weather like snow. “Residents of Takoma Park enrolled in this program for training and service in emergencies, such as shelter maintenance,” he said.

In 2002, Mergner became president of the Old Town Residents’ Association. He held the position for a few years. “It’s important to be organized and to represent your neighborhood,” he said of leading the organization.

Through the years, Mergner developed and maintained a keen interest in mediation. He joined the Takoma Park Mediation Program. He served as a board member from 2000 to 2004 and chaired the board in 2004. Mergner noted, “It’s very important to have mediation available in conflict resolution.” He was also a board member of the Montgomery County Conflict Resolution Center and co-president in 2010.

Mergner has extensive mediation experience. He spoke in detail about senior mediation. This interested him because he discovered that families were having so many fights over seniors, including matters pertaining to in-



Wolfgang Mergner

heritance or discussing who would take care of seniors. “We saw mediation as a very good way of helping families come to an agreement as to how they handle these matters,” he said. And then his interest in seniors let him to his next big project.

“Pretty soon we discovered that seniors in Takoma Park needed more than mediation,” he said. “There were a lot of problems.” That was in 2011.

Mergner and others had seniors complete a questionnaire to better understand the group’s needs and desires. Transportation and access to doctors were big issues. “We decided to create a village,” he said. “In this case, a village means a grassroots organization that helps seniors live with dignity.” And the Village of Takoma Park was born. “We became and incorporated, non-profit organization in 2014,” he said.

Mergner emphasized that creating and maintaining the village would not have been possible without significant and sustained volunteer support. Sandra Egan, Linda Carlson and Kathie Baker played big roles. From Mergner’s perspective, “these people need to be mentioned because they did extraordinary work.”

“Wolfgang’s a visionary,” Carlson said. “He had a vision for an organization built around the idea of neighbors helping neighbors, with a focus on seniors, and deserves enormous credit for the successful creation of the Village

of Takoma Park, as does his wife Gertrud.”

Carlson, who has lived in Takoma Park since 1981 and been chair of the village’s communications committee since 2014, added that “[h]is gentle persistence, dedication to service, kind-heartedness, and firmness of purpose have been a real inspiration to many who have come to know him through his activities both with the village and in the broader community.”

Mergner served as president of the Village of Takoma Park for four years and retired in 2015. He’s most proud of the way that the village has grown. It now has about 250 members. At any given point, there are about 75 volunteers. (The membership number includes both volunteers and those who are being served.)

When it came to helping seniors, Mergner mentioned that his wife Gertrud was an enthusiastic supporter of the idea. She indicated that she would help him if he went down that path. “That was a very strong motivator,” he recalled.

Egan, who has lived in Takoma Park for nearly 39 years, believes the Village of Takoma would not be happening if it weren’t for the commitment that Mergner and his wife had to seniors. Egan currently serves as volunteer coordinator for the village, a position she’s held since 2014.

Professionally, Mergner was a medical doctor and an academic. He retired as professor emeritus from the University of Maryland in 1998. He earned his doctorate at Duke University. He was a pathologist and researcher in heart disease.

Mergner is staying busy. He took a course at the Takoma Park Community Center on memoir writing and is currently working on a book: “There are many people like me who suddenly discovered they have a past.”

“I had a very traumatic life, from being born in Africa, coming to Germany and having to adjust to Germany society,” Mergner said. He alluded to his experiences during World War II. He moved from Tanzania to Germany in 1940, when he was seven years old. He immigrated to the U.S. in 1964. “There are a lot of things to talk about,” he said. “Once you start writing things down, many, many things come to your memory.”

Mergner has seen and done so much. He has lived a full, meaningful life and contributed a lot to the Takoma Park community. And yet, he strikes you as someone who still has a lot more to give.

## LIBRARY

■ From page 12



photo - Maurice Belanger

A staffer awaits calls from residents picking up their books

## 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

## Accessing Audiobooks

For streaming audiobooks, go to Book Cloud for teens or AudioBookCloud for adults. Also, Tumblebooks for kids offers “read along” versions of some picture books.

For downloadable audiobooks, go to Hoopla, which has digital offerings for kids, teens and adults. Hoopla requires a bit of set-up; basically, you set up an account with your library card and then you are good to go! Hoopla also has an app version for your phone so you can listen to audiobooks – or music! – on the go.

