

May
2013

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 52, No. 5 ■ takomaparkmd.gov



WHAT'S NEW?

MEMORIAL DAY

Sunday and Monday
May 26 and 27
City offices closed

TRASH COLLECTION

Monday, May 27
No yard waste pickup

SUNDAY HOURS BEGIN

Starting May 5, the Library,
Computer Center and
Community Center are open
12 – 5 p.m. Sundays



Passion play

The mood was somber along New Hampshire Avenue on Good Friday, as members of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church conducted their annual reenactment of the Stations of the Cross, or "Via Crucis," the events leading up to the crucifixion of Jesus. The event included a depiction, in Spanish and English, of this central story of the Christian church, from Pontius Pilate washing his hands of the affair, to Roman guards rough-handling Jesus and Jesus being marched to his death.

Photo by Virginia Myers

Three events celebrate Bike Month

By Erkin Ozberk
Planning Division

Bikes are a common sight on the streets, trails and sidewalks of Takoma Park, so it's no surprise that the City's first-time participation in the regional Bike to School Day and Bike To Work Day events last year garnered impressive turnouts. In order to grow the events and make them even better this year, City staff has been working with the Washington Area Bicyclists Association (WABA), as well as local schools and business associations on targeted bike outreach and promotion.

May is when much of this comes together:

it's Bike Month, both in Takoma Park and around the region.

Takoma Park will, for the second year in a row, host three 'pit stops' for Bike To Work Day, May 17. Each will include mechanics from both local bike shops, on hand for free tune-ups. City police officers will be there as well, and there will be complimentary juice and snacks. Designed to honor long-time commuters and encourage first timers, the morning event is free and open to all; registered participants receive a t-shirt, light refreshments, and are entered into a raffle to win prizes,

BIKE MONTH □ Page 7

Voting rights conversation continues

Reducing voter age to 16 a primary issue

After three City Council sessions, a long public hearing and a passionate discussion among City Council members the following week, the conversation about voting rights in Takoma Park continues.

Mayor Bruce Williams has postponed a second reading of the Election Charter Amendment to May 13, giving residents

more time to consider its proposals: to extend the vote to 16- and 17-year-old residents, allow former felons who are on parole and probation to vote, allow same-day voter registration, and reduce the residency requirement for voters from 31 to 21 days. A separate City

VOTING RIGHTS □ Page 11

Proposed budget similar to last year, plus new staff

Revenues reflect lower property assessments

By Virginia Myers

Despite decreasing property values and the associated dip in tax revenues, the acting City manager's proposed budget for fiscal year 2014 is not unlike last year's budget, and even includes the equivalent of 5.5 new staff positions. Similarly, the FY13 budget included three new positions, after a slash in staffing in FY11 diminished staff by seven.

Among this year's proposals are a new part-time two-year contract position for services designed for seniors, people with disabilities and others; the addition of a half-time position in the police department for emergency management coordination; 1.4 position equivalents in the Library, Computer Center and Community Center to staff the facilities on Sundays; some part-time Recreation staff paid for by program fees; a half-time administrative assistant for the Information Services division; and the conversion of many part-time staff hours into two full-time audio visual specialist positions for City TV and the Community Center Auditorium. Funding for the audio visual specialist positions and the part time administrative assistant is expected to come from a Cable operating grant, not from City tax funds.

Other proposals include an infusion of \$100,000 to the police retirement plan; funding for economic development at Takoma Junction; and money for environmental initiatives (to be identified by the Sustainability Action Plan currently being crafted). Two assessments have also been proposed: one of the City's hardware and software assets and needs, and the other a "visioning process" regarding the future role of the Library in Takoma Park.

These proposals come under the General Fund, the primary portion of the City's budget, which covers general expenses. Other portions of the budget are the stormwater management fund, at \$448,900, special rev-

BUDGET □ Page 8

Mayor & Council
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Takoma Park, MD 20912

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HISTORIC TAKOMA

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CELEBRATE TAKOMA

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DOCKET

TAKOMA TOPICS:

“ We are cataloging all of the art our creative city has to offer. Have you noticed any artwork that you think is unique? Take a picture and send it, along with its location, to John at jrwebster@takomagov.org. Art submissions must be visible from the sidewalk. ”

— www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD

City Council & Committee Calendar

Official City Government Meetings*
TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Wednesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Council Conference Room

CITY COUNCIL

Monday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 28, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Auditorium

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.

TPCC Lilac Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Azalea Room

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 28, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 23, 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. 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.

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 acting City manager at 301-891-7229 or suzannel@takomagov.org at least 48 hours in advance.

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. For additional information, contact the City clerk at jessiec@takomagov.org.

RESOLUTION 2013-18

Adopted March 18

Retaining Suellen Ferguson to represent the City in cable franchise negotiations

The resolution authorizes the acting City manager to enter into a contract with Suellen Ferguson of Council, Baradel, Kosmerl & Nolan, P.A. for legal representation in the franchise renewal negotiations with Comcast and for related negotiations with Montgomery County on the division of franchise-related revenue.

RESOLUTION 2013-19

Adopted April 1

Authorizing the establishment of safe speed corridors

The resolution authorizes the acting City manager to execute an amendment to the contract with Xerox State and Local Solutions for a safe speed corridor photo speed enforcement program. The safe speed corridors are declared to be the eastbound lanes of University Boulevard and the northbound and southbound lanes of New Hampshire Avenue within the City. Portable photo speed enforcement devices will be provided for the program within these corridors. The resolution also directs the City manager to rebid the contract for speed cameras at the next opportunity.

RESOLUTION 2013-20

Adopted April 8

Recognizing Arbor Day 2013

The resolution notes the City's support for the local environmental celebration of Arbor Day in Takoma Park on April 13.

ORDINANCE 2013-9

Adopted (first reading March 11; second reading April 1)

Authorizing FY 2013 Budget Amendment No. 3

The ordinance authorizes the third amendment to the FY 2013 budget. Included in the amendment is a reduction in anticipated speed camera fund revenue and the appropriation of funds to open the Library and Community Center on Sundays.

ORDINANCE 2013-10

Adopted (first reading March 11; second reading April 1)

Authorizing FY 2013 Stormwater Fund Budget

Amendment No. 2

The ordinance authorizes the second amendment to the FY 2013 stormwater fund budget.

ORDINANCE 2013-12

Adopted March 18

Awarding a contract for replacement of an air handling unit in the police area of the community center

The ordinance authorizes the acting City manager to enter into a contract in the amount of \$10,286 with Summer Winter Automation for the replacement of an air handling unit.

