



Village of Takoma Park Newsletter

Helping Neighbors Age in Community

Volume 6, no. 2

April – June 2020



Dear members and friends of the Village of Takoma Park,

We hope you all are doing as well as can be expected during these difficult times. Our Village Board members have given much thought to how we can be as helpful as possible to our members and other seniors and persons with disabilities during the coronavirus crisis. We have revised our service practices to focus our resources on coronavirus-related services such as providing rides solely to medical and other essential appointments and delivering groceries, drugs and other items to home-bound persons. We are regularly calling members to ensure that they are safe and to provide some socialization during this lock-down time. As always, we will be trying to keep you informed as we learn of helpful resources and virtual events. And we are encouraging non-members to join the Village at little or no cost so that we can be of assistance to them, and waiving the usual \$25 membership dues for anyone willing to join the Village as a volunteer. We are also working on scheduling some “virtual” events for members with Internet access. And, we’re excited to announce our new lending library!

Hopefully in the next few months, the time will come when it is safe for all of us to return to some degree of normalcy and the Village can resume providing more rides and in-person social events. Please be on the lookout for a member survey arriving by email soon. The Board needs to know what kind of programs you would like to see once we can gather again in person and if you are interested in virtual events and get-togethers before then. We can bring you up to speed on Zoom if needed. You can use it from any computer, tablet, or smartphone.

In the meantime, please know that the Village Board members and volunteers are available to help you as much as possible.

With many thanks,
Laurie Welch and Andy Penn, Co-Presidents

News Alerts!

Announcing the Village of Takoma Park Lending Library! The Village is starting a lending library for Village members during this period of library closures. Turn to the last page of the newsletter for more details.



Maryland’s primary election is June 2 and is a “vote by mail” election.

If you are a registered voter, you should have received your ballot in the mail. If you do not receive it by Wednesday, May 20, 2020, visit the voter lookup tool (voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch) of the Maryland State Board of Elections or text CHECK to 77788 and click on the link to request a replacement ballot. Or, contact the Montgomery County Board of Elections: 240-777-8500 or elections@montgomerycountymd.gov. If you are NOT registered to vote, or if your address or party affiliation has changed, you must register or change your information **by Wednesday, May 27** by going to voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch. You can also contact the State Board of Elections at 410-269-2840 or 800-222-8683 or info.sbe@maryland.gov.



Recent Village Events

With the help of a grant from the City of Takoma Park, we were able to offer the following cultural events in February, before the COVID-19 crisis forced us to cancel all activities. And we held our first virtual events in April.

February 21. Renwick Gallery Guided Tour of “Hearts of our People: Native American Women”

A group of Village members were treated to a guided tour of the exhibit by a docent and the curators of the exhibit. The goal of the exhibit was to credit and celebrate Native American artists, especially women. Our guides explained that when Native American art is displayed it is often uncredited, with just the tribe or pueblo credited. They also shared information about various tribes and how their individuality is reflected in their art. **NOTE:** Although the Renwick is closed, during the health crisis you can explore the exhibit online at americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/native-women-artists.



February 28. National Gallery of Art: Guided Tour of Modern Art



A small group of members and friends enjoyed a one-hour tour exploring works from the first half of the twentieth century, focusing on works from Matisse, Mondrian, Picasso and Pollock. **NOTE:** You can virtually visit the National Gallery at nga.gov/ to tour exhibitions, learn about collections, and access online learning opportunities as well as audio and video recordings of lectures by artists and curators.

April 22 and 29. Virtual Zoom Orientation

Laurie Welch presented an introduction to Zoom for beginners on the 22nd and a session for those with some Zoom experience on the 29th.

Recent Aging Well Event


February 27. Health Information of Particular Interest to African-Americans and Useful to All Seniors



Dr. Ikenna Myers, MD, MHP, CDE, from the African-American Health Program of Montgomery County (AAHP), joined the Village of Takoma Park to deliver an informative presentation on some of the most dangerous and common health conditions prevalent in everyone as we age. Focusing on high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes, she explained the causes of these conditions and what folks can do to avoid them. Dr. Myers' advice was to not smoke, drink less or no alcohol, and eat more plants!