To access audiobooks and other digital resources, go to: [www.takomapark.info/library](http://www.takomapark.info/library). Click on the “online” button at the top of the page, and you can have fun exploring our great collection of digital resources!

Some resources may require you to enter your library card number, so have it handy.





The newly launched Takoma Park Healthy Business Initiative was created in response to the ongoing needs of our local businesses who are working to make changes to their operations to address COVID-19 challenges.

This initiative includes four crucial small business support programs that will help our Takoma Park businesses impacted by public health emergency closures and stay-at-home orders begin to adjust business operations to stop the spread of COVID-19 and adhere to state and county public health re-opening rules and guidance:

1. **Outdoor Seating and Hand Sanitizing Stations placed at the Takoma Streetery on Laurel and throughout the commercial areas in Old Town, the Crossroads, and Flower Ave.** As of June 12, the side of Laurel Avenue, where businesses are located, is closed to allow for outdoor dining and enjoyment, curbside pick-up, and other public uses to assist Takoma Park's businesses, employees, and residents during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, hand sanitizing stations will be available near the Takoma Streetery and throughout the City's business districts in Old Town Takoma, the Takoma Langley Crossroads, and Flower Avenue to encourage cleanliness and reduce the spread of germs and viruses.
2. **Public Health Signage packages provided to all storefronts that receive clients and customers.** Public health signs will be supplied to local storefront businesses for free to remind the public of mask requirements and social distancing rules. Signage distribution will be coordinated with Takoma/Langley

Crossroads and the Old Takoma Business Association. If you are members of these associations, you have already been counted in the initial order of signs. If you are not a member of either association and your business needs printed public health signage, please submit your request using the Public Health Signage Request Form: <https://forms.gle/P7QWAwrpLKGzHoau7>.

3. **Business Recovery Cleaning for businesses that have owners or employees test positive for COVID-19.** Business Recovery Cleaning program will provide financial assistance for deep cleaning and disinfecting following the positive test of an owner or employee. Assistance of up to \$1,500 in cleaning will be provided. Applications for Business Recovery Cleaning can be found at <https://forms.gle/pLk2pcaBmdeDkcko9>.
4. **Healthy Business Grant program to support additional needs and changes to business operations.** Grant award amounts will range from \$500 to \$2,000 unless greater need is determined. The City will accept applications for review on an ongoing basis according to the timeline and until funding is expended. **Round 2 opens August 28 and ends September 7 with awards announced by September 25.** Applications can be submitted online using the Healthy Business Grant Application on the City's website at [takomaparkmd.gov/news/introducing-takoma-park-healthy-business-initiative](http://takomaparkmd.gov/news/introducing-takoma-park-healthy-business-initiative). Questions regarding the Healthy Business Initiative can be sent to Grace Zhou at [yixianz@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:yixianz@takomaparkmd.gov).

## Keep It Down: Understanding the Takoma Park Noise Control Law

Takoma Park has a noise control law to protect public health and allow for the peaceful enjoyment of property. It provides common sense guidelines for residents and businesses. It also provides remedies, including corrective orders, fines, and criminal penalties. It is unlawful to create a noise disturbance.

A "noise disturbance" is a sound that is:

- Unpleasant, annoying, offensive, loud, or obnoxious; or
- Detrimental to the health, comfort, or safety of any individual, or to the reasonable enjoyment of property or to the lawful conduct of business because of the loudness, duration, or character of the noise.

### Key provisions of the Noise Control Law

While we cannot eliminate noise in our community, we can take steps to control it. The Takoma Park Noise Control Law:

- Provides day/night sound level limits.
  - Daytime – 65 decibels
  - Nighttime – 60 decibels
  - However, a sound level meter measurement is not required to establish a noise disturbance.
- Establishes a Noise Control Board
- Assists and advises the City on noise control issues
- Holds hearings and decides on two-party noise complaints

The law does not cover noise from:

- Aircraft and railroads, motor vehicles on public roadways
- Emergency operations by police, fire or public utilities
- City services or City-sanctioned events

### Solving community noise problems

Many noise problems can be resolved through the same methods used to solve other disputes. Tactful person-to-person communication is a good way to start. Remember, self-monitoring and mutual cooperation are essential to stopping problems before they happen.

When noise disturbances don't stop, you have options. When noise disturbances continue despite attempts to resolve the problem, stronger actions may be warranted.