PUBLIC HEARING ON HOUSING CODE REVISIONS

Monday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

The Takoma Park City Council is considering a number of changes to the City's Housing Code (Title 6 Housing). These changes include, for example, an expanded definition of rent, clarification of when and how utility costs may be transferred to a tenant, and minor modifications to rent stabilization.

Background information provided to the City Council to date can be viewed at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

A public hearing on the proposed revisions to the City's Housing Code, in their entirety, will be held by the City Council at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 20 at the Takoma Park Community Center. Interested individuals are invited to attend the public hearing and sign up to speak. Comments may also be submitted by email to the City at clerk@takomagov.org.

takomagov.org or by mail to City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park MD 20912.

Among the changes to the Housing Code being considered are two new provisions. The first would require landlords to distribute city-provided electoral information to new tenants. The second would, with restrictions, provide candidates for office with access to multi-unit rental buildings and allow them to canvass individual tenants. The text for these new provisions is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov. An additional, separate public hearing on these provisions will be held on Monday, June 10, 7:30 p.m. Comments on these provisions may also be made at the May 20 public hearing. If you have any questions or comments on the proposed changes to the City's Housing Code, please contact the City Clerk at clerk@takomagov.org.

Opportunities to serve on City boards, commissions and committees

Have you applied yet?

- Arts and Humanities Commission (vacancies)
- Board of Elections (one vacancy)
- Emergency Preparedness Committee (vacancies)
- Ethics Commission (vacancies)
- Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)
- Recognition Task Force – short term commitment (vacancies)
- Recreation Committee (vacancies)
- Safe Roadways Committee – newly reestablished (vacancies)

View information at <http://takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees/index.html> or contact Jessie Carpenter, City clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org to apply or request information.

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Mayor Bruce Williams welcomes comments and suggestions.

Community members 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)

6 – 7 p.m. by appointment

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



Historic Takoma Takes Center Stage at the Junction

By Diana Kohn

On Saturday April 14, as part of Art Hop weekend, a witty, satiric lecturer and an audience of the same ilk laughed it up at the new permanent home of Historic Takoma. Henry Allen, Takoma Park's Pulitzer Prize winning *Washington Post* author-turned-painter, regaled friends and followers with tales of local life in the long-ago 1970s.

If you thought Historic Takoma was a force for preserving the proud history of Takoma and the producers of the annual House and Garden tour you would be correct, but Historic Takoma's new home at Takoma Junction is fast becoming a lively community gathering place hosting a range of events that speak to Takoma's past, present and future.

In the past few months numerous lectures, films and other slices of life have taken center stage at the airy, comfortable, high-ceilinged Historic Takoma headquarters at 7328 Carroll Ave. in Takoma Junction.

Beginning in 1964, this building was the location of the Barcelona Nut Company, until the company moved to Baltimore in the late 1980s. Then the building stood empty for most of the intervening years until Historic Takoma purchased it from owner Karl Kessler in 2006. Thanks to a state bond bill and matching funds from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County, the sale went through. But that was only the beginning of a time-consuming restoration of the historic storefront.

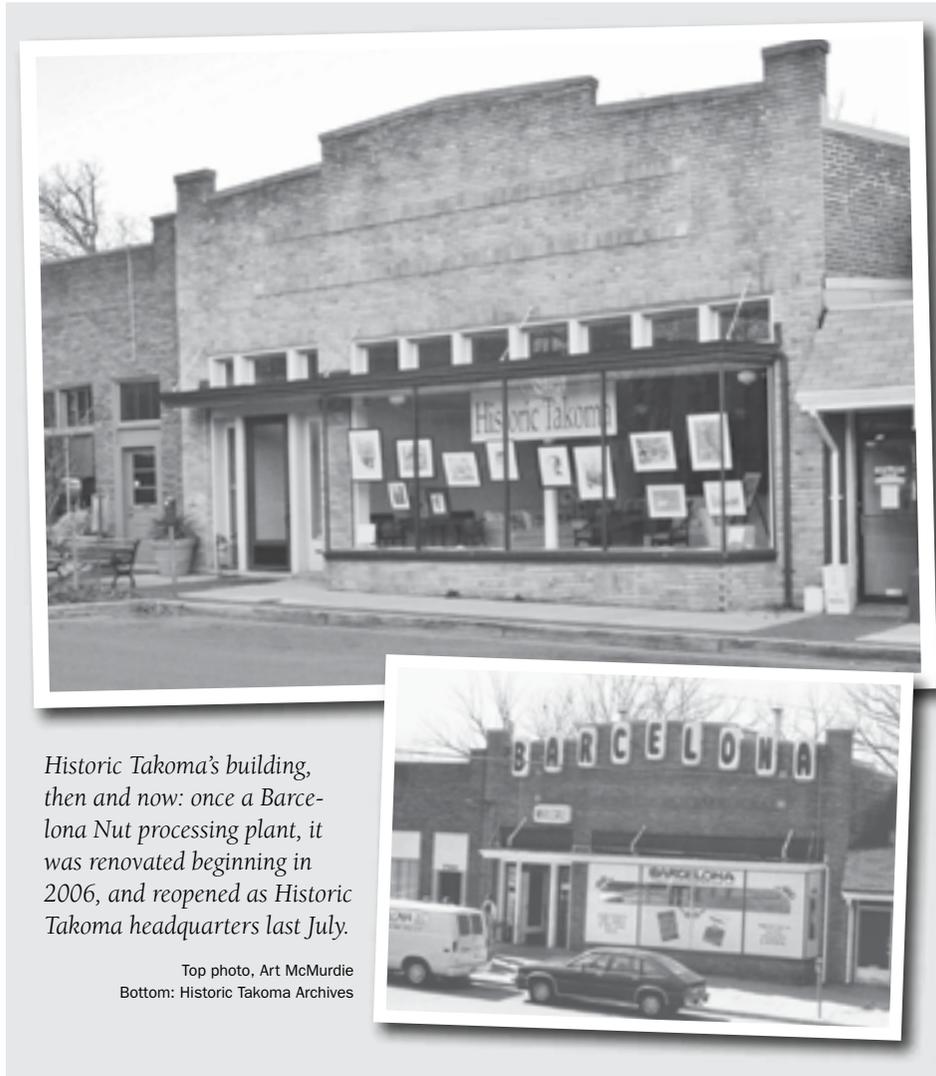
Over the next several years Historic Takoma raised money through its annual House and Garden Tour to match a succession of grants. Lorraine Pearsall, Historic Takoma's vice-president and the person in town perhaps most synonymous with historic preservation, managed the roof-to-basement restoration and fund-raising to get it done.

