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

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.

But the six months since that anniversary have made those two years of change pale in comparison. Coronavirus, public 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 department...
**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). The application can be completed online: https://takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/I/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 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 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

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.

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 or contact the City Clerk’s Office at 301-891-7214 or 301-891-7267.
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 something lasts forever,” Ritter-Soronen said. “During production of our almost 50 pieces, I listened to stories of grief, joy, resilience, COVID, immigration, etc., and them out on Instagram @chalkriot.

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

Q&A

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 #CANTWAIT 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. Public is 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.

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.

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

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 corrected, 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.

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.

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 appointments. 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.

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 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.
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.

The Arts

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.
**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 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. Please contact the City Clerk’s Office at clerk@takomaparkmd.gov with any questions about the election.

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**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 entregarían en lugares predeterminados o enviarían 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/remote. 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 a menos 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 concejo 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 concejo de la ciudad, pero no para ninguna otra oficina.

Para más información de las elecciones en www.takomaparkmd.gov. Comuníquese con la Oficina de la Secretaria Municipal al clerk@takomaparkmd.gov con cualquier pregunta sobre la elección.
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 council member must be nominated at the nominating caucus. This year, the caucus will take place on Tuesday, September 15, at 7:30 p.m. virtually/remote.

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 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 nombrado 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 Secretaría 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 para obtener información o llame a Irma Valvarte 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.

Registro 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;
• Declaro 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 registran 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.
**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 leisure 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 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.
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 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). Public Works is willing to loan out cones and permits/street-closure-permit). Public Works is willing to loan out 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.

Helmet safety is 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
- Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA): waba.org
- League of American Bicyclists: www.bikeleague.org
- Safe Kids Worldwide: www.safekids.org
- Traffic Gardens: www.trafficgardens.com

**Going the Distance with Distance: DIY Bike Rodeo**

**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.

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- League of American Bicyclists: www.bikeleague.org
- Safe Kids Worldwide: www.safekids.org
- Traffic Gardens: www.trafficgardens.com

**All virtual class links can be found on the Virtual Community Center page: takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/vcc.**
**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.

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 letters — 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.

**Email Requests**

The email for book requests is 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, 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.
So Many Memories

**Editor’s Note:** This 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 tpnnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

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**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, scaring 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

**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 do 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 whiteness supremacy, to help our community and country become one of acceptance, peace, and joy.

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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 listserver, 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 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 important 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 Takoma 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, so we have a duty to advocate for its amelioration.”

The Takoma Park 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.

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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 inheritance 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 genuine 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.

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### 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. 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.

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This image is a page from the Takoma Park News, August 2020 issue. The page features an article titled “Service Salute: Wolfgang Mergner” by Taylor Dibbert. The article discusses Mergner’s contributions to the community, including his work with the Old Town Residents’ Association, the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and the Village of Takoma Park. The page also includes a photo of Wolfgang Mergner and an advertisement for the Takoma Park Library’s audiobook resources.
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 impact by reducing 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 sale of Laurel Avenue, where businesses are located, is closed to allow for outdoor dining and enjoyment, curb-side 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/pLk2pcaBmdeDkcko9.

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/pLt2JpcaBmdeDkcko9.

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. Questions regarding the Healthy Business Initiative can be sent to Grace Zhou at yxianz@takomaparkmd.gov.

The City 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.
- Nighttime – 65 decibels

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 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.
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.

Takoma Park has a 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 show-case who and what Takoma Park is and what 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 emailing 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. “I’d proposed to have an event 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 we’re a good award, but the reaction of people who talk to us.”
Find out where you can watch CityTV at takomaparkmd.gov/government/citytv or watch previous broadcasts at youtube.com/c/TakomaParkCityTV.
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 (takomapark-md.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/emergency-preparedness-committee) for more information and links to additional resources.

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.

Maryland fire deaths

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

Be Aware of Social Security Scam

July 29, 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 or 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/ anti-fraud.html

The Firehouse Report

By Jim Jarboe

Maryland fire deaths

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Editor's note

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

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

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

Amharic: የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። መጋገር ይነሳጋል። የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። የጋዳላት ምላሽ እንጋገር ይትርጋል። የጋዳል
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?
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 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 (MUST) Email: musa@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/heap
  Email application to: heap@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.

- Montgomery County Foreclosure Assistance Project
  Call: 888-213-5320

- 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

- Takoma East Silver Spring Community Action Center

- Contact Maureen Laurenus
  (240-773-8260) or Cam Crockett
  (240-535-5906)

Return of Security Deposit
- Takoma Park Tenancy Only
  Department of Housing and Community Development
  Email: 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: 410-726-0174
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Help in Receiving Stimulus Check
Catholic University of America Legal Clinic
Email: fnms@cc-dc.org

Unemployment Insurance Claim Issues
APLRC
Call: 202-332-3572

IRS Debts and Payment Agreement
Catholic University of America Community Legal Services
Call: 202-319-6788

Event Cancellations
- Due to COVID-19 concerns, please be advised that all events and meet-
inggs 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.

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: waworld歌els.org; revelsd.org/2020/
daily-song

Student Violin Performance
Every 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 Dilley. Many are students at D.C. Youth Orchestra Program. The performance will conclude with the Bach “Double Violin” Concerto. Free refreshments.

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 educate_ss@aol.com.

- www.educatesupportservices.org

Takoma Park Farmers Market
Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Downtown Takoma Park for a calendar of events.

- 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 market features a variety 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 budgets further to bring home more fresh, healthy food while at the same time supporting local farmers and vendors.

- 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