- **One-time disturbance:** While the noise disturbance is happening, call the Takoma Park Police Department at 301-270-1100.
- **Ongoing or persistent noise problems:** Email [neighborhoodservices@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:neighborhoodservices@takomaparkmd.gov) or call 301-891-7113 to request that the Neighborhood Services Division investigate a noise complaint.

### 5 Guidelines for Good Neighbors

Each of us can play a part in reducing noise levels and being a good neighbor.

1. Monitor the volume of televisions, radios, and other sound-producing equipment, especially during nighttime. Pay particular attention to bass controls.
2. Use manual tools, such as brooms and rakes, for cleaning porches, patios, and driveways. Reserve power tools like leaf blowers for large jobs that cannot be done manually.
3. Consider the impact of noise from power tools in your home, garage, or outdoors.
4. Check central and window air conditioning units periodically to ensure that they are operating as quietly as possible.
5. Do not let dogs bark constantly.

## CITYTV

From page 1

ole. It's difficult to produce regularly, but at least we had to give it a try."

CityTV also worked with the Silver Spring-Takoma Park Thunderbolts, the area's amateur baseball team, to broadcast games. "This year we did a great job with them because we had 2,000% cooperation from the organization," Calabia said. "It was very difficult but very rewarding."

CityTV, which first began operation in 1985, focuses on government transparency, televising the city council meetings both when they were in person and now virtually. They also have other programs, including talks from the city's police department and poetry readings.

"One show that we really liked the past two years is the Takoma Porch festival," Calabia said. "We go and record some songs from the musicians and get some nice visuals. You get the song and the cars and the kids playing. It's very Takom-ish."

They also had a crew tag along last year when the Takoma Park Police Department did the Polar Plunge into the Chesapeake



Takoma Park's government access channel CityTV was recently named a 2020 Hometown Media Award winner by the Alliance for Community Media Foundation for promoting community media.

Bay. "We cover the council meetings, but also things that the community wants us to cover," Calabia says. "We want to showcase what the residents are doing and how they are organizing. It's more reflecting who and what Takoma Park is and what it believes in."

And there doesn't seem to be any slowing down for CityTV in the future, with plans to continue streaming the virtual meetings and other changes for a socially distanced world. "We're already email-

ing all the ideas for the future," Calabia said. "We want to do more videos with the youth. Another [area] we've been thinking of for years is to have more programming aimed for people with special needs."

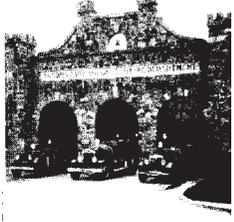
Calabia also wants to bring back an old CityTV program that had council members walking around their wards talking with constituents and speaking on specific topics. "They used to have it like 18 years ago, and they would go around for two to three hours and stop at different

areas to give a small talk," he says. "We'd like to do that a few times a year."

In the end though, it is helping the community that Calabia is most proud of for CityTV. "We know what we're doing a good job," Calabia said, "not because the award, but the reaction of people who talk to us."

Find out where you can watch CityTV at [takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-tv](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-tv) or watch previous broadcasts at [youtube.com/c/TakomaParkCityTV](http://youtube.com/c/TakomaParkCityTV).

# AT YOUR SERVICE



## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

### Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland Fire Marshal Office reported as July 29, 2020, 27 people have died in fires compared to 38 in 2019.

### Safety message

Cooking inside and outside is still the Number One cause of home fires. Never leave cooking unattended!

### Hot vehicle deaths

As of July 29, 2020, 14 children have died across the country in hot vehicles. This brings the grand total to 863 since 1998.

**A special reminder:** We are in the season of extremely hot weather! We must not forget when we get out of our vehicles to make sure everyone goes with us. And don't forget to lock your vehicle.



## COMMUNITY ADVISORY

Takoma Park Police Department • 7500 Maple Avenue • Takoma Park, MD 20912

### Be Aware of Social Security Scam

July 22, 2020

We have received information that residents are being contacted by phone by an unknown person purporting to be from the Social Security Administration. The caller leaves a voicemail asking to be called back because of an issue with their social security number. Please note that this is a scam intended to garner information and/or money - the caller will ask you for personal information, such as your social security number, your date of birth, address, etc. Please remember that the Social Security Administration officials would never ask you for your social security number, or other identifying information over the phone. In addition, the Social Security Administration does not call you - they will send a letter if there are legitimate issues. But, even letters should be verified.