Clearing away the obsolete machinery suspended from the tin ceiling revealed two original skylights that had been covered for at least 50 years. Craftsmen were found to replace damaged tin ceiling panels, and state-of-the-art upgrades were made to the heating, plumbing and electrical systems that had been barely altered since the building's first life in the 1930s as a Piggly Wiggly grocery store. The floor, greatly damaged from industrial use, became a handsome layout of tongue-and-groove recycled oak boards reclaimed from a 1930s warehouse.

The enormous glass display windows were a challenge to repair, but now look as they once did, and provide an attractive art gallery space in the heart of town. Soon after the renovation, window exhibits by Susan Robb, a member of the group's executive board, caught public attention, honoring local artists.

Finally, after installation of a handicap-accessible bathroom and a mini-kitchen, Historic Takoma opened its doors last July.

Over the winter the indoor space became a community gathering spot for an eclectic set of speakers. Talks like the recent "Is Your House a Kit House?" and



Historic Takoma's building, then and now: once a Barcelona Nut processing plant, it was renovated beginning in 2006, and reopened as Historic Takoma headquarters last July.

Top photo, Art McMurdie
Bottom: Historic Takoma Archives

Henry Allen's remembrances are drawing appreciative audiences. Historic Takoma is also inaugurating a series on home renovation as well as one entitled, "Culture Shift: Connecting with Nature," to explore what cultural changes we need to protect all living things.

In addition, Historic Takoma is partnering with local groups on a wide range of issues.

Early in 2013, for example, the TPSS Co-op offered a six-week Saturday afternoon series on food policy that included the Young Activists Club warning of the hazards of styrofoam. Groups such as the Takoma Women's Business Network, Takoma Radio and the Takoma Park Horticulture Club use the space for meetings. And the Old Takoma Business Association partnered with Historic Takoma during Art Hop, as part of its mission to revitalize the Junction.

This commercial stretch, built as the halfway point on the trolley run between downtown Takoma and the Washington Adventist Hospital, once boasted two grocery stores and Jim's Butter Gems, the town's favorite bakery. After several decades of eclipse, the Junction is once again becoming a community center, with des-

tinuations like Bikram Yoga, the Takoma Animal Clinic and the Green Commuter. Special events like Food Truck Fridays, the recent day-long Earth Day celebration and the upcoming Grant Street Markets are also bringing more attention.

A little history on Historic Takoma

Historic Takoma grew out of a tumultuous time when the proposed 10-lane North Central freeway, mass transit development, and Montgomery College expansion targeted blocks of Takoma Park for demolition. Activists who succeeded in stopping these threats established Historic Takoma in 1979 as an at-the-ready preservation corps.

Shortly after Historic Takoma was organized, a second mandate was added. The Takoma Park Historical Society, founded in 1912, asked the new group to assume custody of the community's valuable archives of photos and documents and merged into Historic Takoma.

For many years these archives were stored away, virtually inaccessible, in the basement of longtime member Dorothy Barnes until they were delivered in February to the new headquarters.

Historic Takoma's next step is to take advantage of technological advances to share this legacy with the general public – posting digitized photos and scans of early documents, as well as offering assistance to residents interested in their own historical research. (See the current exhibit at the Cultural Arts Center at Montgomery College for a sampling of artifacts from the archives, on display through June 5.)

Back at the Junction, visitors are welcome in the new headquarters; most events are free and open to the public, and the archives and exhibits are available whenever the building is staffed. Residents are encouraged also to make donations to the historical collection, to become members of Historic Takoma, or to volunteer to help keep the archives organized and current.

To get in touch with Historic Takoma, email info@historictakoma.org or call 301-270-2831. A calendar of events is posted at historictakoma.org.

Diana Kohn is president of Historic Takoma, and chronicler of Takoma history for the *Takoma Voice* and Historic Takoma websites.

For the last 15 years she has led walking tours for the Piney Branch Elementary fourth graders, helping them discover local history. She is also co-author of *Takoma Park: Images of America*, one of two photo history books available for purchase at the Historic Takoma building or online.



DON'T MISS IT!

40th Takoma Park House and Garden Tour

An Historic Takoma annual event "Pioneer to Present Day"

Sunday, May 5 from 1-5 pm.

Self guided tour starts at Carroll Avenue gazebo.

Tickets: \$18/advance (online or at local merchants), **\$20/day** of the tour historictakoma.org

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER



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The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov.

Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items

and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to 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.

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, political advertisements.

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THE ARTS



The film Haft Paykar depicts an epic Persian romance of ethnic diversity and allegory, May 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. Although the story is from the twelfth century, it has an "eerie immediacy."

Improv, film and drama on stage in May

Washington Improv Theater takes its show on the road

Friday, May 31, 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Free



The region's premier improv organization will bring some of its shenanigans to Takoma Park for this event, with smart performers, quick wits and absolutely no script.

Ensembles from Washington Improv Theater (WIT) use audience suggestions to inspire comedic performances that they create on the spot. During the WIT Road Show, three of these teams will depart from WIT's home base at the Source Theater on 14th Street in Washington, D.C. and bring improv comedy to audiences in Takoma Park.

The three performing ensembles are:

King Bee - No idea is too surreal for the members of WIT's newest ensemble.

Commonwealth - Veteran comedic trouble-makers are no strangers to rapid-fire comedy, but also have a knack for patient, slow-burning show.

iMusical - The heart and soul of musical theater meets the spontaneity of improv in this completely improvised musical.

As this event is not scripted, there may be some material inappropriate for young children.

Film screening: Epic Persian tale, Haft Paykar

Thursday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Free

Dance choreographer and professor Dr. Laurel Gray brings this epic Persian romance to Takoma Park. Written by the Persian poet Nizami in 1197, the tale celebrates ethnic diversity, extols the beauty of other cultures, and praises the wisdom of women. In the tale, the young warrior Bahram Gur enters a mysterious, locked room to discover the portraits of seven beautiful princesses, each from a different land. After he wins a kingdom and achieves great wealth and power, he remembers the maidens and sets out on a quest to bring each to his kingdom, commissioning the architect Shideh to build seven domed structures – one for each bride.