Upcoming Virtual Village Events

NOTE: ALL virtual events require preregistration on the Village website: villageoftakomapark.com

Wednesday, May 27 10 – 10:30 am	Virtual Zoom Orientation. Are you new to Zoom and planning to join some Zoom events? Join Laurie Welch for a brief introduction (via Zoom!) on May 27.	
Wednesday, May 27 3 – 4 pm	Virtual Book Chat: Memoirs. Do you enjoy reading memoirs? Get together via Zoom with other fans for an informal chat about some you've particularly liked. After the Zoom session, we'll provide a list of the recommended titles and may explore ways of exchanging titles. Limit of 8 people. Village members only.	

Thursday, May 28 12 – 1:30 pm	Virtual Aging Well Event: Organizing. Professional organizer Candy Speight will help participants to better understand the overall process of organizing and how to apply it to various areas of the home, especially closets. She will also present tips on how to better manage paper, including mail. Village members only.
Saturday May 30 2 - 3:30 pm	Virtual Cooking Demo Join Jessica Carter, a Takoma Park-based Vegan Recipe Developer and Wellness Educator, for a simple and delicious plant-based pantry cooking demo. You'll transform potatoes, lentils and lots of nutritious veggies into a hearty and satisfying Shepherd's Pie. Open to all. <div data-bbox="1318 296 1481 411" data-label="Image"> </div>
Wednesday, June 3 3 – 4 pm	<div data-bbox="415 483 647 617" data-label="Image"> </div> Virtual Book Chat: Mysteries and Crime. Do you enjoy reading mysteries and crime fiction? Get together via Zoom with other fans for an informal chat about some of the titles or authors you've particularly liked. Limit of 8 people. Village members only.

Resources during the Pandemic

Support Resources
<p>Covid-19 Community Services The office of District 20 State Delegate Lorig Charkoudian maintains a list with information on help with food, unemployment insurance, health care, mental health resources and more. See: https://bit.ly/d20services.</p> <p>Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Fund The City of Takoma Park's Emergency Assistance Fund, administered by Ministries United Silver Spring Takoma Park (MUSST), provides financial support to income-eligible residents in crisis. For further information, contact the Department of Housing and Community Development at (301) 891-7119, or housing@takomaparkmd.gov.</p>
Food Assistance
<p>Village of Takoma Park can help members pick up groceries and place orders for delivery. Call 301-646-2109.</p> <p>Adventist Community Services Food Pantry. 501 Sligo Avenue, Silver Spring Adventist Community Services will serve seniors in need with a food basket. They also welcome donations. Normal service hours are 10 am - 2 pm Monday - Thursday. For more information call 301-585-6556 or visit acsgw.org/food.html.</p> <p>County Senior Meal Program at Long Branch Senior Center. 8700 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Montgomery County Recreation (MCR), and the Jewish Council for the Aging are making frozen meal packs available to seniors through the County's Senior Nutrition Program. Long Branch is one of their "grab and go" locations and they are making a limited number of home deliveries as well. Contact Mary Pelz at 301-332-4451 or Mary.Pelz@montgomerycountymd.gov for more information. montgomerycountymd.gov/mcgportalapps/Press_Detail.aspx?Item_ID=25090</p>

YMCA Family and Youth Services. 9601 Colesville Rd, Silver Spring
The Silver Spring YMCA distributes produce (while supplies last) Wednesdays 1 - 3 pm.

Manna Food Center is temporarily waiving income requirements to provide food to any Montgomery County resident impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. To arrange to receive food you must call Manna's main office during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm) at 301-424-1130. For more information, visit mannafood.org/about/contact-manna/manna-food-distribution-sites/.

Montgomery County Food Council.

To find more resources and places to secure food or to donate food or money, visit mocofoodcouncil.org/covid-19-local-food-system-resources/#unique-identifier.

Montgomery County is partnering with local taxi companies to deliver groceries and other essential goods to the county's vulnerable residents. Montgomery's "Call-N-Ride" program typically provides subsidized taxi trips for low-income senior citizens and those with disabilities, but given the ongoing stay-at-home order, the county is allowing participating residents to use it to order food instead. For information, call (301) 948-5409.

