

July  
2012

# TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 51, No. 7 ■ takomaparkmd.gov



## WHAT'S NEW?

### INDEPENDENCE DAY

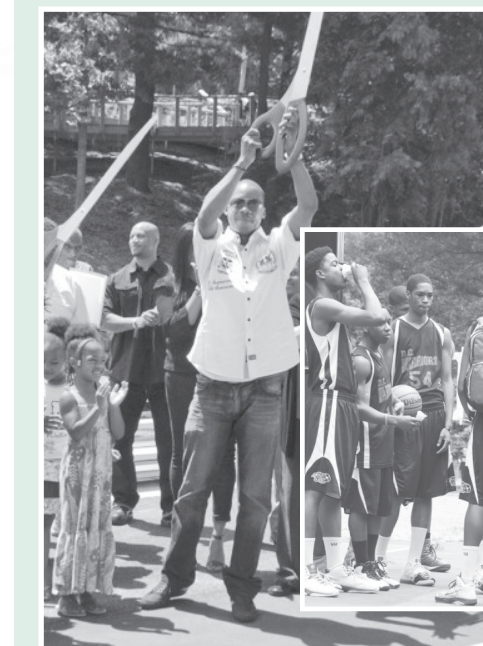
July 4  
Parade, 10 a.m.  
starting at Takoma Junction  
Fireworks, 9 p.m.  
Takoma Park Middle School

### NO TRASH COLLECTION

Wednesday, July 4  
Trash And Recycling Pickup  
Thursday, July 5

### WARD 5 SPECIAL ELECTION

Tuesday, July 17



## Hometown star celebrates new park opening



The grand opening of the newly renovated Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park on June 3 included a ribbon cutting, basketball games and skateboarding, as residents tried out the new facility. Steve Francis, an NBA All-Star and Takoma Park native, grew up at the Park Ritchie apartments down the street and donated \$70,000 to help fund the renovation. The park, at the end of Grant Avenue behind the Community Center and Piney Branch Elementary School, includes a refurbished basketball court, two new playgrounds, a new skateboard park, picnic pavilion and sculptures.

## Residents to elect councilmember July 17

The City of Takoma Park is holding a special election to replace outgoing Ward 5 City Councilmember Reuben Snipper. The election will be held July 17 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Wilkinson Hall, Washington Adventist University, 7600 Flower Ave.

Three candidates have filed to run: Eric Hensal, Jarrett Smith and Melinda Ulloa (see candidate statements, page 9).

All registered voters who live in Ward 5 are urged to participate in the election. To determine whether you live in Ward 5,

see the Ward map, <http://takomaparkmd.gov/council/wardmap.html> or call the city clerk, 301-891-7267. A candidates forum will help inform voters: it will be held Thursday, July 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. in Wilkinson Hall (see above).

The winner of the election will serve the remainder of Snipper's two-year term, until November 2014. Winners will be announced at a brief City Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 18. For more information, see pages 8 and 9.

## Local credit union could bypass corporate banking

By Rick Henry

A group of Takoma Park residents is "banking" on the idea that there are enough City residents who are fed up with big banks to embrace an alternative.

Inspired by one of the main causes championed by the Occupy Movement, "Move Your Money," which urges people to move their money out of big banks to smaller, community-oriented options, the group is focusing its efforts on establishing a credit union in the City. "The main issue is, how do you get money to be more local?" said former Ward 3 councilman Dan Robinson, one of the main organizers of the effort. "That is a question a lot of us in the community have been looking at for a long time."

Nadine Bloch, another organizer, was among those considering the issue long before it became one of the rallying cries of the Occupy protesters. "For years I've been thinking I'd like to get my money out of the big banks, and with 'Move Your Money' [becoming known] I decided to reach out and see if there were some other people who were interested in having a credit union here."

Bloch sent out a notice to some local listservs and found there was indeed interest. Soon after, the Azalea Credit Union Exploratory Committee, a work group of approximately a dozen people, was formed.

The group has set up a website which provides information on their effort, information about credit unions, and a feasibility

## Takoma Park Playwright Wins Maryland State Arts Council Award

By Joy Lawson Jones

Maria Cristina Garcia wants to tackle the big questions—questions that seem to have no answers. To do it, she's turned to playwriting, and it's won her acclaim as a Maryland State Arts Council (MSAC) 2012 Individual Artist.

The MSAC presents Individual Artist Awards to Maryland artists who create "work of exceptional quality within a range of disciplines." Garcia, a 17-year resident of Takoma Park, won the award for her play, *Tacones* (High Heels).

A married mother of two school-age children (ages 14 and 12), Garcia started out wanting to write novels, but soon found that dialogue was her particular strength. She turned to the stage, and found that the play is her best medium.

*Tacones* is Garcia's second play. The story follows a former priest who is an immigration attorney by day and transvestite bar waitress by night; he gets involved in transnational efforts to locate a missing



Maria Christina Garcia

friend. *Tacones* examines the human suffering and torture he encounters.

Largely existential, says Garcia, *Tacones* does not wrap up neatly, but leaves the reader thinking about these major themes

GARCIA HONORED □ Page 7

CREDIT UNION □ Page 7

## Inside:

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

PRE-SORT STANDARD  
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# DOCKET

## TAKOMA TOPICS:

“

Congratulations to The City of Takoma Park Police Department Captain Edward Coursey. We are sorry to see you go but wish you all the best in retirement! You've earned it after 23 years of service to Takoma Park.

”

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/TakomaParkMD>

## City Council & Committee Calendar

### CITY COUNCIL

Monday, July 9, 7:30 p.m.  
Monday, July 16, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 18, 7:30 p.m. (certification of election results)  
Monday, July 23, 7:30 p.m.  
Monday, July 30, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Auditorium

For agendas, see [www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas)

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Monday, July 9, 7 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, July 10, 7 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, July 12, 8:30 a.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL LAND USE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 17, 7 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 24, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

\*All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. Additional meetings may be scheduled after the Takoma Park Newsletter deadline. For the most up to date information, check [www.takomaparkmd.gov/committees/calendar](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/committees/calendar). Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Ave. (TPCC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail should contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).

Notice on ADA Compliance - The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services or accommodations is invited to contact the Deputy City Manager at 301-891-7229 or [suzannel@takomagov.org](mailto:suzannel@takomagov.org) at least 48 hours in advance.

Get the latest  
City news at  
[www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)

## City Council Action

All actions take place in scheduled legislative meetings of the City Council. Only negative votes and abstentions/recusals are noted. Adopted legislation is available for review online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). For additional information, contact the City Clerk at [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).

### RESOLUTION 2012-28

Adopted (May 21)

Resolution urging monitoring and repeal of detention provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012  
VOTING NO: Grimes, Male

*Urges Congress to repeal Sections 1021 and 1022 of the National Defense Authorization Act; the sense of the City Council is that the National Defense Authorization Act and the Authorization for Use of Military Force do not and should not authorize the armed forces to investigate, arrest, detain or try any person within the U.S., or to militarily detain without charge or trial civilians not captured on any battlefield, and that the authorization for use of military force expires upon the end of combat operations in Afghanistan.*

### RESOLUTION 2012-29

Adopted (May 21)

Resolution supporting federal budget reprioritization

VOTING NO: Grimes, Male

*Urges Congress to make major reductions in the Pentagon budget, in a manner that does not harm the safety or lives of our troops, with the savings invested in state and local needs so that the City of Takoma Park and other local jurisdictions can repair deteriorating infrastructure, reverse budget cuts to education, health care and other needs, and otherwise improve the welfare of their residents.*

### RESOLUTION 2012-30

Adopted (May 29)

Resolution recognizing former Ward 5 City Councilmember Reuben Snipper

*Recognizes the contributions and service of Reuben Snipper, who retired from City Council effective May 22.*

### RESOLUTION 2012-31

Adopted (May 29)

Resolution expressing condolences to the family and friends of Ron Wylie

*Ron Wylie was the Executive Director of Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington. He passed away on May 15.*

### RESOLUTION 2012-32

Adopted (June 4)

Resolution regarding a crosswalk and signalization at Takoma Junction

*Requests that the State Highway Administration install a pedestrian crosswalk across Carroll Avenue/Route 410 at Grant Avenue and optimize and improve the Takoma Junction traffic signals. It also requests that WMATA and Montgomery County Ride On evaluate the siting of the bus stop at BY Morrison Park.*

### ORDINANCE 2012-21

Adopted (first reading May 14; second reading May 21)

VOTING NO: Seamens

*Ordinance adopting the fiscal year 2013 tax rates*

### ORDINANCE 2012-22

Adopted (first reading May 14; second reading May 21)

*Ordinance adopting the fiscal year 2013 stormwater budget*

### ORDINANCE 2012-23

Adopted (first reading May 14; second reading May 21)

*Ordinance adopting the fiscal year 2013 budget*

### ORDINANCE 2012-24

Adopted (first reading May 14; second reading May 29)

Ordinance amending the City of Takoma Park Police employees' retirement plan to conform with federal law changes

*Changes are required by the Federal Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act of 2008.*

### ORDINANCE 2012-25

Adopted (May 14)

Ordinance authorizing purchase and installation of building security equipment and related software

*Authorizes the City manager to enter into a contract with MVS, Inc. to include replacement and relocation of some cameras, the purchase of new cameras for locations currently not covered by the existing system, additional video storage capabilities and software upgrades to the existing surveillance software and server operating system.*

### ORDINANCE 2012-26

Adopted (May 21)

Ordinance awarding a contract for design services for the Flower Avenue Green Street Project

*Awards a contract to Rummel, Klepper and Kahl.*

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

There are numerous opportunities for Takoma Park residents to serve on City boards, commissions, and committees. If you feel you can make a positive contribution, please consider volunteering. Appointments are made by the City Council. To be considered, complete an application form and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications. Additional information can be found at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees) or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267) or [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org).