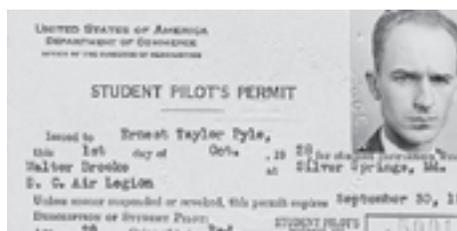
No simple fairy tale, Haft Paykar is an erotic allegory about a quest for human perfection steeped in numerology, geometry, astrology and color symbolism. Not only does each princess of Haft Paykar come from a different country, or "clime," but each is associated with a different color, planet and virtue. Each of the seven maidens tells a tale to her bridegroom that imparts a specific moral lesson. From these wise women the hero learns patience, truth, faith, passion, serenity, fairness and devotion to God. Since Bahram Gur is destined to become Ruler of the World, he must learn these lessons in order to govern wisely. His spiritual journey is a reminder that only through self-knowledge and self-mastery can humans find perfection.

Gray views this ambitious project as an opportunity to bring to American audiences the ecstatic, esoteric side of Islamic culture. "As one familiar with the culture and history of both East and West, I feel it is imperative

to use art to build a bridge of understanding between Americans and the Islamic world. Instead of falling prey to the false notion of a 'clash of civilizations,' we need to remember that East and West have interacted for millennia, often crossing cultures with positive results." Gray feels the framing story of Haft Paykar -- the education of a ruler who has achieved great wealth and power but is in need of wisdom from other cultures -- gives the medieval epic "an eerie immediacy."

Byline: Ernie Pyle Dispatches from WWII

Saturday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Free



Actor and retired naval officer Steve LaRocque becomes the famous World War II correspondent Ernie Pyle, in this one-act play on the renowned reporter, bringing to the audience his dispatches from the frontlines. Ernie Pyle was one of the first embedded reporters and was nearly household name in the 1940s. In 1944 he died on an island just west of Okinawa, like so many of the G.I.s he wrote about, by Japanese machine gun fire.

While LaRocque did some editing and condensing, every word of the script was written by Ernie Pyle himself. The narrative follows Pyle's own odyssey through the war, from the bombing of England to the North African campaign, the invasion of Sicily,

MORE ARTS Page 5

Four poets featured at Third Thursday reading

Thursday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

Featured Poets: Donna Cowan, Rachel Adams, Kathi Wolfe, Meredith Pond

The Painter by Donna Lewis Cowan

He divided her into eight equal parts as any artist would, into architecture

and scale. Everything grew from the face, descended into a pattern of pores.

He spent an hour in yellow, stirring her eyelids into fire-consciousness.

He wanted to make her see something outside the picture or beyond

his grey cracked window, hazardously painted shut. He studied her, surfaced

the drowned anxieties of her skin, the infant wrinkles. When she spoke

he could feel the image slip from its solid monument

into division and when her voice stopped he could assemble the pieces

again, the way a man would see her without ever knowing her, as if beauty

was a need he could make.

Donna Lewis Cowan's first book of poems, *Between Gods* (Cherry Grove), was published in March 2012. Her work appears in *Crab Orchard Review*, *32 Poems*, *DMQ Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, and *Measure: A Review of Formal Poetry*, among other publications. She is an experienced technical writer and computer programmer in the Washington, D.C. area, and attended the MFA program in Creative Writing (Poetry) at George Mason University. www.donnalewiscowan.wordpress.com.

Rachel Adams is a Baltimore native and a longtime resident of Washington, D.C.; the editor of several publications at a nonprofit advocacy association; the founder and editor of *Lines + Stars*, a D.C.-based literary journal; and a freelance writer. Her poetic work has previously been published in *Blueline*, *Arsenic Lobster*, *Town Creek Poetry*, *Four and Twenty*, *Blue Unicorn*, *Barrier Islands Review*, *Ophelia Street*, *Melusine*, *Urbanite Baltimore*, and *The Conium Review* and is forthcoming in *The Free State Review* and *Emerge*. She received her BA in English from the Catholic University of America and her MA in writing from the Johns Hopkins University.

Kathi Wolfe is a writer and poet in Falls Church, Va. She is a senior writer columnist for the arts magazine *Scene4*

POETS Page 5

New mural underscores public art and activism

By Virginia Myers

The unveiling of the new mural at Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road on April 3 drew an enthusiastic group of civic-minded dignitaries, artists and neighbors thrilled with the project and eager to duplicate its multi-pronged approach to art in the community. Created by a core of 10 young men during workshops inside the Montgomery County Correctional Facility, the beauty of the finished work, guided by Washington, D.C.-based artists Alicia Cosnahan and Peter Krsko, was magnified by the social uplift associated with its creation. The workshops were part of Project Youth ArtReach, a program of Silver Spring-based Class Acts Arts.

"There's something ultimately more deep than this wall," said Rob Green, warden of the Correctional Facility, as he stood beneath the painting of splashy, oversized flowers and insects and butterflies. "It's an incredible opportunity for government, private sector and community to come together."

The project was organized by the Long Branch/Flower Coalition, which includes Class Acts Arts, an arts advocacy organization that brings a broad range of performing and visual arts and self-expression to children, youth and families in the metro area; Long Branch Business League; Montgomery Housing Partnership, which has renovated several properties in the area as affordable housing; the Flower Theater Project and Impact Silver Spring.

The mural, titled "Flower Dreams," is one of several art projects involving youth associated with the Correctional Facility, and like each of them it serves as a type of therapy that translates into a reduction in violence, said Green. "We have people who have shot at each other on the street" who work together on these large-scale art projects, he said, and they transcend the violence, recognizing that their "enemies" are really much like themselves.

The wall for the art was made available by Peggy Castrelli, whose business, Finmarc Management, owns the building. "We love giving back to the community,"



Montgomery County Councilmember Valerie Ervin spoke at the unveiling of the new mural on Flower Avenue in the Long Branch neighborhood. Other dignitaries included Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams and Councilmember Jarrett Smith.

Photo by Virginia Myers

she told the gathering. "We're here and we're staying, and we have walls," implying that there may be more art to come.

Also on hand was Robert Goldman, president of Maryland Housing Partnership, a low-income housing organization that has renovated and built several properties in the area. "We've really got to get the arts involved in the vision of this community," said Goldman. "We expect to see a number of other murals and other art projects. Stay tuned."