Takoma Park Police would like to remind everyone to be cautious who they talk to and to never blindly give personal information or money to anyone. Government agencies will not call or text asking for money on gift cards or wire transfers, nor do they call to find out your personal information.

The Social Security Administration advises that if anyone has fallen victim to this scam, it can be reported to the Social Security Inspector General.

More information about this scam, and to file a report, can be found at: <https://www.ssa.gov/antifraudfacts/>



## 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:

ከታች ያለውን ደህንነት ደረጃ ላይ የተገኘውን አንቀጽ ለማንበብ ደብዳቤዎን በመጠቀም በታችኛው ኮትሜው ላይ ያለውን ባህሪ ለማረጋገጥ ግብዚያ ጠቅ ክፍረትን በሪ ለአሰራር ክፍሉ ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንጥን ላይ ታስባለች የአሰራር ክፍሉን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልጭላለችን።

## CoVid-19: Staying Safe

By Ron Hardy, Emergency Preparedness Manager, City of Takoma Park

We are currently in a world-wide pandemic, where the coronavirus CoVid-19 has affected over 12 million people and cause well over a half million deaths. Medical experts are working very hard to come up with answers about this deadly virus and why it has affected some groups of people more than others.

At first it was the elderly with underlying conditions, then the children, where it seemed to mutate and cause severe problems. Now it is our young adults that have been most affected, probably due to not wearing masks and practicing social distancing. Most will survive this virus, but the cost to the vulnerable population is high. As the saying goes, "We are all in this together."

Scientists are making great strides in developing an effective vaccine, but testing new vaccines takes some time to make sure they are safe for the general population. As with any virus, CoVid-19 will never go away. It just becomes manageable and scarce, but still deadly. Once a safe vaccine is found and immunization starts, this virus will become a minor threat.

Our leaders have taken many drastic steps to prevent the spread of this airborne virus that some people have not been happy with: Closing borders, businesses, and government operations and telling people to stay at home and avoid contact with others. It all seems like a science-fiction novel, but it is all real. We see states that opened

quickly are now seeing large numbers of new infections. These states have seen a surge of new cases and an overload on their hospital beds and ventilators.

The best advice is:

- Be patient
- Wear face coverings when in public
- Maintain social distancing
- Wash and disinfect hands and contact surfaces thoroughly

Maryland, like a few other states, is moving cautiously in reopening plans, and we are seeing a downward trend in cases. Montgomery County and Takoma Park share the cautious approach to reopening. We will get through this pandemic, and life will change for all of us. Continue to follow the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance of washing hands, social distancing of six feet, and wearing a face covering in public.

Remember we face other hazards every day, such as power outages, extreme heat, hurricanes and other severe storms. Be prepared, be informed, and be ready for any incident.

See the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness web page ([takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/emergency-preparedness-committee](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/emergency-preparedness-committee)) for more information and links to additional resources.



## STAY CONNECTED!

The City of Takoma Park strives to keep residents engaged and informed in a variety of ways:

- **Social Media:** Follow TakomaPark - Facebook: *Like us* - Twitter: @TakomaParkMD
- **NEW! Social Media Hub:** Don't like Twitter or Facebook but want to know the latest post or tweets by the City? Visit: [takomaparkmd.gov/about-takoma-park/social-media-hub/](http://takomaparkmd.gov/about-takoma-park/social-media-hub/)
- **Takoma Park Alert:** Public safety notifications - Sign up for Public Safety notifications on Takoma Park Alert: (emails/texts): [takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert](mailto:takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert)



- **Takomaparkmd.gov:** where you can access information on upcoming Council meetings, agendas, City news, and the status of City projects
- **Monthly Newsletter:** both in print and electronic copy
- **NEW! The Takoma Insider:** Receive our weekly eNews right to your email. Sign up: <http://eepurl.com/gg4dMb>
- **My TkPk:** Make a service request or report an issue using the online app. Learn more: [takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk](http://takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk)

#OneCommunity - TakomaParkMD.gov

## 2020Census Can We Count You In?

**The 2020 Census is more than a population count. It's an opportunity to shape the future of our community.**

### **Did you know...**

- For every person not counted, the State of MD will lose \$18,200 over the next ten years?
- Your confidentiality is protected.
- You can respond to a short questionnaire: online, by phone, or by mail.
- We need to have Every Person counted of every age range, from Parents to Grandparents and all children, including newborns.