- Arts and Humanities Commission (vacancies)
- Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (vacancy)
- Emergency Preparedness Committee (vacancies)
- Ethics Commission (vacancies)
- Façade Advisory Board (vacancy)
- Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancy)
- Personnel Appeal Board (vacancies)
- Recreation Committee (vacancy)
- Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee (vacancies)

## FINAL WARD NIGHTS SCHEDULED FOR JULY

**MONDAY, JULY 9 - WARD 1 NIGHT \* MONDAY, JULY 23 – WARD 2 NIGHT**

**The final two Ward Nights of the year are scheduled for July – Ward 1 Night on Monday, July 9 and Ward 2 Night on Monday, July 23.**

On each night, the City Council will hold a reception in the Atrium Lobby for residents of the ward, from 7-7:30 p.m., to provide an opportunity to residents to chat, one on one, with members of the City Council. The first part of each City Council meeting, beginning at 7:30 p.m., will be dedicated to hearing from residents of the ward. For additional information, contact Jessie Carpenter (301-891-7267 or [jessiec@takomagov.org](mailto:jessiec@takomagov.org)).



### MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

**MAYOR WILLIAMS** welcomes comments and suggestions from the community. Residents are invited to meet with him during his office hours on Tuesdays:

2 – 5 p.m. by appointment;

5 – 6 p.m. drop-in hours (check in at the information desk and let the receptionist know you are here to see the Mayor); or

6 – 7 p.m. by appointment.

For additional information or to make an appointment, contact Executive Assistant Peggye Washington at [peggyew@takomagov.org](mailto:peggyew@takomagov.org) or 301-891-7230.



# City and local actor featured in successful indie film

By Rick Henry

“Ultrasonic,” an independent film currently screening on local cable outlets after playing in theaters across the country, features a face—and a place—that will be familiar to many Takoma Park residents.

The face is that of the movie’s star, Silas Gordon Brigham, an actor and bartender/waiter at the Olive Lounge/Middle Eastern Cuisine restaurant in downtown Takoma Park. It is the first leading role for Brigham, who began acting formally as an 18-year-old student at Guilford College in North Carolina.

“When I was cast, I can’t say that I was sure what was going to happen. It did feel very life-changing at the time though,” he says. “I am extremely grateful for the opportunity.”

In the movie, Brigham stars as Simon York, a music teacher, band member and married, soon-to-be-father who hears what he thinks is a very real sound in an alleyway. The sound does not disappear and remains audible from his house. His wife doesn’t hear it and she dismisses it, claiming that his ears are ringing from years of loud music. His brother-in-law feels differently, believing what Simon is hearing is a government experiment utilizing an ultrasonic auditory signal to control the minds of all who hear it. Together they try and find the truth and stop the noise.

The Olive Lounge also plays a star role: it is featured in three scenes, including the pivotal point where York first hears the strange sound. That scene was filmed in the alley between Olive Lounge and Mark’s Kitchen. It is featured in the movie’s trailer (<http://ultrasonicmovie.com/guest>) and is where the movie’s promotional poster, featuring Brigham, was shot.

“That alley is unique and captures the vibe I wanted when Simon first hears the sound,” said Rohit Rao, the film’s writer/director/producer.

Rao says he is extremely grateful to Nadal Hismeh, owner of Olive, for allowing some of the film to be shot there. “They really helped us out,” he said. “We needed a bar for some scenes and they stepped up. And they hosted our wrap party!”

Olive is also responsible for Brigham



City residents who see the recent movie, *Ultrasonic*, might recognize its lead actor, Silas Gordon Brigham, right. He works at Takoma Park’s own Olive Lounge, and some of the footage is taken in the alleyway next door.

Photo courtesy *Ultrasonic*

getting the part.

“One night I checked a woman’s I.D. at the bar and took note that we had the same birth date. I didn’t really notice her name at the time. She then overheard someone say my name and we realized that we went to school together,” he said.

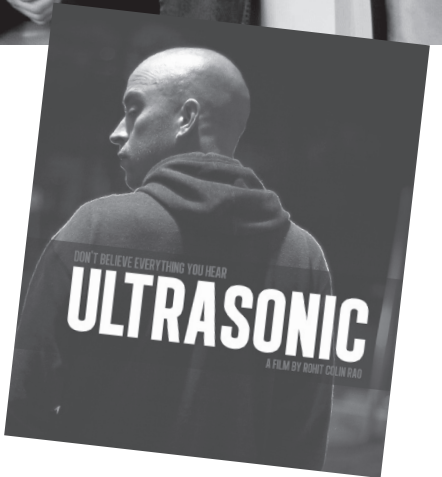
“We went to a Halloween party and I met one of her friends, who mentioned that he had a friend and bandmate auditioning for a movie. They gave me the info and I auditioned. It felt quite providential. Or in the Quaker circles in which I grew up, we might say it was a ‘way opening,’” said Brigham.

Neither Rao nor Brigham had any expectations that the film would be so successful. The first milestone was being

selected for the DC Independent Film Festival (DCIFF) in March, then being named “Best of Fest.” Brigham attributes the prize directly to the support of people from Takoma Park, who were instrumental in selling out the world premier and voting for the movie.

That support has been consistent throughout, he added.

“Since the beginning, before anyone knew what was going to happen with it, people have asked me regularly how everything was going. We are approaching two years now that I became involved in this. And people have been consistently supportive that entire time. I seriously get a little teary-eyed sometimes when thinking of how wonderful people have been



to me here.

“It is a community that is so supportive of the arts. The longer I am alive, the more I realize how important that is. You cannot separate creativity and life,” he said.

After its success at DCIFF, the movie secured theatrical releases in nine U.S. cities in the month of June, (Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, Seattle, Miami, Virginia Beach, Los Angeles, San Francisco and a two-week run at the West End Cinema in Washington, D.C.).

“I’m completely amazed and excited [about the film’s success],” says Rao. “It is above and beyond what I could have possibly expected. I mean, it’s a long shot for a film like this to get a theatrical run.”

And though the film has concluded its run, there are still many opportunities to see it: It is currently available to rent on Comcast OnDemand until Aug. 31, and will soon be available for rent on Verizon Fios OnDemand. Starting July 15, you can rent it in HD on the website ([Ultrasonic-Movie.com](http://Ultrasonic-Movie.com)). It is also currently available for purchase on iTunes.

## Takoma Park becoming Film Central

Maybe it’s because Takoma Park is known as an artist-friendly city, or perhaps because there are more film makers and film-o-philes here than in other jurisdictions. Whatever the reason, film makers have been focusing their cameras on the City’s streets.

In June, Takoma Park native David Andalman filmed “Milkshake,” an extension of his short, “Takoma Park,” which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival; the coming of age story used several local sites, including Tulip Avenue, Spring Park, and Peter’s Sub Shop on Maple Avenue (<http://vimeo.com/22085541>). In March, a public service announcement regarding pedestrian safety was shot at Laurel and Carroll avenues, and produced by the Council of Governments (<http://bit.ly/LBKH8S>). Another project, by a Howard University grad student, involved a remake of Tennessee Williams’ *A Streetcar Named Desire*, filmed in part along Carroll Avenue.

City clerk Jessie Carpenter, who handles filming requests, says there have been at least three additional films within the last year.

Beyond being a location for new film, Takoma Park is also a host site for Docs in Progress (<http://docsinprogress.org/>). The Silver Spring-based organization screens documentary films that are still being developed, and solicits audience feedback as part of the process. The films are shown monthly as part of the We Are Takoma series, in the Takoma Park Community Center.

## Montgomery County Cable Communications Advisory Committee Volunteer Needed

The City of Takoma Park has one seat on the County’s Cable and Communications Advisory Committee (CCAC). The City Council is seeking a volunteer to serve as the City’s representative on the CCAC. The individual should be knowledgeable and/or excited about innovative use of cable television, the use of video on multiple devices, the need for responsive customer service, and the possibilities of interactivity with residents through technology. Additionally, the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County are in the process of negotiating the franchise agreement with Comcast, and the agreements with Verizon and RCN expire in 2014. The CCAC will have an advisory role in the franchise renewal

process. For more information, contact Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow at [suzannel@takomagov.org](mailto:suzannel@takomagov.org) or 301-891-7229.

## Committee on the Environment and Safe Roadways Committee – opportunity to apply for appointment

The City Council is expected to begin accepting applications for two committees that are being re-formed: the Committee on the Environment and the Safe Roadways Committee. Full information will be provided in the August issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter and at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). Interested individuals may watch for news at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) or contact Jessie Carpenter for additional information ([jessiec@takomagov.org](mailto:jessiec@takomagov.org) or 301-891-7267).



The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov).

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Reports by community groups, letters to the editor, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to [tpnewseditor@takomagov.org](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomagov.org) or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.