Ten young men signed up to create the piece, working with the artists to choose their images, then create two-millimeter-thick panels using paint sponges, stencils and bright colors to bring the project to life. The resulting image, which includes not only a spider web to represent the community connections that created the art, but also two butterflies, seems apt for the transformation that is not only part of the art-making process, but part of the lives of the young people who created it.

POETS

■ From page 4

and a contributor to *The Washington Blade*. Her poetry has appeared in *Gargoyle*, *Beltway Poetry Quarterly*, *Potomac Review*, *Innisfree Poetry Journal* and other publications. She was a finalist in the 2007 Pudding House Chapbook competition and her chapbook *Helen Takes the Stage: The Helen Keller Poems* was published by Pudding House in 2008. She has received a Puffin Foundation grant, been awarded Writer's Grants by Vermont Studio Center and appeared on the radio show *The Poet and the Poem*. Wolfe was a 2008 Lambda Literary Foundation Emerging Writer Fel-

low. She is a contributor to the anthology *Beauty Is a Verb: The New Poetry of Disability*, which was designated a 2011 Top Ten Fall Poetry Book in the anthology category by Publisher's Weekly. Wolfe has read in many Washington, D.C. area venues, including the Kennedy Center and the Library of Congress Poetry at Noon Series.

Meredith Pond wrote her first poem, "Leaves," in third grade. Many years later, the *Georgetown Review* published her poem "Peeling Psyche Off the Wall" as a finalist on the theme of redemption. And, *Beltway Poetry Quarterly* published her poem, "Nobody Here," in a special issue dedicated to Langston Hughes. Recently,

her fiction has appeared in *Gargoyle* magazine, *Gravity Dancers: Even More Fiction by Washington Area Women*, and *Kiss the Sky*, an anthology on Jimi Hendrix. Pond studied English literature at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., as an undergrad in the late 1960s; then 20 years later she earned her MFA in creative writing from American University in the same city. Every summer, she's at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, Mass., taking poetry workshops. Currently, she is working on a novel and completing a book of poems. www.meredithpond.com.

MORE Art

■ From page 4

the bitter mountain fighting in Italy, the Normandy invasion, and the liberation of Paris. Throughout his dispatches, he paints intimate pictures of Americans called to enormous sacrifice, march by march, wisecrack by wisecrack, death by death.

The show is both entertaining, and a lesson in history. After the play, LaRoque will answer audience questions about Ernie Pyle and the production.

Galleries host two exhibits, five artists

Eclectics Gallery Opening Night Reception
May 10, 6–8 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Galleries
Free

ECLECTICS: Paper, Rock, Scissors, Brush

The children's game "Paper, Rock, Scissors" seems a fitting metaphor for this eclectic group of artists. Each artist not only uses a different medium, but also approaches different themes in her work. Despite their varied aesthetics, they informally gather each month to critique each other's work. Katherine Janus Kahn, one of the participating artists and organizer for the exhibit, describes the gatherings as "a challenging, and whimsical meeting for people who spend most of their time alone in their studios." This is the first time the artists have exhibited together.

Participating artists

Yonina Blech-Hermony is a functional potter. She fires her ware using raku, soda/salt, and wood as well as the usual electric kiln firings.

Donna Calaconne is a realist painter. Her portraits and landscapes are part of the renewed interest in careful observation of nature.

Katherine Janus Kahn works both small, in her illustrations for children's books, and large, in graphite, pastel and oil. She uses the Bible and myth to engage in themes of contemporary importance; in her large work she is showing her angel series.

Jill Romanoke's hanging scrolls are composed of multiple layers of paper, each "painted" with diverse and transparent images. And her "beach walk" collages of detritus feature natural materials including bugs' tracks in tree bark, rocks, leaves and objects from the shore.

Award-winning high school student exhibits in Dempsey Gallery

The work of Wooton High School student, Kathleen Lu primarily deals with the relationship between negative space and the human figure. She started taking informal art classes at a young age and eventually studied under Natasha Mokina and Victor Pakhomkin, both of whom emphasize realism. In the summer of 2012, she attended Rhode Island School of Design's pre college program. She has won a gold key for painting and a silver key for a portfolio in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.



HOUSING

HOUSING Briefs

Annual rent stabilization allowance set at 1.4 percent

Takoma Park law (City Code Chapter 6.20 Rent Stabilization) maintains the affordability of rental units in the community by limiting the number and amount of rent increases that may be charged for a specific rental unit. Generally the rent may be increased only once in a given 12-month period, and rent increases are limited to the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index. The rent stabilization allowance is calculated on an annual basis and applies to all licensed multi-family rental facilities with two or more rental units and to all licensed condominium units.

The 2013-2014 Rent Stabilization Allowance is 1.4 percent and will be in effect from July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014. Landlords required to comply with Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization law cannot increase the rent on occupied units any higher than this allowance.

The following units may be exempt from many of the requirements of rent stabilization. The exemption is not automatic and is subject to the approval of the City.

- Rental units leased to tenants under the Housing Choice Voucher Program: Any rental facility that is subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency that controls the rent levels of one or more rental units so that they are available only to low- and moderate-in-

- come tenants;
- Newly constructed rental units for a period five years after construction; and
- Any two-unit rental facility where one of the units is the owner's principal residence.

If you have any questions about the rent on your unit or Takoma Park's rent stabilization law, please contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216.

Free food safety classes offered

In anticipation of revitalizing its commercial kitchen and making it available to the community, Takoma Park Presbyterian Church is offering Food Safety Manager training on June 1 and June 8 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the church. The classes are offered free of charge to Takoma Park residents thanks to a Takoma Park Community Development Block Grant. At the completion of the two classes, students are eligible to become Montgomery County Certified Food Safety Managers, a valuable skill in the food service industry.

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church is located at 310 Tulip Ave. Anyone with questions or interest in taking the classes, contact Jill Feasley, at jfeasley@verizon.net or Vicki Warren at max2allie@aol.com.

Property addresses must be visible

Many Takoma Park residents think having an address easily visible from the street is not an issue, but it is very important. Takoma Park code states that all buildings must have their correct mailing address plainly legible and visible from

the street in front of the property. The address must be in Arabic numerals or alphabet letters, and must contrast with the background. Numbers must be at least four inches high with a minimum stroke width of one half inch.

If your property is on a corner, be sure the address faces the correct street. If your property is far back from the street, you may put your address on a mailbox, fence or gate. Make sure you prune back any branches or bushes so they do not obscure the address.

The reason for all this is so that in the event of an emergency, the police, firefighters or paramedics can find your property without any trouble. For the safety of property owners, these addresses must be clearly visible and up to code.