Ways to Provide Help

Visit bit.ly/d20givinghelp for a list of donation and volunteer opportunities compiled by the office of District 20 State Delegate Lorig Charkoudian (Meals on Wheels, Manna, Silver Spring Cares, and more). Here are some additions to the list:

- **Casa de Maryland** at wearecasa.org/. Their Solidarity Fund makes direct gifts of cash and gift cards to those most in need.
- **Ayuda** at ayuda.com/. Ayuda provides legal, social, and language services to vulnerable immigrants in Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Their COVID-19 Emergency Relief Fund is a campaign to address the increased needs of Ayuda's low-income immigrant clients.
- **Montgomery County Volunteer Center** has links to organizations needing help during the pandemic. See: montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/volunteers/covid19.html
- **The Takoma Park Emergency Assistance Fund** provides financial support to income-eligible residents in crisis. Mail checks made out to the City of Takoma Park with a note "Emergency Assistance Fund" on the comment line to the Takoma Park Finance Office, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park MD 20912. Or pay by credit card over the phone: 301-891-7212.

Staying Connected and Combatting Loneliness

To receive regular phone calls:

- **Village of Takoma Park.** If you would like a Village volunteer to check in with you by phone on a regular basis, and you're a member of the Village, please call us at 301-646-2109.
- **The City of Takoma Park's Phone-a-Neighbor program.** If you'd like to receive a call, or to help make calls, email javonteM@takomaparkmd.gov or call the Recreation Department's senior coordinator Paula Lisowski at 240-687-4132.
- **Senior Call Check Program** (1-866-50-CHECK) is a free, opt-in service to check on Maryland's older residents by telephone. The program is also currently providing messages and updates regarding the COVID-19 outbreak and where to find support if needed. For more information, visit aging.maryland.gov/Pages/senior-call-check.aspx.

To reach out for help or connection:

- **The Disaster Distress Helpline** (1-800-985-5990) is a 24/7 toll-free, national hotline dedicated to providing immediate crisis counseling for people who are experiencing emotional distress related to any natural or human-caused disaster. This resource provides multilingual and confidential crisis support. samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline
- **Well Connected** (877-797-7299) is a free program offering activities, education, support groups, and friendly conversation over the phone or online. covia.org/services/well-connected/
- **Senior Check-In Services.** For additional ongoing programs offering calls to seniors, see the “Senior Check-In Services” page at Villageoftakomapark.com/checkin.

Avoiding Scams

Scammers are taking advantage of fears surrounding COVID-19.

- Be suspicious of emails claiming to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), or other experts saying they have information on the virus.
- Ignore online offers or advertisements for vaccinations and cures for COVID-19.

For more information on scams and fraud, visit the Federal Trade Commission at consumer.ftc.gov/features/coronavirus-scams-what-ftc-doing.

And see villageoftakomapark.com/scams on the Village of TP website.

Staying Informed

The situation is changing daily. Some trusted sources for up-to-date information are

- Center for Disease Control: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html
- Montgomery County: montgomerycountymd.gov/covid19
- Maryland Dept. of Health: phpa.health.maryland.gov/Pages/Novel-coronavirus.aspx
- City of Takoma Park website: takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/information-and-resources-covid-19/

The New York Times and *The Washington Post* are offering free access to their coronavirus coverage. See nytimes.com/coronavirus and washingtonpost.com/coronavirus.

Montgomery County has launched a dedicated news channel to share information on covid-19. “Corona Montgomery” is available online at coronamontgomery.info/ and on channel 10 on Comcast, Verizon and RCN.

No Internet? Helpful Phone Numbers

If you do not have internet, the following phone numbers may be helpful in finding assistance:

- **240-777-0311:** Montgomery County Information
- **240-777-3000:** Aging and Disability Services (information on County programs)
- **240-777-4000:** Montgomery County Crisis Center (24/7 call in or walk-in service for urgent mental health concerns)
- **1-866-50-CHECK** (1-866-502-0560): Call to register to receive automated daily calls from Maryland Office on Aging, including COVID-related messages.

Being Prepared

File of Life. Fill out a "File of Life" form to provide rescue service personnel critical information about you in case of emergency. Post on your refrigerator. For a printable copy of the form, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/mcfrs-info/tips/seniors/fileoflife.html or call 311 to request one via mail.

Five Wishes. Have you been delaying making your advance care planning wishes known to your family or loved ones? *Five Wishes* is an approach to discussing and documenting your care and comfort choices. In consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic, they are making their *Five Wishes* document available for free. You can obtain a copy at fivewishes.org/five-wishes-covid-19 **NOTE:** The Village has a limited number of print copies of *Five Wishes*. If you would like one, call 301-646-2109 (members only).