### **Funded Programs...**

- Healthcare: including programs like Medicaid and Medicare.
- Education Programs: Head Start, Pell Grants, school lunches, and food assistance programs.
- The Census determines the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives?



United States  
**Census  
2020**

# August 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 September issue is Aug. 14, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Aug. 28. 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).

## Resources Available During the Coronavirus

In response to the great need in our community, the Department of Housing and Community Development has put together a list of resources available to residents; some of them are listed here. Our staff is available to assist you. Se Habla Español. You can email us at [housing@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:housing@takomaparkmd.gov) or call 301-891-7119 for additional help.

### Eviction Prevention and Past due Utility Bills

- Montgomery County Office to Prevent Homelessness  
Call: 240-777-0311
- Ministries United Silver Spring Takoma Park (MUSST)  
Email: [musst@verizon.net](mailto:musst@verizon.net)
- Legal Assistance – Maryland Legal Aid, Montgomery County Office  
Call: 240-314-0373
- Maryland Energy Assistance Program (MEAP)  
Home heating, electric utility bills (low-income homeowners, renters, and roomers in Maryland)  
Apply: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohp](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohp)  
Email application to: [ohp@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:ohp@montgomerycountymd.gov)  
Call: 240-777-4450

### Foreclosure Assistance

Free Foreclosure Brief Legal Advice:

- Civil Justice Inc. Helpline  
Call: 443-808-0076  
(no income restrictions)  
Mondays, 1:30 – 6 p.m.  
Wednesday, 8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Maryland Legal Aid  
Foreclosure Assistance Project  
Call: 888-213-3320
- Montgomery County Eviction Prevention  
Call: 240-777-3075

### Wills and Powers of Attorney

- Pro Bono Program of the Montgomery County Bar Foundation Inc.
- Requirements: Must meet income guidelines for services and reside in Montgomery County
- Takoma East Silver Spring Community Action Center
- Client Line: 301-424-7651

### Maryland Legal Aid

- For wills, advance medical directives, power of attorney, and living wills
- Requirements: 1. Must meet income guidelines for services 2. Must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent resident
- Note: Clients over 60 years of age living in Maryland do not have to meet any income guidelines for services.
- Client Line: 240-314-0373

### Standby Guardianship

- Standby Guardianship Project Inc.
- Free assistance to parent(s) in completing the standby guardianship form and information about family safety planning
- Takoma East Silver Spring Community Action Center
- Contact Maureen Laurenas (240-773-8260) or Cam Crockett (240-535-5966)

### Return of Security Deposit

- Takoma Park Tenancy Only Department of Housing and Community Development  
Email: [housing@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:housing@takomaparkmd.gov)  
Call: 301-891-7119
- Montgomery County  
Call: 240-777-0311

### Homeowners at Risk of Tax Sale

Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland  
443-703-3052

### Garnishment of Stimulus Check

Civil Justice Inc.  
Call: 410-706-0174  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

### Help in Receiving Stimulus Check

Catholic University of America Legal Clinic  
Email: [fsn@cc-dc.org](mailto:fsn@cc-dc.org)

### Unemployment Insurance Claim Issues

APALRC  
Call: 202-393-3572

### IRS Disputes and Payment Agreement

Catholic University of America Community Legal Services  
Call: 202-319-6788

## ARTS AND AGING WELL

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

Online/Virtual Daily, 10 a.m. (ongoing)

Every morning, Washington Revels and Carpe Diem Arts will share some "notes of hope" as one of their song leaders offers a song online. Be there as they begin each day with the inspiration and connection of singing together. Visit their website for instructions on how to join online. Free, but donations encouraged. Info: [info@revelsdc.org](mailto:info@revelsdc.org); [revelsdc.org/2020/daily-song](http://revelsdc.org/2020/daily-song)

### Student Violin Performance

Sunday, Aug. 23, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Gazebo, 7035 Carroll Ave.

More than 25 student violinists will perform fiddle tunes, classical, labor songs, and civil rights songs at the Takoma Park Gazebo. The young musicians will be led by music teacher Ken Giles. Many are students at D.C. Youth Orchestra Program. The performance will conclude with the Bach "Double Violin" Concerto. Free refreshments.