Energy audit available in historic district

Montgomery County's historic preservation program has received a grant to provide energy audits for the owners of historic houses across the county. The audits are free to property owners, and will be performed by a state-certified home energy specialist. Home energy audits are the most effective way for home owners to identify simple, cost-effective solutions to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Information about the program and application materials are available at www.montgomeryplanning.org/historic. To be eligible for consideration applications must be received by 5 p.m. May 10.

HOUSING MAILBOX



For a lease: How short is too short?

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

My landlord had me sign a one-page lease. That seems a little skimpy – is it really legit?

While we don't need a book to cover all the important points of a lease, one page does seem a little too brief. Technically, if the landlord has managed to cover all the requirements that must be included in a lease, one page is fine—but he'd have to print it in very small type.

The best way to handle a lease is to use the one the City provides through the Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs. This standard lease form (in English and Spanish) covers all the bases: It has all the required sections of our landlord-tenant law. For instance, every lease must state the rent, the term of the lease, acknowledge the landlord's responsibility to maintain the premises, indicate that the security deposit will be returned in accordance with the code, inform the tenant of rent stabilization if the unit is rent stabilized, and inform the tenant about the notice to vacate requirements. For example,

Of course, there's more: Did you know that your landlord cannot transfer the utility costs to you unless he/she reduces the rent? This has been in the law but must now be in a lease.

Yes, it's a lot of material, and you want to be sure it's covered so both you, the tenant, and also your landlord are protected and understand the terms of your agreement. All the requirements are listed in Section 6.16.060 of the Landlord-Tenant Relations law.

To view a copy of the standard lease form, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov and access the landlord-tenant section. For further information call Moses Wilds, Jr. at 301-891-7215 or mosesw@takomaparkmd.gov.

FIRST TIME HOME BUYER CLASS

Saturday, June 15
8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

- Hear expert speakers from a lending institution, title company, real estate office and an inspection company
- Learn the entire process for buying a house or condo
- Provided by a HUD-approved housing organization
- Certificate of Completion awarded to attendees



TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER - 7500 MAPLE AVE.
Takoma Park, Md. 20912

Pre-registration required—Free for Takoma Park residents
\$25 for non-residents of Takoma Park
E-mail: LindaW@takomagov.org

Phone: 301-891-7222

Continental breakfast and light lunch will be served

TAKOMA PARK TENANT SUMMIT

Saturday, May 18
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Lunch to be provided

- Meet other tenant groups and City organizers
- Discuss issues of common concern
- Learn about proposed changes to the Takoma Park Housing Code
- Learn how to strengthen your tenant association
- Update on the Farmer's Market on Maple Avenue

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park

RSVP: 301-891-7222
or takomaparkmd@gmail.com

Business community recharges with recent changes

Takoma Park's commercial areas have been especially busy this spring, as several businesses have opened, moved or added new features.

In addition to a number of newcomers, a handful of existing businesses have been making moves of their own, but staying within Takoma Park. Soupergirl, the vegan soup café, carryout and delivery across from Takoma Metro, has expanded into what was formerly Mayorga coffee. Art Spring, the community arts store that showcases and sells the work of local artists, moved from Westmoreland Avenue to 7002 Carroll Avenue's Takoma Old Town Gallery; Roda Movement, the dance/movement studio once located over Ace Hardware on Carroll Avenue is now on Westmoreland, where Curves was once located; and Curves changed its affiliation and name to Energistics Gym, and moved into the old

Art Spring Space, on Westmoreland.

Just behind that space, shoppers can see that Ace Hardware has expanded into a sort of back yard, to create a garden center. It is accessible through the store, which faces Carroll Avenue, and a grand opening is scheduled for May 4.

Down at Takoma Junction, the Grant Avenue Market will begin May 12 and continue on second Sundays for June and July, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., outdoors along one block of Grant Avenue just off Carroll Avenue (across from the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op). The market is a sister enterprise to the Fenton Street Market in Silver Spring, and will feature antiques and collectibles, including jewelry, records, books, artwork, vintage clothes, household items and more (see www.grantavenuemarket.com).

The changes come on the heels of several new businesses having opened their doors: Dolci Gelati, the gelato shop at the cor-



Team clean

On their annual Service Day (Wednesday, April 3), student volunteers from Washington Adventist University picked up litter and other garbage along the New Ave in Takoma Park (New Hampshire Avenue). The effort was the first of four Clean-Up Days scheduled each year for the new Adopt-A-Highway program, coordinated by the Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority that covers New Hampshire Avenue from East West Highway, up to University Boulevard. A big thanks goes out to all those who participated. Volunteers are needed for the next Clean-Up Day, June 8. To help out, contact Melanie Isis at 301-445-7910 or misis@takomalangleycrossroads.com.

Photo by Melanie Isis

FY 2014 Living Wage Rate Established

Ordinance 2007-55, amending the City Code to require the payment of a living wage by certain City contractors, became effective Jan. 1, 2008.

Each year on April 1, the City manager establishes the living wage rate, which shall be equal to the Montgomery County living wage rate established and published by Montgomery County pursuant to Section 11B-33A of the Montgomery County Code and any applicable regulations, as amended from time to time.

The current living wage rate is \$13.65 per hour. Effective July 1, 2013, the rate will be \$13.95 per hour.

A full copy of the Living Wage Ordinance may be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Tasa de Costo de Vida fue Establecido para el Año Fiscal 2014

Ordenanza 2007-55 cambió el Código de la Ciudad para requerir el costo de vida actual para cierta contratistas de la Ciudad. La Ordenanza 2007-55 fue efectiva el 1 de enero de 2008.

El 1 de abril de cada año, el Administrador de la Ciudad establece la tasa de costo de vida, el cual será equivalente a la tasa de costo de vida establecida por el Condado de Montgomery siguiendo la sección 11B-33A de el Código del Condado de Montgomery y cualquier regulación aplicable.

Actualmente, la tasa de costo de vida es \$13.65 por hora. Efectivo el 1 de julio de 2013 la tasa será \$13.95 por hora.

Para obtener una copia de la ordenanza de costo de vida visite la página web www.takomaparkmd.gov.

ner of Carroll and Laurel avenues; Horace and Dickies, the soul food carryout on 4th Street in Takoma, D.C.; The Lab DC, a hip-hop/break dance studio on Willow Street; Transform, a body work and personal training center on Carroll Avenue in Old Town; and Richardson's Music School, at Takoma Junction. In Takoma Langley Crossroads, residents recently welcomed Little Caesars pizza, AmeriWell Chiropractic and Gold Design jewelry.