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# HOUSING

## HOUSING MAILBOX



**By Moses A. Wilds, Jr.  
Landlord-Tenant Coordinator**

*I hear a lot about “tenant rights.” What, exactly, does that mean? The tenants in my building would like to know more: How can we learn about our rights as renters?*

There are lots of resources to help you learn about being an active tenant, and protecting your rights as a renter. The Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Office offers a number of documents and activities designed to explain the rights and responsibilities of City tenants. They include:

### **Tenant Rights/Responsibilities Seminars**

Designed to share information regarding the City’s landlord-tenant and rent stabilization laws, these seminars are usually held three times per year and are advertised in the city newsletter and by flyer distributions to rental properties. Additionally, by request, a tenant rights class can be held just for the tenants in your building.

### **The Landlord-Tenant Handbook**

Designed to help tenants understand the City laws, this handbook provides helpful tips and suggestions. Sample letters show tenants how to report a problem to the landlord, and a sample notice of intent to vacate helps them give proper notice when they are ready to leave. Also included in the handbook is a rental unit inspection checklist and frequently asked questions and answers for renters. The handbook is available on the City’s website, [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) in the landlord-tenant section.

### **Housing Mailbox**

You are reading it! This monthly column in the City Newsletter answers all sorts of questions about rentals, from both tenants and landlords.

### **Phone and email**

Our housing staff provides telephone and email support to tenants with questions. Call 301-891-7215 or email [mosesw@takomagov.org](mailto:mosesw@takomagov.org).

### **Meetings**

Members of the City’s landlord-tenant office staff will attend tenant meetings to answer questions about the City’s laws in person.

*Tenants or landlords with questions regarding the City’s Landlord-tenant and COLTA Laws can contact me at 301-891-7215 or at [mosesw@takomagov.org](mailto:mosesw@takomagov.org).*

## Rent Increase Allows 2.8 percent

Did you know that the City of Takoma Park sets the limit on yearly rent increases given by a landlord? The law applies to most multi-family rental properties and to individually rented condominiums.

For any rent increases taken from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013, the rent stabilization allowance now is 2.8 percent. A

landlord must give a two-month written notice prior to taking the increase, and can only take one increase in a 12-month period.

To verify that your rent is the correct rent for your unit, you may contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216 or [jeank@takomagov.org](mailto:jeank@takomagov.org).

## After home purchase, what comes next?

So you just bought a house or a condo and now you want to make sure you keep it and preserve it. Now is the time to sign up for a free post-purchase seminar offered by Housing and Community Initiatives, a non-profit organization that partners with the Montgomery County government to offer assistance to new and not-so-new home owners.

The class will cover topics such as

record keeping, property taxes, maintenance and repairs, understanding mortgage refinancing, managing risk (insurance) and common ownership (condos, HOA) issues. The class will be held on Saturday, July 14 at 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, Md. from 9:30 to 11:30a.m. Pre-registration is required by going on-line to [www.hcii.org](http://www.hcii.org) and selecting First Time Home Buyer classes.



*The Recreation Department has planted a garden for the second year in a row, and this year expanded to include another garden at the Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue. Here are volunteers who are working the soil at the original plot, in a small spot in the Community Center parking lot. From left, Vineda Myers, Piney Branch PTA president, with her son Maxwell; Piney Branch student Abby Ross with her mother Ann Nelligan; Annie Mozer, past member of the Recreation Committee; and Howard Kohn, present member of Committee.*

Photo by Jay Levy

## Make “Trashy Art” for upcoming contest

### **Bring out your trashiest art!**

“Recycle Your Art Out” Day will include a contest for “Trashy Art” made from recyclable materials. Anyone and everyone is eligible – encouraged in fact – to submit an original two- or three-dimensional work of “trashy art” made of 100 percent trash or recyclable materials. To be considered for one of many prizes, your “trashy

art” should be delivered to the Gazebo in Old Takoma between 10 a.m. and noon on Sunday, July 29. Awards will be presented by a panel of judges and by popular vote at 12:30 p.m.

Now is the time to go through your recycling bin and start creating. This is your opportunity to make a unique artistic and environmentally sustainable statement.

## CITY BRIEFS

### **Crossroads Farmer’s Market open each Wednesday**

The Crossroads Farmers Market, now in its sixth year, is offering farm fresh eggs along with the usual array of locally grown vegetables and fruits, and ready-to-eat treats like pupusas and baked goods. The market is open every Wednesday from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. at 7676 New Hampshire Ave., near the intersection of University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue.

The market also has a new manager, Allison Milchling. Former managers Michelle Dudley and Michele Levy continue to run the Crossroads Community Food Network, an organization that more broadly promotes support for local producers and low-income food consumers. [crossroadsmarket@gmail.com](mailto:crossroadsmarket@gmail.com).

### **Chuck E. Cheese moves into town**

The famously raucous, kid-centric Chuck E. Cheese restaurant and party center is planning to open a franchise in the Hampshire Langley shopping center, where H&M The Store most recently leased space. The 18,000-square-foot facility will likely become a standard Chuck E. Cheese location, with the oversized, costumed mouse and his “animal” pals, a menu of pizza and sandwiches, and myriad arcade games and other activities for children. A spokesperson for Chuck E. Cheese says plans are in a preliminary stage, and no development dates have been established.

### **Step up Takoma**

Volunteering in Takoma Park is about to get easier. A new clearinghouse for all things volunteer, Step Up Takoma, is working on a web site where participants can find appealing and appropriate opportunities for their donated time.

Initiated by Takoma Park Girl Scout Troop 5831 and funded in part by a small community grant from Takoma Park, the Step Up Takoma web site will show a calendar of events and opportunities to volunteer, a way for organizations to find volunteers, and lists of possibilities for groups and skills-based jobs. Step Up will also present workshops around volunteerism.

Colleen Clay, girl scout leader and current adult administrator of the program, says Step Up should eventually be participant-run, with an administrative board to plan volunteer fairs and workshops. To see what’s up so far, go to [stepup-takoma.org](http://stepup-takoma.org).





This painting is part of Crystal Pittman's "Heart of an Optimist" exhibit, a group of paintings and ceramics on display at the Takoma Park Community Center Atrium Gallery until July 31.

# THE ARTS

## ARTS & Humanities

### ARTS GET A JUMP ON FALL PLANNING

City staff is planning for a fall full of art, beginning with the 2012-2013 "We are Takoma" and "Third Thursday" series. If you are interested in sharing your talents with the community, get in touch. We would love to hear from you!

For more information on either of the following opportunities, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224 or [sarad@takomagov.org](mailto:sarad@takomagov.org)

#### Third Thursday Poetry Series

The popular "Third Thursday" poetry series, hosted by Martin FitzPatrick, begins its seventh season this fall. As in the past, the series will feature some of the finest poets in Takoma Park and in the region.

To be considered as a featured poet in the upcoming series, please submit three to five of your poems and a short bio of yourself to the Arts and Humanities Commission at [sarad@takomagov.org](mailto:sarad@takomagov.org). The deadline for submissions is Monday, Aug. 6.

#### We are Takoma Cultural Series

The sky is the limit as far as programming goes for the "We are Takoma" series. Past offerings have included concerts, recitals, theater performances and readings of plays, dance, film screenings, lectures and panel discussions. Our programming options are limited only by the size of our space and the technical demands of the event.

If you are interested in being included in the series, drop us an email or give us a call. Proposals will be accepted on a rolling basis with decisions made within 30 days of submission and selected programming scheduled accordingly. Programming is to be offered on a monthly basis, free of charge to the public.

To view past events, check us out on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events](http://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events).

## Artist in residence showcases recycled art

### Program includes Recycle Your Art Out and Trashy Art Contest on July 29

In a deft move to combine two of Takoma Park's most popular themes—recycling and art—the City recently chose its first ever Recycling Artist in Residence.

Renee Lachman, a local resident artist who specializes in assemblages of wood and found objects, will serve a two-month term, during which she will create a commissioned piece of art at a studio set up at the Takoma Park Public Works facility. Residents are urged to visit her and learn about the process of art-making from "up-cycled" and repurposed materials, then join her during "Recycle Your Art Out Day," which will include demonstrations, activities and art-making opportunities.

The Artist in Residence project is co-sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, the Department of Public Works (where Takoma Park's own recycling program is centered), The Old Town Business Association (which will host the Recycle Your Art Out event) and Scrap DC, a recycling and art advocacy organization that facilitates making

art from otherwise cast-off objects.

This project was conceived by Sally Brucker, a Takoma Park artist and member of the Arts and Humanities Commission, as an opportunity to highlight Takoma Park as a leader in recycling and as a way to educate the public about the vast creative potential of re-usable trash. If it succeeds as a pilot project, it will be extended annually.

Lachman is a natural choice to kick off the concept. Drawn to the program through her interest in how things become weathered and change over time, Lachman says there is "beauty in this fading." A simple kitchen knob might recall a childhood, she suggests, or a print or pattern could evoke the viewer's—or the artist's—ancestry. "The things I collect—whether of plastic, iron or paper—speak to me even before I begin to arrange them," she says.

Lachman expects to create ten or 12 pieces during her residency. One will be a commissioned work intended for display in the City, probably at the Department of Public Works.



Renee Lachman

#### RECYCLE YOUR ART OUT

Art-Making in Takoma Park  
Sunday, July 29, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Old Takoma – Gazebo

Demonstrations with Artist In Residence  
Renee Lachman

Hands-on art activities with recycled materials

Performance by "Cooking with Gas"  
Recycling Information

Trashy Art contest, with prizes  
More info: 301-585-6904

## WE ARE TAKOMA

## Pets and poets concert, Antarctica featured in We are Takoma

### Pets n Poets: A Benefit Concert

With Amij, Ro Cube, Patty Reese, Pam Parker, Victoria Floor, Melinda Hamerly, Michelle Maria Norris & Susan Faucon and three dog agility acts

Sunday, July 22, 2 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium  
Suggested donation, \$20

An array of versatile and accomplished musicians and poets (and dogs) will come together for Pets n Poets on Sunday, July 22 to share their creative voice of compassion and to raise funds for The Washington Animal Rescue League.

