



BUUpdates



GREETINGS FROM BETHESDA URBAN PARTNERSHIP



Bethesda – and the Greater Washington, D.C. region – doesn't often get a lot of snow. But when we do, like this past January, the Landscape & Maintenance Team at Bethesda Urban Partnership is ready to spring into action! By Montgomery County law, property owners are required to clear the sidewalks in front of their buildings and businesses. But that leaves a lot of places – like bus stops and curb cuts – that still need to be cleared! That's where we come in. Our team is ready to go and makes sure that crosswalks are accessible, and bus stops are cleared for passengers. It's hard work, but we're proud to be a part of keeping Bethesda safe and accessible.



7700 Old Georgetown Road
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
301-215-6660
WWW.BETHESDA.ORG

[facebook.com/BethesdaUp](https://www.facebook.com/BethesdaUp)
[@BethesdaUp](https://twitter.com/BethesdaUp)
[@BethesdaBup](https://www.instagram.com/BethesdaBup)



Late winter is always a tough time of year. The excitement of the holidays has passed, but we still have six more weeks of grey days and cold temperatures to get through before spring arrives. Luckily for us, here in Bethesda we have lots to look forward to! **"Savor Bethesda" Restaurant Week** will begin on February 20th, and dozens of Bethesda restaurants will offer fixed menu meals for \$10, \$20 and \$35.

Then at the beginning of March, **Play in a Day** – our annual event where theatre companies write, rehearse, and perform original plays in 24 hours – will make its triumphant return to Imagination Stage. But that's not all! Also in March, we'll honor aspiring writers at **The Local Writer's Showcase**, with events for poets, essayists, and short story writers.



In April you can view short documentaries made by regional filmmakers at the **Bethesda Film Fest**. And of course, May brings both the **Bethesda Fine Arts Festival** and the start of our Summer Concert Series, held Friday nights in Woodmont Triangle. That's a lot to look forward to! Read on to get a preview of "Savor Bethesda" Restaurant Week (including some of the restaurants!) and Play in a Day, along with an introduction to our six participating theatre companies. And if you know any artists, be sure to encourage them to apply for the Bethesda Painting Awards and The Trawick Prize, both of which are open for submissions!

See? Winter isn't so bad after all.

Continued on page 2

During the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, the team here at Bethesda Urban Partnership was brainstorming how we could support our brick-and-mortar shops and restaurants while so many of us were stuck at home. We came up with a few ideas; we launched the "Bethesda Bucks" gift card to encourage shopping and dining at our downtown Bethesda establishments, we posted Business Spotlight videos to our social media that highlighted our independently owned businesses, and we organized the inaugural "Savor Bethesda" Restaurant Week. Much like other Restaurant Weeks in the region, participating restaurants offered fixed menu meals at different price levels. Our 2021 "Savor Bethesda" Restaurant Week was a hit with both restaurants and customers, and we are excited to be bringing it back for its fifth consecutive year!

"Savor Bethesda" Restaurant Week takes place from Thursday, February 20 through Sunday March 2, and participating restaurants will offer \$10, \$20, and \$35 fixed menus for lunch and dinner, with carryout available at some businesses. Savor Bethesda is a great way for restaurants to show off some of their best menu items to new customers, and for residents to try new cuisines at a great deal.



This year, we have over 35 participating restaurants from Bethesda staples like Guardado's, Silver and The Salt Line a to newcomers like RUTA Ukrainian Restaurant and Baruch Café. Were you interested in trying out some tasty pastries? The Red Bandana Bakery, Tout de Sweet, Nothing Bundt Cakes, Maman, and Levain Bakery are all participating! Or maybe you were interested in a culinary tour of Asia? In that case, stop by Kusshi, Zao Stamina Ramen, Tikka Masala, Teazzi Tea Shop, or Delhi Spice. And those are just a few of our participating restaurants! The full list of restaurants (and their menus) is on our website at www.Bethesda.org. Take this opportunity to plan out your restaurant week experience, and happy dining!

PLAY IN A DAY



Each year, theatre companies from around the region enter a frantic race to write, rehearse, and perform an original play in 24 hours. Why would they subject themselves to such a tight deadline, sleepless nights (for the writers) and 10 straight hours of rehearsals? Why, for the glory of being one of the featured companies in our annual event, **Play in a Day on Saturday, March 8th at 8pm!** (I'm sure the chance to win one of the three \$500 cash prizes doesn't hurt either!) The rules are simple: companies are given a prop, a theme, and a line of dialogue that must be repeated twice in the 10-12 minute play. Writers are given 12 hours to draft their scripts, and then the actors and directors have about 10 hours to rehearse it before performing in front of a live audience. It is a frantic, frenetic event filled with too much caffeine and lots of pizza, and the results of this rushed creativity are amazing!

This year we have six theatre companies participating, and here's your chance to get to know them before the event!

Adventure Theatre MTC is a musical theatre academy for youth in the Greater Washington, D.C. region that also has an integrated and nationally renowned professional theatre for family audiences.

The Keegan Theatre is Dupont Circle's resident theatre company, whose mission is to take audiences to the vital heart of the theater experience: extraordinary actors in an intimate setting exploring the human condition.

Flying V is a performing arts nonprofit based in Montgomery County that creates nerd and pop culture infused performances.

Imagination Stage is a full spectrum theatre arts organization, with classes and camps for children and theatre productions by professional artists and actors.

Rorschach Theatre tells stories that allow for innovative design and visceral performances. The company treats productions as "installations" that surround the audience with the world of a play.

Olney Theatre Center for the Arts produces and curates theatrical performance for the diverse audiences in our community, and educates, learns from, supports and inspires a more inclusive generation of theater-makers.

Play in a Day will take place Saturday, March 8. Tickets (\$20) are now available through our website, www.Bethesda.org.



Bethesda
Painting Awards

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
February 26, 2025

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The
Travick
Prize

Bethesda
Contemporary
Art Awards

**APPLICATION
COMING SOON**