NOTE: to access the above Covid-19 resource information, and more, see villageoftakomapark.com/covid19, a special page on our website's "Links and Resources" section.

Examples of neighborhood support and inspiration during the pandemic

We asked our members to share brief anecdotes of life in Takoma Park during the pandemic, focusing on sources of support and inspiration. Thanks to those who responded:



"Every day brings encouraging and inspiring experiences with Takoma Park neighbors, but special thanks and admiration to our TPSS Coop management and workers for setting up a completely new online-pickup store in record time and working continually to make it better." *Janet Lee*

"Neighborhood check in: Every evening at 6 p.m. my husband and I join some of our neighbors outside on a street corner--all 6 feet apart, of course--to make sure we are all okay and have what we need. We sing a theme song: "This Little Light of Mine." We frequently add a song for the evening." *Mary Akers*



"Pamela and others created my playful mask and one for my husband and son. I am so grateful for Pamela and her fellow stitchers. So many people are going above and beyond to help others and be kind. I believe in goodness." *Pat Rumbaugh (the "Play Lady")*

Good News



Kudos to Village Founder Wolfgang Mergner. The Village of Takoma Park is delighted to announce that founder Wolfgang Mergner has been awarded Montgomery County's Neal Potter Path of Achievement Award. Wolfgang's life has been dedicated to service, from his professional life as a physician to a dedicated volunteer in his community. One of his biggest accomplishments is starting the Village of Takoma Park, a thriving organization with close to 250 members. From establishing a robust ride sharing program to developing small committees dedicated to addressing the needs of seniors, Wolfgang has left his mark on Takoma Park. Wolfgang's specialty is making connections and tenaciously pushing an agenda always aimed at helping as many people as possible. Congratulations, Wolfgang, on this well-deserved recognition. For a complete write-up, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/volunteercenter/awards/MontgomeryServesAwards2020Mergner.html

An Unexpected Gift. Heartfelt thanks to the Kendeda Fund for an unsolicited grant, made at the request of Kendeda Fund team member Diana Ives. We're very grateful to Diana and the Fund for their confidence in the Village's ability to help fulfill the Fund's mission of helping to "build a more just and equitable world, one in which we use resources wisely and relate to one another more mindfully."



More than Masks. Many individuals in Takoma Park are helping during this crisis. One of them, Pamela Fields, started a small collective of sewists, calling themselves "More Than Masks." They are making face masks and donating their labor and materials so that every dollar collected goes to an organization working to feed the hungry. Asking for a minimum donation of \$10 (or what you can pay) for each mask, they have raised over \$10,000 and have donated to Takoma Park Middle School Pantry, Shepherd's Table, SOME, World Central Kitchen, MANNA, Casa de Maryland, and more! If you wish to purchase a mask, knowing the proceeds will help those in need, contact Pamela at more4masks@gmail.com.

The Village of Takoma Park can also help you get a mask and has already provided a number of them to members in need. If you are a Village member and need help getting a mask, call us at 301-646-2109.



Online classes, discussion groups, free e-books, movies, and more

If you find yourself with extra time on your hands and have Internet access, opportunities abound, include taking classes, discussing with others who share your interests, exercising, and accessing e- and audiobooks. Here is a selection, most of them free of charge:

Free Classes and Programs: "Around Town DC" is an online directory of programs via Zoom for adults 60 and over. You don't have to live in DC to take advantage of the programs, and most are free. Offerings include journal writing, fitness classes, introduction to drawing, gratitude circle, fraud prevention, creating a StoryCorps story, making a playlist, and more. To learn more, visit aroundtowndc.org.



Virtual Community Center: The City of Takoma Park Recreation Department is now offering some classes and programs virtually. takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation/virtual-community-center/

Free Dance Classes: The Dance Exchange in Takoma Park is offering free classes on Thursdays. danceexchange.org/news-blog/free-online-creative-aging-class-on-thursdays

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Virtual Offerings: Go to mcpl.libnet.info and filter by **location** (choose **Virtual Branch**) and **age group** (adults, seniors). You can also filter by date range and topic.

Free Classes: MCPL also offers free classes through sites like [Creativebug](https://Creativebug.com) (1,000+ video classes on painting, knitting, crafting, sewing, and more), Lynda.com, Great Courses, and Gale Courses. For more information, visit montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/education.