"With a voice like honey and sand, Patty Reese can hold her own with any other soul struck singer," says Michael Jaworek at the Birchmere Music Hall. That's the sort of company she'll keep at this event,

which will also include Wammie award winners Pam Parker, Ro Cube and Susan Faucon. Faucon is a jazz composer, playwright, performer and producer; Parker brings back tones reminiscent of Billie Holiday and Aretha Franklin. Cube has been sideman for The Temptations and many other acts, contributing as guitarist, singer, DJ and dancer. Heading up the line-up is AMIJ, well-known vocalist and drummer who blends jazz, R&B, pop and soul.

Performing as well are up-and-coming animal-loving artists, Melinda Hamerly, Michelle Maria Norris and Victoria Floor. Hamerly, a voice major at Union College who graduates this month, will be teaching music upon graduation. Michelle Maria Norris has released her first CD. Floor

is a professional writer and poet who works with Pets n Poets.

Pets n Poets, launched last January by founder Susan Faucon, combines her two greatest loves - animal rescue and the performing arts - for the benefit of rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing the abused and neglected animals of our community.

### Dancing in the Rays of the Antarctic Sun – Reflections from the White Continent – A Poetic Journey

Thursday, July 12, 7 p.m. reception,  
7:30 p.m. film

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium  
Free

[www.facebook.com/DancingintheRaysoftheAntarcticSun](http://www.facebook.com/DancingintheRaysoftheAntarcticSun)

In this film, two childhood friends fin-

ish their dream journey of traveling to all seven continents. Beginning in arts district "La Boca" in Buenos Aires, Dancing in the Rays of the Antarctic Sun tells the story of Joy West and Laura Holliday as they travel to the white continent. As they become part of the small group of travelers, they reflect on their experience through the unique lens of growing up in a racially segregated society with limited opportunity for travel. The journey addresses the impact of climate change and human activity that threatens to destroy Antarctica's glaciers, animals and beauty.

Fourteen poetic renditions accompany the breathtaking images found in the wide-ranging geography of the film: La Boca, the Atlantic, and Antarctica. The filmmakers will answer questions about the content and process after the film.



# RECREATION



Eric Stegenhaus and Rico Wilson sample the fun at the new Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park.  
For more info, see page 1.

Photo by Selena Malott

## Tai Chi; Ages 16 and older

Tai Chi, an ancient exercise for cultivating physical and spiritual health, has been proven effective in restoring balance and calm in our lives. This class will cover the basic principles and concepts, using slow, gentle movements and relaxed breathing to harmonize energy and flow in the body. The class will follow the Yang style short form that was introduced to the West by the renowned Cheng Man Ch'ing.

Tuesdays (ongoing), 5:30 – 7 p.m.

TP Recreation Center  
Free

## Girls on the Rise

Ages 10-14

This self-esteem program encourages girls to develop self-respect and a healthy lifestyle. It addresses the difficulty of adolescence by guiding them to physical, emotional, mental and social well-being, helping them navigate

through peer problems, explore healthy relationship development, family challenges, appearances, cyber bullying, school challenges and how their emotions play a role in all areas of their lives.

Thursdays (ongoing), 7 – 8 p.m.  
TP Recreation Center  
Free with membership card

## Zumba

*Ages 16 and older*

This fusion of hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves helps achieve long-term benefits during an hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing movements. Routines feature interval training sessions and resistance training to tone and sculpt while burning fat. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Wednesdays and Saturdays, July 7 – Aug. 1  
6 - 6:55 p.m. (Wednesdays); 9:15 - 10:10 a.m. (Saturdays)  
TP Recreation Center  
\$40  
\$10 per person drop-in fee

## Jazzercise

*Ages 16 and older*

This class combines the art of Jazz with the science of exercise physiology. Each 60- to 70-minute sessions includes aerobic dance routines, weights for muscle strength and stretching exercises. Music ranges from oldies to jazz to the newest pop tunes. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Mondays and Wednesdays (ongoing), 7 – 8 p.m.  
Saturdays, 8 – 9 am  
TP Recreation Center  
\$35 per month EFT (Easy Fitness Ticket)  
\$85/8 week pass  
\$10 drop-in (with \$20 fee)

## Double Dutch

*Ages 6-14*

Learn the art of double Dutch through a fun and aerobic endurance workout that includes single rope jumping, double Dutch turning and jumping, stretching, toning, jogging and calisthenics. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Tuesdays (ongoing), 7 – 8:30 p.m.  
TP Recreation Center  
Free with membership card

## Yoga for Beginners

*Ages 16 and older*

Discover how to work with your body in a safe, gentle, non-competitive way which promotes increased flexibility, strength, balance and awareness. Introduces and develops the foundation of standing poses and basic actions in forward bends, backbends and twists. Each pose can be modified to accommodate all physical conditions. Please come with comfortable clothing and an empty stomach.

Tuesdays, July 17 – Aug. 28, 6 – 7:15 p.m.  
TP Community Center dance studio  
TP residents \$75  
Non-residents \$85

## Yoga and Meditation, Intermediate

*Ages 16 and older*

Iyengar yoga teaches stability and openness through alignment, so that the flow of energy and the focus of the mind are found in each pose. This class will include inversions and more advanced poses. It is appropriate for those who have a good foundation in standing poses and an understanding of basic alignment.

Tuesdays, July 17 – Aug. 28, 7:30 – 9 p.m.  
TP Community Center dance studio  
TP residents \$75  
Non-residents \$85

# SUMMER CAMPS

## Rookie Sports Camp (Half Day)

*Ages 3 – 5*

Have the little ones join us for a week of unique activities including T-ball, soccer, bowling, kickball, relays and more. Sessions take place in a safe, structured environment and sports are played through a series of games and activities. All the sports promote hand-eye coordination, motor skills, group participation and communication skills. All participants must wear sneakers and dress appropriately.

9 a.m. – 12 noon  
TP Community Center Rose Room  
Session 2: July 9 – July 13  
Session 3: July 30 – Aug. 3  
TP residents \$80 per week  
Non-residents \$90 per week

## Super Sports Camp

*Ages 10 – 12*

In addition to some of our more traditional sports, our fun-focused camp exposes campers to new activities, helps develop recreational skills, and promotes social growth. Camp will conclude with sport challenges and game competitions. All participants must wear sneakers and dress appropriately.

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
TP Community Center Rose Room  
Session 2: July 23 – July 27 (10-12 yrs)  
TP residents \$160 per week  
Non-residents \$180 per week  
Before Care, 7 – 9 a.m.  
TP residents \$35  
Non-residents \$45

After care, 4 – 6 p.m.  
TP residents \$35  
Non-residents \$45

## Dribble, Pass and Shoot Basketball Camp

*Ages 6 -12*

Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of camp. Campers will be provided with excellent coaching which allows each participant to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit the individual needs of each participant. Don Bosco Athletic Director and former basketball coach Frank Simpson will lead.

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Aug. 13 – 17  
TP Recreation Center  
\$200 per week  
Before Care, 7 – 9 a.m.  
TP residents \$35  
Non-residents \$45  
After care, 4 - 6 p.m.  
TP residents \$35  
Non-residents \$45

## Dance Camp

*Ages 6-12*

Ballet, tap and creative dance are geared to allow girls and boys to enhance talent with skill and technique. Learn basic dance skills, rhythm, musicality and improvisation. Instructors focus on building self-esteem and personal creativity. At the end of each session, campers showcase what they have learned with a performance.

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m - 3 p.m.  
Session 1: July 9 – June 13  
Session 2: July 30 – Aug. 3  
TP Community Center  
TP residents \$200 per session  
Non-residents \$230 per session  
Before care, 7 – 9 a.m.  
TP residents \$35  
Non-residents \$45  
After care, 4 – 6 p.m.  
TP residents \$35  
Non-residents \$45

## Teens on the Move

*Ages 13-16*

A balance of experiential learning, community service, fun activities and career development. Daily emphasis on exercise, sports, nutrition and team building while having fun in a challenging but safe atmosphere.

Monday through Friday, 10 a.m – 4 p.m.  
Session 1: July 9 – June 13  
Session 2: July 16 – July 20  
Session 3: July 23 – July 27  
TP Community Center  
TP residents \$110/session  
Non-residents \$120/session

## Camp Takoma

*Ages 6-12*

Want your child to have the best summer ever? Let them join us for fun, education and physical enhancement through daily exercise, group games, weekly field trips, arts and crafts, swimming and much more. Through arts experiences, each participant will have the opportunity to grow academically and socially while expressing themselves in fun and creative ways. Campers will also

experience literature, music, visual arts, games, theater and sports.