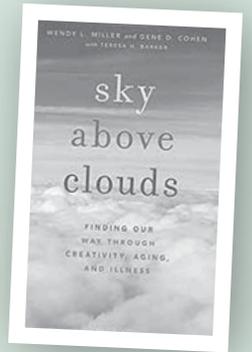


### Aging Well Event Virtual Presentation: Creativity and Aging

Thursday, Aug. 27, noon – 1:30 p.m.

Virtual via zoom link

Join Village of Takoma Park for a presentation based on the book "Sky Above Clouds: Finding our way through creativity, aging, and illness," written by Dr. Wendy Miller and her late husband, Gene Cohen. Dr. Miller is a writer, artist and therapist, who holds a Ph.D in Clinical Psychology. She will share findings from the book on creativity as a catalyst for growth, hope, love, and healing at every stage of our lives. This event is free and open to all; registration is required. For more information and to register, go to [villageoftakomapark.com/calendar](http://villageoftakomapark.com/calendar).



## STAY ACTIVE

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

### Enhance Your Fitness

Tuesdays, 9 a.m.  
This class is designed for older adults looking for a moderate-level class that will help increase heart health, endurance, balance and flexibility.

### Recess Break

Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. – noon  
It's Zoom Recess. Join the Rec Dept. for stretching and fun fitness. For additional information, contact Charonne Butler at [charonnebutler@gmail.com](mailto:charonnebutler@gmail.com).

### Qi Gong

Tuesdays, 7 p.m.  
This class offers gentle movements to increase mobility and flexibility.

### ReVamp Fitness

Wednesdays, 10 – 11 a.m.  
Geared toward ages 18 and up — get your heart rate up and your stress levels down. For additional information, contact Abel Asafere at [revampfit1@gmail.com](mailto:revampfit1@gmail.com).

### Youth Dance

Thursdays, 11:30 a.m. – noon  
Youth ages 5-12 should join the Rec Dept. as Ms. Charonne teaches a different dance technique each week. For additional information contact, Charonne Butler at [charonnebutler@gmail.com](mailto:charonnebutler@gmail.com).

### Zumba Gold

Fridays, 10 a.m.  
Come dance and move from the comfort of your own home.

### Total Body Blast

Saturdays, 9 a.m.  
This class provides a mix of calisthenics, balance, strength training and cardiovascular exercise in one dynamic session.

## GOING TO MARKET

### Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

First Saturdays, noon – 3 p.m.  
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.  
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families. Also available Monday through Friday by appointment only. For appointments call 240-450-2092 or email [educare\\_ss@aol.com](mailto:educare_ss@aol.com).  
[www.educare-supportservices.org](http://www.educare-supportservices.org)

### Takoma Park Farmers Market

Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Year-round  
Parking lot behind the Shops on Laurel Avenue. Entrance: Next to Suntrust Bank, 6931 Laurel Ave.  
Local, seasonal produce, breads, pasture-raised meats, artisan cheese, eggs, baked goods and more from farms located within 125 miles of Takoma Park are offered. You can also pre-order produce by visiting, <https://takomaparkmarket.com>.

### Food Pantry at Takoma Park Middle School

The Difference Makers at TPMS have a food pantry for families. During the school closing, volunteers will continue to provide food for families' needs. To donate food, go to <https://amzn.to/2wFHq14> to order nonperishable items that will be delivered to TPMS.

### Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Through November 25  
(Operating hours and dates open subject to change)  
Anne Street and University Boulevard East  
This producers-only farmers market features a range of vendors selling fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs, honey, coffee, flowers and plants, and tasty prepared foods. Through the innovative Fresh Checks program, eligible shoppers can get up to \$20 in FREE fruits and vegetables every week, enabling them to stretch their buying power to bring home more fresh, healthy food while at the same time supporting local farmers and vendors. Here's how it works: SNAP shoppers can swipe their Independence Card at our Market Information Tent's EBT machine, and we'll match the amount spent up to \$20 every week. WIC and senior shoppers can redeem their FVC and FMNP vouchers directly with the farmers, then get a matched amount (up to \$20 every week) in Fresh Checks to buy more healthy food.  
[www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org/farmers-market](http://www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org/farmers-market)