Don't have a Montgomery County library card? You can register for one online at montgomerycountymd.gov/library/services/registration.html.

Book Talks via Politics and Prose live streaming. politics-prose.com/events/detailed-list. For more virtual book events, see: washingtonpost.com/entertainment/events/cal.

Senior Planet helps seniors learn new skills, save money, get in shape, and make new friends. seniorplanet.org/locations/montgomery-county/



Digital and Streaming Media: Takoma Park Maryland Library and Montgomery County Public Libraries offer thousands of free e-books, audio books, music, TV programs, movies, e-magazines, language learning resources, and more.

On the Takoma Park Maryland Library website (takomapark.info/library/ebooks.html), look for Hoopla, AudioBookCloud, Freeding, and RBDigital.

For the Montgomery County Public Libraries' offerings, go to montgomerycountymd.libguides.com/elibrary.

See the Village of Takoma Park's "Links and Resources" page entitled "Media, Free" for more information: villageoftakomapark.com/media

REMINDERS: Census, Taxes, Health Insurance



Don't forget to fill out your US Census survey. By now you should have received official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 census online, by phone, or by mail. The deadline for households to respond has been moved to October 31. The 2020 Census is more than a population count. It's an opportunity to shape the future of our community. And, the law is clear – no personal information can be shared or used against you by any landlord, government agencies, or courts in any way. Your confidentiality is protected. Visit 2020census.gov/ or call 1-844-330-2020 to get help.

Federal, Maryland Taxes Now Due July 15. The Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced that this year's federal income tax filing due date is moved from April 15 to July 15. The IRS says filing electronically with direct deposit is the quickest way to get refunds, most of which will be issued within 21 days. Maryland income tax returns and payments are also now due July 15. For information visit www.irs.gov/ and www.marylandtaxes.gov/.

Open enrollment for health insurance. Due to the ongoing public health emergency caused by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the special open enrollment period for uninsured Marylanders has been extended. Now through June 15, uninsured Marylanders can sign up for health insurance through the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange. To enroll, go to MarylandHealthConnection.gov or call 240-777-1815.



Errand Service: If you have stopped driving, can no longer get around easily, and need something that you (or a friend or family member) are unable to order online or from a delivery service, we can help if you are a Village member. Call 301-646-2109 and let us know what you need. We will try to fill requests within three days, sooner if there's an emergency. Note that for insurance reasons, errands are done by volunteers alone, not in a car with the member requesting the errand.

Friendly Visitors/Callers: Village volunteers provide visits to Takoma Park elders who cannot get out as much as they might like, as well as offer phone calls several times a week. If you would like to receive calls or volunteer to make friendly visits or phone calls, please contact the Village of Takoma Park at 301-646-2109 or email Sandy Egan at sandyeganretired@gmail.com. To sign up to receive a "friendly visitor," call EveryMind at 301-424-0656 ext. 507 to be matched with a Village of Takoma Park volunteer. Village membership is not required for those receiving visits. *Note that the in-person friendly visit program is suspended during the pandemic.*

Small Home Repairs/Tasks: The Village of Takoma Park has a team of volunteers ready to do small home repairs and tasks around the house (moving furniture, replacing high light bulbs, etc.) for members who have no other access to help. **Larger Home Improvements:** We can help income-qualified members apply for larger home improvements that are beyond the scope of our small home repairs teams. Applications go to Rebuilding Montgomery or Habitat for Humanity, both part of the Lifelong Homes Coalition. These repairs may include minor plumbing and electrical work; roofing, floor, and ceiling repair; interior and exterior painting; installation of grab bars; and building of ramps. If you are a Village member in need of help, call 301-646-2109. Volunteers will contact you to arrange an evaluation of your job and determine if it can be done by the small home repair team, or if not, if you are eligible to apply through Rebuilding Montgomery.

VillageRides: VillageRides remains our most active, heavily-used service. Although the number of rides is way down due to the pandemic, **we can always use more drivers!** To learn more, to volunteer, and/or to register for or request a ride, call 301-646-2109.



SUPPORT GROUPS:

The Movement Disorder Support Group was started in response to interest from Takoma Park residents with Parkinson's disease, Multiple Sclerosis, and similar conditions. Members, ideally together with the caregiver, meet every other month to exchange information and hear from guest professionals on recent advances. For more information, contact Tom Bigford at 301-580-4056 or tebigford@gmail.com.

Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA) is a Takoma Park advocacy and support group for parents and other loved ones of adults with developmental and/or chronic psychiatric challenges. The group is especially interested in securing jobs, supportive housing, safety, and recreation for their loved ones. Meetings, usually the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Takoma Park Community Center, are cancelled until further notice due to the COVID-19 crisis. For more information, contact Mary Muchui at 240-582-6199 or 4maryjane8@gmail.com.

JOIN OR RENEW

Sign up or renew online at our website: villageoftakomapark.com

Don't have access to a computer?
Call 301-646-2109 to request a membership form.

Membership dues are \$25 per year per member.
Please contact us if this is a hardship. Pay online at our secure site or mail your check to Village of Takoma Park, PO Box 11420, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are essential to the success of the Village.
The two types of volunteering are:

- Direct service to members
- Volunteering to help the organization

In most cases you may serve on a regular or periodic basis, giving as much or as little time as fits your schedule. Anyone age 18 or older is welcome.

Note: Our insurance coverage requires that all volunteers join as members as well.

To volunteer, go to villageoftakomapark.com and click on **Join** and **Member Signup**, or email Sandra Egan at sandyeganretired@gmail.com.

SUPPORT

Village of Takoma Park is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization. We have two part-time staff persons and otherwise are run by volunteers. We rely on grants and donations to supplement income from dues. All contributions are tax-deductible.

Donate online by credit card at villageoftakomapark.com/donation or send a check payable to Village of Takoma Park to Village of Takoma Park, PO Box 11420, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

We greatly appreciate your support.



BOARD MEMBERS:

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Kathie Baker
Bindu Hickson
Pat Matthews
Andy Penn, Co-President
Dana Robinson
Susan Rogers
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Mission Statement

Village of Takoma Park's mission is to provide intergenerational support to seniors and persons with disabilities who wish to live actively in the Takoma Park community by:

- providing assistance, advice, and neighborly support;
- facilitating access to needed service providers;
- advocating on behalf of Village members and informing them about relevant issues and policies;
- organizing and managing Village volunteers who provide services and assistance; and
- collaborating with the City of Takoma Park, Montgomery County, and other organizations.



We're excited to announce the Village of Takoma Park Lending Library!

While libraries are closed during the COVID-19 crisis, we're loaning books to our members who love to read but want an alternative to e-books and audiobooks.

How can I see what books are available?

Go to librarycat.org/lib/VillageofTP

You can search by title, author, subject, etc., but since the collection is small, we suggest browsing.

To browse, enter an asterisk in the search box and hit "enter." Look for the list of genres on the upper right and click on one to view titles in a particular genre. We expect to be adding more books regularly.

What if I don't have access to the Internet?

If you don't have a friend or family member able to search the catalog for you and place a request on your behalf, feel free to call the Village at 301-646-2109 and we'll do our best to help you select a book.

Who can borrow books?

Any member of the Village of Takoma Park living in the city of Takoma Park can borrow.

Not a member? Go to villageoftakomapark.com to join.

How can I request a book?

Click on the "Request this book" button in the catalog record for the book.

How can I get a book that I request?

When you click on the "request this book" button, you'll see a pop-up form asking for your contact information and if you want to pick up the book or have it delivered. Delivery is available for members age 55 and over who live within the City of Takoma Park.

If I choose to pick up a book myself, where will I pick it up?

All of the books are in one of two locations. We'll provide the exact address when we notify you the book is ready for pickup. Books with the call number "Cedar" or "Cedar-G" are on Cedar Ave. not far from the Metro. Books with the call number "Willow" are on Valley View Ave. not far from Willow Ave.

How soon will I be notified after I request a book?

We'll do our best to email or phone you within 3 days.

How long can I keep a book?

Loan period is 3 weeks, with the option to renew if no one else has requested the book.

How many books can I borrow at one time?

One per borrower, although we may increase the number as the collection grows.

How are the books handled by the Village volunteers?

The volunteers who are housing the books will wash hands thoroughly before taking a book off the shelf, put it into a paper bag, and add a label. Once a book is returned it will be in "quarantine" for 3 days before being lent to another member.

More questions?

Contact the Village at villageoftp@gmail.com or 301-646-2109.