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m – 4 p.m.  
Session 1: June 18 – 22 (Tents Up)  
Session 2: June 25 – 29 (Wonder World of Sports)  
Session 3: July 2 – 6 (Wild Wild West)  
Session 4: July 9 – 13 (Blast From The Past)  
Session 5: July 16 – 20 (Super Hero Comic Book)  
Session 6: July 23 – 27 (You're in the Band, Rock Star)  
Session 7: July 30 – Aug. 3 (Flying Dutchman Pirate Ship)  
Session 8: Aug. 6 – 10 (Wet and Wild Safari)  
TP Community Center  
TP residents \$120 per session  
Non-residents \$140 per session  
Before care, 7 – 9 a.m.  
TP residents \$35  
Non-residents \$45  
After care, 4 – 6 p.m.  
TP residents \$35  
Non-residents \$45

### TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

Go to <http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/index.html>

For more information by phone, call 301-891-7290

# SILVER FOXES

## Summer Game Show

*Ages 55 and older*

Back by popular demand. Have you been watching other people win games on television over the years and wish you could play to win? Now is your chance. Paula Lisowski, of the Recreation Department, will act as host for fun interpretations of popular game shows. Drop-in. No registration is required to participate. For more information, please call 301-891-7280.

Summer Game Show #1 — Price is Right

Tuesday, July 17,  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

TP Community Center senior room  
Free

## Silver Foxes Seniors Advisory Group Meeting

*Ages 55 and older*

We are looking for seniors from the community to join our advisory group. Bring your suggestions and ideas for the senior recreation program in Takoma Park. Come to an open and relaxed meeting and get involved! Drop-in, no registration required.

Friday, July 27, 12 noon – 1 p.m.

TP Community Center Senior Room  
Free

## National Air and Space Museum

Washington, DC

*Ages 55 and older, plus grandchildren welcome*

The National Air and Space Museum on the National Mall has thousands of artifacts on display. Bring spending money for shopping and to purchase your lunch at the food court restaurant of your choice.

Meet at Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Bus pick up at Franklin, Maplevue and Victory Tower apartments only. Registration is required July 2 – 10. Call 301-891-7280.

Friday, July 13, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Free

## Old Country Buffet

Gaithersburg, Md.

*Ages 55 and older, plus grandchildren welcome*

Join us for a delicious American food buffet for \$8.98 plus tax. Bring spending money to purchase your lunch. After lunch, you are free to visit the stores next door. Meet at Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Bus pick up at Franklin, Maplevue and Victory Tower apartments only. Registration is required July 2 – 13. Call 301-891-7280.

Friday, July 20, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

You pay for your meal. No cost for transportation.

# It's time to renew Takoma Park parking permits

The City of Takoma Park requires that residents renew parking permits prior to July 1 every year. There is no grace period and tickets will be written for expired permits after June 30.

To ease the process and to encourage early registration, the Police Department offers permits by mail, as well as in-person purchasing. Residents should complete the form, which can be picked up from the Police Department or downloaded and printed from the Takoma Park Police Department web site at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/police/documents/permitap.pdf](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/police/documents/permitap.pdf).

Registration, by mail and in person began on June 1, and in-person is Monday

through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Permits by mail are for residences only, with a \$1 charge for mailing and handling. In-person purchasing is required for businesses and for Area B permits.

Residents should complete the form/application and return it, with payment, to the Police Department. Photocopies of the current vehicle registration card for each vehicle and a driver's license for at least one owner must be submitted with this form. Attachments must show a current Takoma Park address in the requested permit area. Include day and evening phone numbers in case any questions arise in processing.

A decal and year sticker for each regis-

tered vehicle will be mailed back within three business days of receipt. Two visitor parking permits will be included for each address.

Businesses in the permit areas should submit the names of employees on company letterhead with their request. Not more than three employees' permits are allowed. A home-based business must show evidence of a currently-operated business, which is current on payment of personal property taxes.

A 50 percent discount is offered to hybrid or all-electric vehicles.

Questions regarding permit parking can be answered at 301-891-7102, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

## CREDIT UNION

■ From page 1

ity survey. The number of people responding to the survey and their feedback has convinced the committee to move forward with trying to bring a credit union to the City.

### HOW IT WORKS

A credit union is a member-owned, not-for-profit, collaborative financial institution. Members may become affiliated through their employers, their organizational affiliations or the communities in which they live. Each member, regardless of the size of his or her deposits, has equal ownership and voting rights.

Unlike corporate commercial banks, credit unions do not issue stock or pay dividends to outside shareholders. Instead, they return earnings to their members through lower loan rates and fees and higher interest rates on deposits. Each credit union is governed by a volunteer board of directors elected from its membership.

More than 87 million Americans are credit union members, according to the Credit Union National Association (CUNA).

## NUTS AND BOLTS

According to Robinson, the main issue the Exploratory Committee is examining is whether to start a new credit union or convince an existing one to open a branch in the City. "Starting your own is very time-consuming and labor intensive, so our current strategy is to talk to some existing credit unions," said Robinson.

Working with Jennifer Simmons, membership director of the Maryland-DC Credit Union Association, members of the committee have arranged meetings with three local credit unions: Lafayette Federal Credit Union and Signal Financial Federal Credit Union, both headquartered in Kensington; and Mid-Atlantic Federal Credit Union, based in Germantown. Those meetings are scheduled to take place within the next two months, according to Robinson.

There is precedent for such an effort. Robinson cited the case of Vashon Island, a town of 11,000 (as opposed to Takoma Park's 17,000) near Seattle. Residents there were able to convince an existing credit union, Puget Sound Cooperative Credit Union, to open a branch on the island. According to the *Credit Union Times*, a trade newspaper, Puget Sound Cooperative opened the branch in March 2011 and by

July 2011, 875 members had opened accounts, the credit union had taken in more than \$7.5 million in deposits and made almost \$1.2 million in loans. As of May 7 of this year, the number was up to \$20 million in deposits and there were approximately 1,700 members from the island.

While they can't guarantee equal success should an existing credit union open a branch in Takoma Park, both Robinson and Bloch are confident that a credit union will be successful here. But behind the financial bottom line, they also view the effort in moral and social terms.

"There is an altruistic side to this effort," Robinson said. "We are thinking about how we can serve certain groups of people, like those who are subject to predatory lending."

"It's part of building a healthy and productive future for the community," said Bloch. "To do that you have to build your capacity and get some control over the money to make sure it is not flowing out of the community and into the pockets of corporations."

If you would like more information on the effort or would like to fill out the feasibility survey, visit <https://sites.google.com/site/azaleacreditunion/home>.

## GARCIA HONORED

■ From page 1

and how they affect and reveal the human condition. Garcia also wants to write about what Latino life is like here in the United States, reflecting a range of human issues, and "not just questions related to immigration," she says. "We are more than our struggles with immigration."

Garcia, who is not formally trained as a writer, took two years to write *Tacones*. Her writing involves imagination and "a sort of stream of consciousness," she says, and she struggles to find time to fit it into a busy life. She works part-time managing a medical office. When she's finished with work for the day, she "steals away time" for her writing.

While it's not always easy, Garcia remembers what she learned from famous author Terri MacMillan: "There is no way to do it [write] but to do it!" The "whole

family" is joyously celebrating her award, says Garcia, and she is proud to be an example of accomplishment for her children.

Submissions to the Maryland Individual Artist Awards program are blind, meaning they are presented with no identifying information about the artist. All submissions are peer-reviewed by anonymous jurors across the country who then recommend awards for the Maryland IAA program. According to Maryland State Arts Council's Pamela Dunn, *Tacones* is exactly the kind of work the Individual Artist Awards program is meant to surface and recognize. "The reviewers' scores and comments reflected appreciation that the play brought up some very current issues," said Dunn. "This may well have helped distinguish *Tacones* from many of the other plays being considered."

Garcia's first play, *Lesbians and the Men Who Love Them*, was presented as a work in progress (it was "work-shopped") at

Gallaudet University in 2010, and in June 2011, was read as part of the We Are Takoma Series. Garcia is developing her third play, *16 Bottles of Manischewitz*, about a Latina girl, her father, a Hasidic rabbi, and "the secrets we keep." Garcia's plans are to have the play produced at local theaters.

While Garcia credits her own family with nurturing her talents (growing up in New York City she was treated to theatre, shows and performances by her mother), she encourages aspiring playwrights to "keep at it" and to learn from other authors, as she has learned from studying the plays of her own favorites: August Wilson, Suzan Lori Parks, Matthew Lopez and Luis Valdez.

The Individual Artist Awards was presented in May. For more information on the Maryland State Arts Council and the Individual Artist Awards call 410-767-6555, or visit the MSAC website: [www.msac.org](http://www.msac.org).





# ELECTION '12

*Election Day is Tuesday, July 17*

## Ward 5 Residents Prepare to Elect a New Ward 5 City Councilmember

Election Day is Tuesday, July 17, 2012 (for the Ward 5 Special Election)

The single polling place is at Wilkinson Hall, Washington Adventist University, 7600 Flower Ave.

Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

By the time the July issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter is mailed, the ballot will be set for the Ward 5 Special Election. The deadline for candidates to submit petitions to have their name placed on the ballot was June 27.

A sample ballot will be mailed to all Ward 5 voters early in July.

After the polls close on election day, ballots will be returned to the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium for counting. Preliminary results will be announced election evening.

At 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 18, the City Council will meet briefly in the Community Center Auditorium to receive the certification of election results from the Board of Elections.

For information about any facet of the election, contact Jessie Carpenter at [JessieC@takomagov.org](mailto:JessieC@takomagov.org) or 301-891-7267.

### Ward 5 Candidates Forum

Spend an evening learning about the candidates at a Candidates Forum on Thursday, July 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. at Wilkinson Hall, Washington Adventist University, 7600 Flower Ave. Meet and greet from 7 to 7:30 p.m. The

Forum will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m. Eric Bond, editor of the *Takoma Voice*, will moderate the session.