Mulch delivery available

Takoma Park's popular mulch delivery is again available for spring gardening – but residents must schedule a delivery soon, as the larger deliveries are already booked until June 1.

The mulch, made by grinding leaves collected each fall in the City's vacuum leaf collection program, can be used as a soil amendment or a top dressing around trees and plants. Deliveries are available until supplies run out, which last year occurred

in August.

Residents can also self-load mulch free of charge at any time, from the Public Works Yard, 31 Oswego Ave. Those helping themselves must bring their own tools and containers. For assistance in loading, Public Works staff will use a front loader, and charge \$20 to load a pickup truck, or \$30 to load a dump truck. Truck loading must be scheduled by calling 301-891-7633.

Delivery is available on Fridays, between 8:30 a.m. and 3 p.m., by appointment only (call 301-891-7633 or elizabethp@takomago.org). Loads come in three yards, which is about a pickup truck full, or seven to 10 yards, which fills a dump truck. The price is \$45 for three yards, and \$65 for seven or ten yards for City residents, \$65 and \$105 for those outside the City. Deliveries must be made to a driveway or other suitable space, and not in the street. Payment can be made by cash, check, money order or credit card over the phone.

BIKE MONTH

■ From page 1

including a new bike (see web site below for more information). Takoma Park's pit stops are at the Gazebo in Old Town, on Sligo Creek Park at New Hampshire Avenue, and in Takoma/Langley Crossroads.

To encourage participation in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads area, Nelle Pierson, the WABA's Outreach Programs Coordinator, visited in April, distributed bike lights for improved visibility, and handed out Spanish-language stickers and posters. Though bicycle use is common in the Crossroads and densely populated Langley Park neighborhood nearby, participation at the pit stop there was low last year. "Because this isn't the most bike-friendly part of town, I assumed I would spend most of my afternoon talking to non-bicyclists," reported Pierson. "Well, I was wrong. The first family I talked with moved to the area so they could commute into downtown D.C. every day on Sligo Creek Trail."

Bike to School Day will be held May 8, and Bike to Market Day, when residents are encouraged to pedal to the Takoma



Nelle Pierson, the Washington Area Bicyclist Association's Outreach Programs Coordinator, visited Takoma/Langley Crossroads recently to prepare for Bike to Work Day activities there.

Photo by Erkin Ozberk

Park Farmer's Market, is May 19.

At Piney Branch Elementary School, teachers Jon Eichenmuller and Julie Maresco are working with more than 50 third grade students to develop bicycle and motorist safety brochures. The activ-

ity is part of an Action Inquiry Plan in which students learn to identify a problem in their community – in this case bicycle accidents and safety – and resolve to address it. The third graders will be acting as 'Bicycle Safety Ambassadors' on Bike to School Day, helping with helmet fittings for fellow students participating in the event. In May, the students will be hitting the streets with their brochures, handing them out along with reflectors to increase visibility.

In addition to these events, there are some visible signs of improvement to the City bikeways network planned for spring and summer. Newly signed routes will appear on Elm and Poplar avenues, 'sharrow' pavement markings on Maple Avenue will be freshly replaced, a bike-friendly connection is featured in the Grant Avenue project, and Montgomery County is hoping to have its first Bikeshare stations installed by late summer, which will include five stations in Takoma Park. Tying all this together, the City's bike routes, along with shared-use trails that connect to neighboring counties and to D.C., are all in a newly printed map that will be distributed on Bike to Work Day.

TAKOMA PARK BIKE MONTH ACTIVITIES

Bike To School Day

May 8, 9 a.m.

Join 100+ students at the Franklin Apartments parking lot

7620 Maple Ave.

www.walkbiketoschool.org

Bike To Work Day

May 17, 7 – 9:30 a.m.

Three pit stops:

Takoma/Langley Crossroads

Sligo Creek Trail (at New Hampshire Avenue)

The Gazebo in Old Town

Register today for your free t-shirt and chance to win prizes

www.biketoworkmetrodc.org

Bike To Market Day

May 19, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Ride to the Takoma Park Farmers Market

www.takomaparkmarket.com

2014 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Total revenues (all funds),
\$23,737,261

