



City of Takoma Park

## City Manager Robert DiSpirito

### HCD Department:

- This Friday, June 14<sup>th</sup> beginning at 7:30 pm in the Auditorium of the Community Center, the Takoma Park Arts Series welcomes Juels Bland, an acoustic guitarist, singer-songwriter originally from Silver Spring. His music and lyrics evoke rich soulful tones. This is a free concert but donations are accepted.
- **Takoma Park Arts Call for Performances:**  
The Arts and Humanities Division is seeking submissions for future performances in the *Takoma Park Arts* series, which provides a performance venue in the Community Center auditorium, honorariums, extensive promotion, and a professional recording of the performance by the City TV crew.

There is no submission fee, and applicants don't need to be Takoma Park residents. Performances may include music, theater, dance, multi-media performances, etc. The submission deadline is June 30, and there's more info and an online application form.

### Library:

- SummerQuest has started! The Library's summer reading program is independent and original, just like Takoma Park. This year's theme is "construction," and the game board takes readers through a series of reading prompts with artwork by Youth Services Librarian Dave Burbank. Come pick up your copy for your summer reader, and for yourself.
- There will not be a session of Neighborhood Circle Time on June 18th, but it will resume weekly on June 25th.
- Yard Dramas, our popular outdoor storytelling program, has returned to the Crossroads Farmers Market for the summer. The next event is on Wednesday, June 26, from 10:30am-12:30pm.
- Also at the Crossroads Farmers Market this summer, join us for the second annual book giveaway on July 17 (Rain Date: July 24)! We will give away over 250 books in English, Spanish, and bilingual for children and young adults. Stop by and grab a book to take home.
- If you are interested in volunteering at either of our programs at the Crossroads Farmers Market, please contact us at [library@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:library@takomaparkmd.gov)

### Police:

- A reminder about the Police Department's first annual diaper drive! The primary objective of the diaper drive is to alleviate the financial burden on our residents, thus enabling them to use their resources towards other essential needs. By providing access to diapers through community support, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those who require assistance in our community. The diaper collection runs through the end of June. A link to more information will be included in the posted City Manager Comments tomorrow.  
Link: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-and-programs/diaper-drive-changing-lives-one-diaper-at-a-time/>
- "Operation Chill" will be in effect once again this summer and if our officers catch your child in the act, they just might get a "ticket", but not to worry, this is something good!



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Takoma Park Police Department has partnered with 7-Eleven again this year for their Operation Chill program, so when they see a youngster doing something good, they can give them a ticket, or coupon, for a free small Slurpee! Appropriate “offenses” would include helping another person, deterring crime, practicing safety (wearing a helmet during bike riding), or even just having a pleasant conversation with an officer. So be on your best behavior this summer. Our officers will be patrolling parks, community events, and other areas around the City, looking to hand out these free treats!

### Public Works:

- Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, is “Juneteenth,” an observed holiday. The regular Wednesday collection will move to Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup> for trash, recycling and food waste. This will affect all of Ward 4 and Ward 5 and a portion of Ward 1.

### City Manager’s Office:

- We are pleased to announce the inaugural Juneteenth Celebration, hosted by the Maple Community Association in partnership with the City of Takoma Park. The public is welcomed and encouraged to attend this free event. On Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> from noon until 6:00 pm, at the Lee Jordan Field behind the Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Ave, there will be music, fellowship, food trucks, activities for children and adults, and sound by DJ Beezy. Rain dates are June 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup>. Juneteenth is an important celebration for educating, agitating, and further acknowledgement of this culturally meaningful event, when Union soldiers forced Texas to acknowledge the Emancipation Proclamation and the slaves there finally received their freedom, more than two years after it had been implemented.
- Staff Shout-out –From our Recreation Department:

John Webster from the Recreation Department has been very busy the last two weeks. Notably, he spearheaded the inaugural Recreation Department Adult Pickleball Tournament, featuring eight enthusiastic teams. Additionally, he and Patti Mallin (from the Housing and Community Development Department), showcased their broadcasting talents during the thrilling softball championship game at Belle Ziegler Field this past Sunday. They offered insightful commentary on the league's history, teams, and engaging interviews with participants. Thank you to John for his tireless work providing sporting opportunities to the residents of Takoma Park.

That concludes my report this evening, I am happy to answer any questions. Thank You.