### ADDITIONAL ELECTION INFORMATION

#### Absentee Ballots

Any registered voter may file an application to vote by absentee ballot. Completed applications to have a ballot mailed must be filed with the City Clerk not later than 4 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11, 2012. Upon verification of a voter's eligibility, an absentee ballot will be issued—either by mail or in person. The voted ballot must be received by the Clerk prior to the closing of the polls on Election Day.

#### Late Absentee Ballot Requests and On-Site "Absentee" Voting

Beginning Wednesday, July 11, voters may apply in person to the City Clerk for a late absentee ballot and may vote at the City Clerk's Office if they wish. If the applicant cannot apply and vote in person, he or she may designate in the application a registered voter of the City to act as agent in picking up and delivering the ballot (candidates and their families may not act as agents). The application must be completed and filed with the City Clerk prior to issuance of a ballot to the agent. As with regular absentee voting, a ballot cannot be issued until the voter's eligibility has been established, and the ballot must be returned

to the City Clerk's Office prior to the closing of the polls on Election Day.

#### Instant Runoff Voting

Pursuant to Charter Amendment Resolution 2006-1, an instant runoff voting (IRV) system shall be used, allowing voters to rank candidates in order of choice. In an instant runoff system, voters rank candidates (1, 2, 3 and so on). If no candidate receives a majority of the first choices, the candidate with the fewest first choices is eliminated and those voters' second choice votes are redistributed to other candidates. This continues until one candidate receives a majority of votes and is elected.

With IRV, it takes a majority to win. If most voters (50 percent plus one) rank a candidate as their first choice, that candidate is elected. If nobody has a clear majority of votes on the first count in the Ward 5 special election, a runoff will be simulated. The candidate who received the fewest number of first choices will be eliminated, reducing the field of candidates. Voters who ranked the eliminated candidate as their first choice will have their second choice added to the totals in the second round. The candidate with more votes will win the instant runoff.

#### Out of Town on Election Day?

Apply now to receive an absentee ballot by mail. The application is available online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

## Residentes del Distrito 5 Preparense para Votar Por Un Consejal Nuevo Para El Distrito 5

El día de la elección es el 17 de julio del 2012 (para la elección especial del Distrito 5)

La elección tomará lugar en Wilkinson Hall, Washington Adventist University, 7600 Flower Avenue.

Las cabinas electorales estarán habiertas de 7 a.m. a 8 p.m.

Después de haber mandado el boletín de Takoma Park para el mes de julio, la boleta electoral estará establecida para la elección especial del distrito 5. La fecha límite para someter una petición para añadir su nombre como candidato a la boleta electoral es el 27 de junio.

Se mandará por correo una muestra de la boleta electoral a todos los residentes del distrito 5 en la primera parte de julio.

Después de que cierre las cabinas electorales el día de las elecciones, se contará las boletas electorales en el Centro Comunitario de Takoma Park. Se anunciará los resultados no oficiales la noche de la elección.

El miércoles, 18 de Julio a las 7:30 p.m., el consejo se reunirá brevemente en el auditorio para recibir el certificado de los resultados de la elección de la Junta Electoral.

Para más información sobre la elección, póngase en contacto con la Secretaria Municipal al correo electrónico [Jessiec@takomagov.org](mailto:Jessiec@takomagov.org) o al 301-891-7267.

### El Foro de los Candidatos de Distrito 5

Se invita a conocer los candidatos durante el foro de los Candidatos el jueves, 12 de Julio de 7-9 p.m. en el

Wilkinson Hall, Washington Adventist University, 7600 Flower Avenue. Conosca y converse con los candidatos de 7-7:30 p.m. El foro comensará a las 7:30 p.m. Eric Bond, Editor del *Takoma Voice*, moderará el foro.

### INFORMACIÓN ADICIONAL SOBRE LA ELECCIÓN

#### Boleta Electoral para Votante Ausente

Cualquier persona inscrito para votar puede solicitar una aplicación para votar con una boleta electoral para votante ausente. Aplicaciones completas tendrán que haber sido sometido a la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal antes de las 4 p.m. el miércoles, 11 de julio del 2012. Después de verificación, se le dará una boleta electoral para votante ausente por correo o en persona. Después de marcar su boleta electoral, tendrá que entregar la boleta a la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal antes que cierre las cabinas electorales el día de la elección especial.

#### Boleta Electoral Tardía para Votante Ausente.

Comensando el miércoles, 11 de julio, votantes pueden aplicar en persona por una boleta electoral tardía y puede votar al momento, si lo desea. Si el votante no puede aplicar en persona, el o ella puede designar una votante de la ciudad en la aplicación como su agente solo para recoger y entregar su boleta (candidatos y miembros de la familia del candidato no pueden actuar como agente del votante). Antes de entregar la boleta electoral

al agente designado por el votante, tendrá que completar la aplicación y someterla a la oficina de la Secretaria Municipal. Así como la boleta electoral para votante ausente, no se entregará una boleta hasta que se verifique la información del votante y la boleta se sometió antes del cierre de las cabinas electorales el día de la elección especial.

#### Segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediata

Conforme a la Resolución de Enmienda de la Carta Constitucional 2006-1, deberá ponerse en práctica un sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediato, que les permita a los votantes clasificar a los candidatos según su orden de preferencia. A través del sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediato los votantes clasifican a los candidatos (1, 2, 3 y así sucesivamente). Si ninguno de los candidatos es elegido por la mayoría como primera opción, el candidato que tenga la menor cantidad de votos para ocupar la primera opción se elimina y los votos para la segunda opción se redistribuirán entre otros candidatos. Este proceso continúa hasta que uno de los candidatos reciba la mayoría de votos y sea elegido.

#### ¿Va Estar Fuera de la Ciudad el Día de la Elección?

Solicite una aplicación para recibir una boleta de ausencia por correo. La aplicación ahora esta disponible en la página web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park – [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)



# Candidate Statements



## Eric Hensal

The experience we need—the vision we share. That's why I am running for city council. I know how to get things done and have a proven ability to create progressive and affordable solutions. I have been a constituent advocate, mayoral assistant, labor organizer and small business owner. I created the first municipal anti-sweatshop law and worked within Montgomery County to lessen budget cuts impacts. I have advocated for municipal electricity, helped environmental groups fight for clean water and better

transportation, supported labor unions in promoting worker's rights. I hold a Masters in Public Administration from the University of Baltimore. I'll fight to continue 24-hour urgent care at the hospital site, protect tenants' rights, build a new Flower Avenue the community wants, improve the playground at Kennebec and Sligo Creek Parkway, and end tax duplication. My campaign is endorsed by the Metropolitan Washington AFL-CIO.

**Phone: 301-637-2119**

**Web: [erichensal.org](http://erichensal.org)**



## Jarrett Smith

Since moving to Takoma Park in 2004, I have become deeply involved in achieving the sense of community that Takoma Park has always strived for. The city that has become my home is more of a community than any other place I've lived which, growing up an "Army brat," has been a lot of places. However, I've learned that people here can live 50 feet apart and share similar values, yet act like they're worlds apart.

If I am elected to the Council, I intend to focus on three primary goals. First, I want to make Ward 5,

and the city as a whole, a true community. Second, I want to protect and improve the heart of Ward 5, Sligo Creek. Finally, I want to preserve health and wellness options for the ward regardless of the outcome with the Washington Adventist Hospital.

**Phone: 301-960-7462**

**Email: [SmithForTakomaPark@gmail.com](mailto:SmithForTakomaPark@gmail.com)**

**Web: [www.SmithForTakomaPark.com](http://www.SmithForTakomaPark.com)**



## Melinda Ulloa

My candidacy for the Ward 5 Council vacancy is based on my real desire to contribute what I can to our great neighborhood. I know all of you share my deep sense of community and commitment to making Ward 5 and Takoma Park an even better place for all of us to live. The issues and projects confronting us in the very near future are the Flower Avenue Green Street Project and what, if anything, Washington Adventist Hospital's plans are and the impact that will have on the community. Environmental sustain-

ability, affordable housing, transportation and urban planning are all very important components to consider when grappling with these very real issues. As a long-time resident I am committed to working to protect the unique aspects of this caring and friendly community. My top priority is to represent you on the Council and make sure your voices are heard.

**Phone: 301-785-1242**

**Email: [melindaulloa32@gmail.com](mailto:melindaulloa32@gmail.com)**

## Council seeks volunteers for Recognition Task Force

The City Council is looking for how best to recognize and/or memorialize Takoma Park volunteers, leaders, advocates, mentors and others who serve the community. To this end, the Council is forming a Recognition Task Force to propose ideas and programs. The task force will consist of up to seven members, one appointed by each member of the Council and the Mayor. The Task Force will be asked to complete its work before the Council's December recess.

Residents who are interested in making a short term commitment to assist with this process should submit an application form (found at <http://takomaparkmd.gov/committees/comapp.pdf>) or contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at [jessiec@takomagov.org](mailto:jessiec@takomagov.org) or 301-891-7267 to receive an application. The Council intends to make appointments on July 30.



## SPECIAL ELECTION

**Tuesday, July 17**

**WHERE: Wilkinson Hall,  
Washington Adventist University,  
7600 Flower Ave.**

**WHEN: 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.**



# LIBRARY



The Friends of the Takoma Park, Maryland Library give generously of their time and resources. Many of the programs listed on these pages are made possible through their efforts, including Spanish Circle Time, Comics Jam, reading groups, crafts event and more.

For more information about supporting the Friends, see <http://www.ftpml.org>.

## CALENDAR

### Circle Time

Every Tuesday  
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

### Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday  
10: 30 a.m. with Señora Geiza

### Bedtime Stories

Monday, July 2, 7 p.m.  
Come in p.j.s, bring your teddy bear or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs and rhymes in this half-hour program  
Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups

### Comics Jam

Tuesday, July 3, 4 p.m.  
Read comics on the big screen with our graphic novel guru, Dave Burbank  
No registration

### Bedtime for Frances Program

Monday, July 16, 7 p.m.  
Join us for a special program devoted to the Russell Hoban picture books starring Frances the Badger  
Registration encouraged

### Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 17, 7:45 p.m.

### Scribblers Cabal

Saturday, July 14, 2-4 p.m.  
Young artists: come join library staffer and artist extraordinaire Dave Burbank in a drawing program designed to inspire creativity and fun.

## A New View of the Library

*Personal reflection from a long-time resident*

By Emily van Loon

I have lived in Takoma Park for 27 years. When we moved here, Mark's Kitchen was the Electric Maid, the Co-op was Evan's Electric, the post office was on Maple Avenue and "Doc" Fishbein ruled Park Pharmacy with an iron hand. A lot has changed. But the library—well the library is still the same library. Or is it?

When my kids were growing up, we practically lived at the Takoma Park Library. It is where I perfected the art of "shushing" them and where they learned that sitting on the floor to read in public actually can be acceptable. Before canvas bags became the "in" thing to carry around to save the planet, we walked to the library with ours and left with a stack of kids' books in our bag—so many I was afraid we might bust the City's budget. The kids went straight to the library after school, science fair projects were hatched in the children's section, librarians worked to keep order, while multiple fines were paid for books forever lost in the disasters of my sons' rooms. And yes — summer reading programs melted together as the years sped by.

In my world, the library was never my library — it belonged to the kids. But recently, because of a connection with

Library Director Ellen Robbins, I began to actually view it as a resource for me. Imagine that, I thought: My tax dollars going to something for me and not my kids. A novel thought (excuse the pun).

Turns out the library is a great place to check out magazines that we had stopped purchasing in an effort to save the planet (again). For us, magazines cluttered the house and made the recycling bin too



Photo by Virginia Myers

heavy to cart out to the street, especially when the magazines got wet. At the library, we discovered that the blue shelves holding the magazines lift up, revealing previous issues that can be checked out—perfect Metro reading on those days the Red Line gets stuck on the tracks. And

yes, I do check out old issues of People magazine.

The library has also solved my chronic fine problem. The staff now sends an email once a week reminding me what I have checked out. And in the off chance I still forget and owe the fine, I happily pay it. The library needs the money and my kids are not around to see me breaking the rule I used to give them a hard time about. It's perfect!

I've also discovered the music CD collection. I know — we all have iPhones, but my car has a CD player and sometimes it's just fun to check out something I never would buy and try it out. I am getting into country music and found an old Chicago CD that brought tears to my eyes.

And yes I have a Kindle, but I also read real books. I especially love the non-fiction books. Kindles don't do them justice. Non-fiction comes with pictures on how to fix that pesky toilet or a wonderful photograph of Rosa Parks.

So — do I still walk to the library? Yes I do. Do I still carry a canvas bag with me? Yes I do. Do I check out Newbery Medal books — sometimes I do. Do I have my children with me —no, I do not and I am smiling all the way to the library. It's my turn.

Emily van Loon's great uncle was Hendrik Willem Van Loon, who was awarded the very first Newbery Medal in 1922 for "The Story of Mankind."

## LIBRARY BRIEFS

### Summer Quest reading program off to a record start

More than 75 people signed up on our June 11 kick-off night, making it our biggest-ever Summer Quest launch. Altogether, more than 140 people signed up during our first week; currently 197 are registered. If you haven't yet signed up, don't worry: you can sign up any time during the summer. Parents are welcome to do the program with their babies, toddlers and preschoolers — just ask at the desk for specific pre-literacy challenges for little ones. As always, our unique Summer Quest program is cre-

ated by Library Assistant Dave Burbank and sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

### Reading "Frances"

Come join us on Monday, July 16 at 7 p.m. for a special program devoted to Frances, the strong-willed badger who stars in seven picture books by Russell Hoban. Our program will be led by Gretchen Doughty, a local theater expert, who will read several of the "Frances" books, including "Bread and Jam for Frances" and "Bedtime for Frances." The program will conclude with a craft. Registration encouraged; to register, please go to [www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html](http://www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html) or call us at 301-891-7259.

### Book Club Considers Conrad

Join the Friends of the Library Reading Group when they re-convene on Sept. 11 for a discussion of Joseph Conrad's "The Secret Sharer" in the Takoma Park Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

This is the saga of a young, inexperienced skipper forced to decide the fate of a fugitive sailor who killed a man in self-defense. It is based loosely on Conrad's experience in the 1880s, when he was forced by an emergency to assume command of a ship in a Far Eastern port. Considered among Conrad's most significant works, "The Secret Sharer" is widely praised for the richness of its symbols and allusions. The allusive quality of the narrative has led to lively critical debate

concerning the specifics of Conrad's intent in the story; yet critics agree that "The Secret Sharer" represents Conrad at his best. Conrad himself agreed with this assessment, writing to his friend Edward Garnett: "the 'Secret Sharer,' between you and me, is *it*. Eh?...every word fits and there's not a single uncertain note."

The Friends Reading Group discussions are open to all. Stay tuned for the next "big book" selection, featuring a series of discussions facilitated by Merrill Leffler. Contact the Library or check the Friends of the Library and Library web sites for further information.





# AT YOUR SERVICE



## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

## Police Catch Burglars; Close Six Cases

Three arrests have been made regarding a rash of burglaries in North Takoma.

On June 7, Alexander Gorge Ellis, 19, of no fixed address, was arrested for first degree burglary, theft over \$1,000 and malicious destruction of property. Ellis was apprehended in Ocean City, Md.

On June 5, 2012, at approximately 9:10 a.m., a witness walking from Takoma Avenue to the 500 block of New York Avenue, heard breaking glass and observed a suspect running from the side of the residence towards the roadway, where he turned right and was last seen walking up Buffalo Avenue. Takoma Park Police were dispatched and a suspect matching the description given was stopped in the 7400 block of Piney Branch Road by members of the Tactical Enforcement Unit (TEU), Criminal Investigations Division (CID) and patrol units. When asked for identification, the juvenile suspect gave a false name. The suspect was carrying a blue bag containing a computer that had been described in a list of missing property from a victim of a previous burglary. The suspect was visually identified by the witness as the person seen running from the property where the sound of glass was breaking.

A check of the residence in the 500 block of New York Avenue revealed that a window had been broken out of the side door that led to the laundry room and basement. No entry was gained into the residence.

Montgomery County K-9 responded and a track was conducted. The track led from the side of the residence in the 500 block of New York Avenue to the 7400 block of Piney Branch Road, where the

K-9 alerted on the suspect on the scene. The suspect, a 17-year-old male juvenile of Washington, D.C., was arrested and transported to the Takoma Park Police Department. The investigation led to the identification of the other suspects involved in committing the series of residential burglaries that have been plaguing the City. A Montgomery County investigator responded to Takoma Park to work a collaborative investigation, since there have been 10 residential burglaries in their jurisdiction with similarities.

A follow up was conducted with a victim from the burglary on May 30, in the 7400 block of Cedar Avenue; that victim positively identified property that had been stolen. In addition, there were several items of jewelry taken during various burglaries that were recovered at a local pawn shop. Victims from the Takoma Park burglaries have identified property in five of the six burglaries.

As a result of property being recovered at the pawn shop, search warrants were obtained and additional arrest warrants issued for information that identified other suspects involved in committing the burglaries.

A computer check of the juvenile's true name revealed that he was wanted by the Charles County Sheriff's Office for being absent from a group home. The juvenile is being held at the Noyes Juvenile Detention Facility.

On June 6, a search and seizure warrant was executed at the residence of Darlene Lucas, 46, in Southeast Washington, D.C., as a result of the residential burglary investigation. During a search of Lucas' residence, investigators located additional

property belonging to victims from Takoma Park. Lucas was taken into custody without incident and charged with first degree burglary, theft over \$1,000 and malicious destruction of property. She is being held at the D.C. City Jail pending extradition to the State of Maryland.

Investigation further led investigators to Ellis as a suspect in the series of residential burglaries in Takoma Park. Ellis fled from Washington, D.C. to avoid being apprehended on June 5. Investigator learned that Ellis had ties to a location in Ocean City, Md. Takoma Park detectives contacted Ocean City Police Criminal Investigators and coordinated efforts to apprehend Ellis.

Ellis was apprehended at approximately 1:30 p.m. June 7 in Ocean City, by Ocean City Police, without incident. Takoma Park and Montgomery County Criminal Investigators responded to Ocean City, Maryland, to return Ellis to Montgomery County for the Takoma Park Police burglary warrant.

This investigation is still on-going for other suspects believed to be responsible for committing the series of residential burglaries.

Chief Ricucci praised the resident who called the police when she observed suspicious behavior, and also praised the Takoma Park police detectives and police officers who assisted with the apprehension of these suspects. He also thanked the DC Metropolitan Police Department, 4th District, the Montgomery County Police Department and the Ocean City Police Department.

### Citizen's Police Academy

A second session of the Citizens' Police Academy will run Thursday nights from 7 to 9 p.m. for 12 weeks beginning Sept. 20. The academy is designed to educate citizens on the required duties and obligations of a police officer, and provide a glimpse into all aspects of the City's police department. It will be held at the Takoma Park Community Center. Participants must be at least 18 years old and pass a background check. Deadline for registration is July 31, and the session is limited to the first 20 students. For more information or to register, contact the community policing officer at [carlam@takomagov.org](mailto:carlam@takomagov.org) or see <http://bit.ly/L08dLU>.

### FISH FRY FRIDAYS



Volunteers from God Glorified Church in Takoma Park get ready to dish out dinner at Takoma Park's monthly Fish Fry, June 8. The event, with free fried fish for participants, is held every second Friday of the month; next up is July 13 from 6 – 8 p.m. on the basketball court behind the Community Center.

Photo by Selena Malott

As of May 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 239 fire-related incidents in 2012. The department addressed or assisted with 1,280 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 1,519 this year. Totals for 2011 were 297 and 1,197, representing an increase of 25 incidents.

### For a Safe Fourth of July

Accidents and deaths are far fewer than they once were as a result of state and federal laws on fireworks. But nevertheless, parents should be aware of the serious dangers inherent in letting children use fireworks. The Fire Code states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, store, to offer for sale, expose for sale, sell or use, burn or explode any fireworks (i.e., firecrackers, torpedoes, sky rockets, roman candles, sparklers, etc.) provided, that the possession, sale or discharge of fireworks are permitted when such activities are conducted under a permit issued by the state fire marshal." Let's enjoy the holiday celebration. Let the professionals handle the fireworks. Watch them from a safe distance and be safe. Don't let tragedy mar your July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Cooking Tips for Outside Cooking

One of the great pleasures of summer is eating and cooking out of doors with family and friends. The popularity of this activity is evident in the great number of outdoor grills being sold each year. Such grills can be fun to cook on and provide delicious food, but they can also be dangerous. None of them are foolproof, and all should be handled with care. Be aware of your neighbors, too: smoke can be a nuisance. And remember these safety tips:

- Keep outdoor cooking at least 20 feet from any structure.
- Use outdoor cooking gear only in well ventilated area.
- Keep children away from all barbecuing equipment.
- Never leave foods cooking unattended.
- Use only approved fire starter.
- Never use a liquid fire starter to freshen a fire.
- After cooking, soak the coals.
- Clean the grill with water and detergent to avoid grease buildup.

Remember, it is against the law to do any cooking on apartment balconies.



Police departments work together to solve cold case

The Prince William County, Va. and Takoma Park Police Departments are asking for the public's help in providing information about a homicide investigation from 1980, after skeletal remains were recently identified. The remains were found in 1982 in the Haymarket area of Prince William County, Va.

On April 3, 1980, family members of Cynthia Joan Gastelle reported her missing in Takoma Park. On February 12, 1982, Prince William County Police found skeletal remains on Bull Run Mountain in the Haymarket area. In 2001, DNA from the case was entered into the national database. In 2011, DNA from family members was collected in an unrelated case in an-



other jurisdiction, and on May 10, 2012, it all came together when Prince William County Police, in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner in Virginia, found a DNA match to the 1982 remains.

The victim was identified as Cynthia Joan Gastelle, who was 18 at the time of her disappearance. She was a white female, 5'01" and 90 pounds with a slender build, medium brown hair and hazel eyes (see photograph).

Anyone with information relevant to Gastelle's disappearance is urged to call Crime Solvers at 703-670-3700 or 1-866-411-TIPS. You don't have to give your name, and you could earn up to a \$1,000 cash reward.

# Who Do You Call About ...?

Utility Emergencies:	Electric Service: PEPCO 202-872-3432 Gas Service: Washington Gas 703-750-1400 Water And Sewer: WSSC 301-206-4002
Traffic Lights:	State Highway Administration 410-582-5650
Street Lights:	Cobra Head Street Lights: PEPCO 202-833-7500 or www.pepco.com. (The 10-digit number on the light pole and the street address must be provided when filing a complaint.) Decorative Street Lights: Public Works 301-891-7633
Damaged Trees:	Dying or Hazardous Trees in the Right Of Way: Public Works 301-891-7612
Park Maintenance:	County Parks: MNCPPC 301-670-8080 City Parks: Public Works 301-891-7633
Property Maintenance:	Abandoned Vehicles: Police, Non-Emergency 301-270-1100 Fire Hydrant: WSSC 301-206-4002 Graffiti: Code Enforcement 301-891-7255 Bus Stops/Shelters: WMATA 202-962-2063 / Ride On 240-777-0311 Parking Meters: Public Works 301-891-7633 Sidewalks: Public Works 301-891-7633 Storm Drains: Public Works 301-891-7633 Trash And Debris: Code Enforcement 301-891-7255

# JULY '12

## Do you have an item for the City calendar?

Do you have an item for the City calendar? Let us know if you have a non-profit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the August 2012 issue is July 16; it will print July 27.

To submit calendar items, email [tpnewseditor@takomagov.org](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomagov.org).

"TP Community Center" is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park unless otherwise noted.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS / OF NOTE

**City Council**  
Mondays, July 9, 16, 18, 23 and 30, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Auditorium  
For agendas, see [www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas)

**Ward 1 Night**  
Monday, July 9, 7 – 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Auditorium  
See page 2 for more information

**Ward 2 Night**  
Monday, July 23, 7 – 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Auditorium  
See page 2 for more information

**Ward 5 Candidates Forum**  
July 12, 7 – 9 p.m.  
Washington Adventist University  
Wilkinson Hall, 7600 Flower Ave.  
For more information, [jessiec@takomagov.org](mailto:jessiec@takomagov.org) or 301-891-7267.

**Ward 5 Special Election**  
Tuesday, July 17, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.  
Washington Adventist University, Campus Center Building, 7600 Flower Ave.

**Takoma Park emergency food pantry**  
First Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.  
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families  
240-450-2092 or [educare\\_ss@yahoo.com](mailto:educare_ss@yahoo.com)  
[www.educaresupportservices.org](http://www.educaresupportservices.org)

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

**Independence Day July 4**  
Parade, 10 a.m.; Wiffleball 2:30 p.m.; music program 7:30 p.m.; fireworks 9:30 p.m.  
Free

**Fried Fish Fridays**  
Second Fridays, 6 – 8 p.m.  
TP Community Center outdoor basketball court  
Food and fellowship  
Free

**Food Truck Fridays**  
July 13, 20 and 27, 5 – 8 p.m.  
B.Y. Morrison Park, at Takoma Junction  
Carroll and Ethan Allen avenues  
A different truck each Friday

### ARTS AND LITERATURE

**Open Mic Sundays**  
With Rob Hinkel  
Sundays, 6 – 9 p.m.; sign-ups, 5:30 p.m.  
Capital City Cheesecake, 7071 Carroll Ave.  
Free  
[www.mainstreettakoma.org/event/446](http://www.mainstreettakoma.org/event/446)

**Jazz Jam**  
Open mic for jazz musicians  
Wednesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.  
Takoma Station, 6914 14th St. N.W.

**Takoma Spark House Jam**  
Wednesdays, after 8 p.m.  
Informal gathering on the front porch  
7206 Carroll Ave. across from the firehouse  
Bring an instrument or sit back and listen

**We are Takoma – Film Screening**  
Thursday, July 12, 7 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. film  
TP Community Center Auditorium  
Screening of Dancing in the Rays of the Antarctic Sun with filmmaker Joy West  
Free  
[www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events](http://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events)

**The ULiners - Woody Guthrie's 100th**  
Friday, July 14, 7:30 p.m.  
TP Community Center Auditorium  
The ULiners and Magpie pay tribute to Woody Guthrie's 100th birthday  
\$15 door  
[www.uliners.com](http://www.uliners.com)

**Takoma Spark Fun(d) Raiser**  
Friday, July 14, 3 p.m.  
Takoma Spark House, 7206 Carroll Ave.  
Participatory music fest with multiple bands  
To raise money to facilitate art in the community

**We are Takoma - Pets and Poets Concert**  
Sunday, July 22, 2 p.m.  
TP Community Center Auditorium  
A benefit concert for The Washington Animal Rescue League  
Suggested donation \$20  
[www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events](http://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events)

**Travel and Textures - Ongoing Exhibit**  
Through July 15  
TP Community Center - Gallery 3  
Images of the textures and people of the world by photographer Jenny Lim  
Free  
[www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events](http://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events)

**Petal and Leaf - Ongoing Exhibit**  
Through July 27

TP Community Center - Dempsey Memorial Gallery  
Exquisite nature photography of Coriolana Simon and Douglas Wolters  
Free  
[www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events](http://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events)

**Trashy Art contest**  
Gazebo, on Carroll Avenue in Old Town  
Entries due noon  
Sunday, July 29  
Deliver art you've created from recyclable materials  
Prizes  
See page 4 for details

**Art from the Heart of an Optimist - Ongoing Exhibit**  
Through July 31  
TP Community Center - Atrium Gallery  
Paintings and ceramics by Takoma Park artist Crystal Pittman  
Free  
[www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events](http://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events)

### SENIORS

**National Air and Space Museum**  
Ages 55 and older, plus grandchildren  
Friday, July 13, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Meet at the Takoma Park Community Center  
See page 8 for more information

**Old Country Buffet, Gaithersburg, Md.**  
Ages 55 and older, plus grandchildren  
Friday, July 20, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Meet at the Takoma Park Community Center  
American food buffet and shopping  
See page 8 for more information