Total expenditures,
\$25,497,116

General Fund revenues,
\$21,475,884

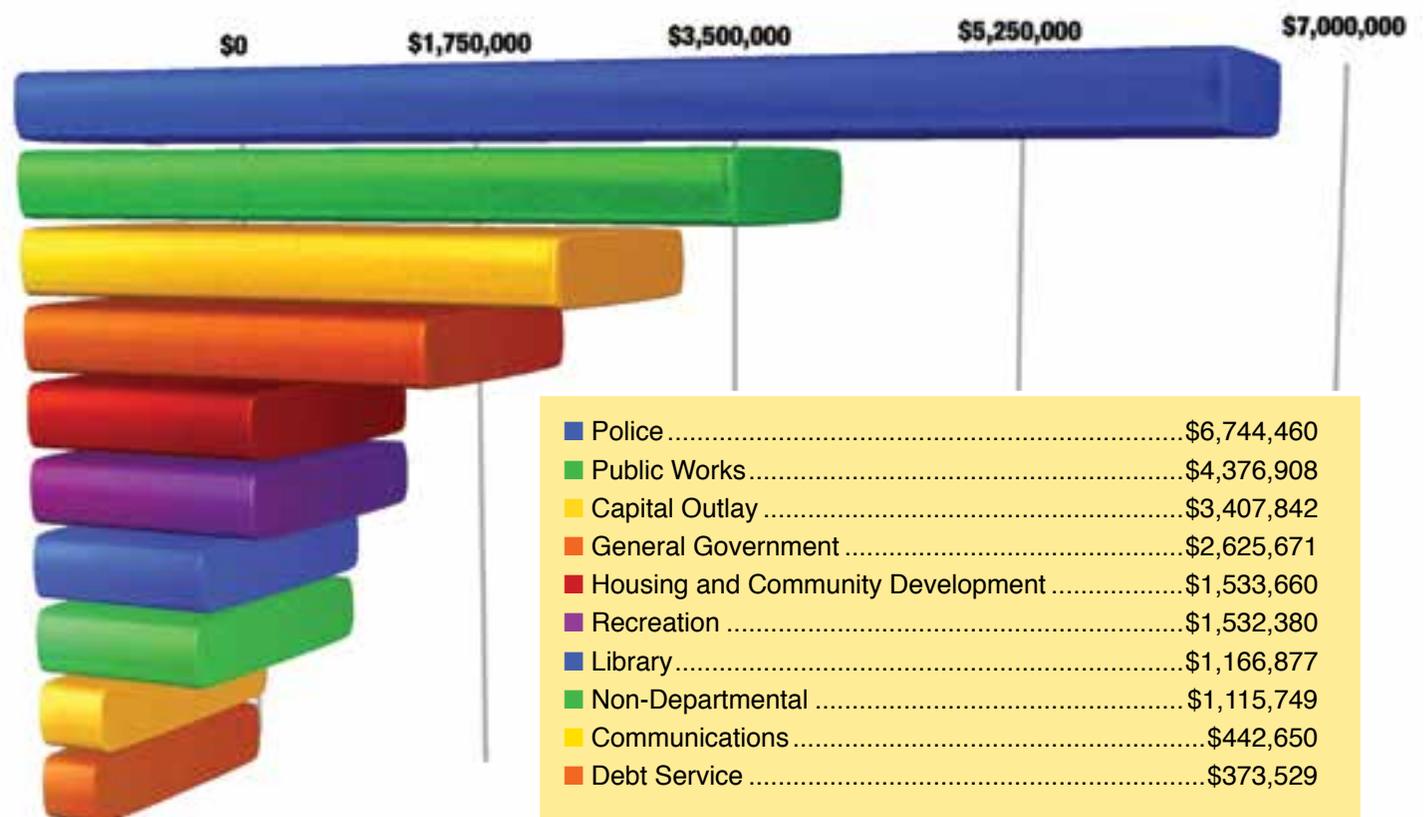
General Fund expenditures,
\$23,319,726

- Assessable real property base (net) projected to decrease by about \$72 million or 3.6 percent
- Real property tax rate remains at \$0.58 per \$100 of assessed value. Real property tax revenues decrease from revenues budgeted in FY13 to amount proposed for FY14 by about \$276,849
- Tax duplication payments from Montgomery County remain the same as FY13
- Staffing levels increase by about 5.5 full-time equivalents: two new full-time AV specialists and several part-time positions or conversions from part-time to full-time in the library, recreation, police, general management and IT
- \$955,000 for gateway and street improvement
- \$596,000 for Flower Avenue Green Street Project, paid with State Highway Administration funds
- \$166,000 in continued funding for City to supplement the State Homeowner Property Tax Credit Program
- \$1.3 million for Equipment Replacement Reserve
- \$250,000 to Facility Maintenance Reserve
- Continued support for Main Street Takoma (\$30,000), TP Independence Day Committee (\$15,000), emergency assistance (\$25,000)
- Support for Crossroads Community Food Network (\$20,000), Takoma Park festivals (\$22,000), and \$125,000 for the large community grant program
- \$40,000 to complete the Sustainability Action Plan plus \$150,000 for sustainability initiatives
- \$448,900 for construction, maintenance and repair of storm drains, inlets, channels and ditches
- \$296,377 in grant-funded projects from special revenue, including safety programs for school children and commercial façade improvements
- \$1.4 million expenditure of speed camera revenue, including for program contractor, public safety positions, and \$315,000 in police field radio equipment
- \$100,000 above the required actuarial employer contributions to the Police Retirement Plan

RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK - FISCAL

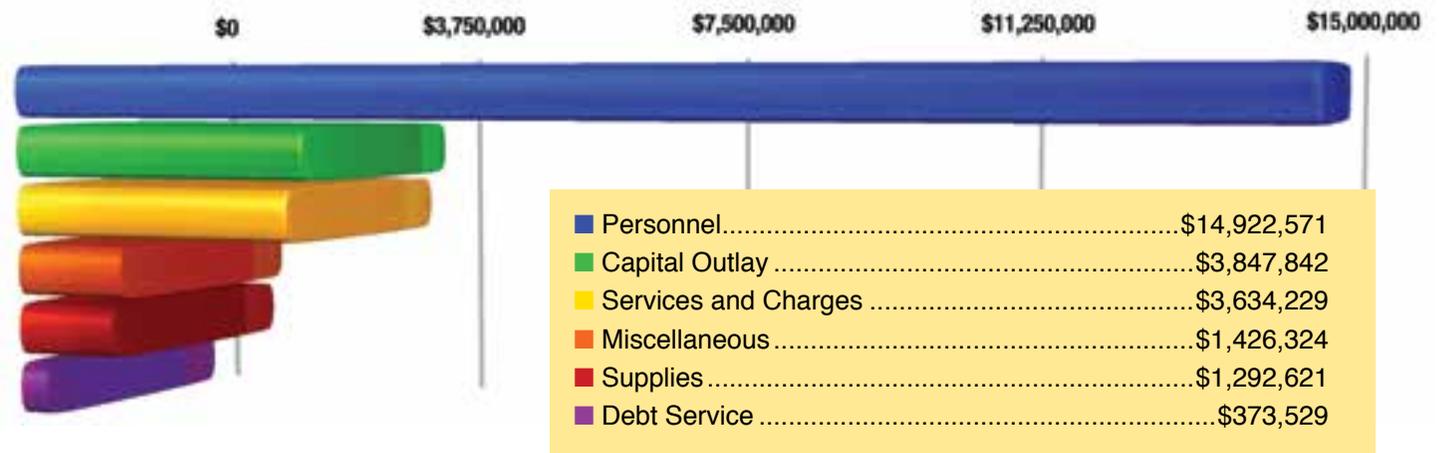
FY14 GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BY DEPARTMENT

Total Expenditures: \$23,319,726



FY14 BUDGET: COMBINED EXPENDITURES BY TYPE

Total Expenditures: \$25,497,116



BUDGET

■ From page 1

enue funds (from sources such as county and state governments and grants), at \$296,377, and the speed camera fund, at \$1,432,113.

Play it safe

Last year, City Council set aside \$1.4 million in unappropriated funds as a precaution against deepening financial challenges, as the state of the nation's economy was so uncertain at that time. Allocation of that funding was revisited, as planned, in November, and some of the funds were distributed, paying for, among other things, Sunday hours at the Library, the Computer Learning Center and the Community Center beginning

in May.

Acting City Manager Suzanne Ludlow notes that "economic uncertainty" continues, complicated by the possibility of Federal budget sequestration. In addition, Montgomery County may take an additional year before it determines a formula for reimbursing the City for the duplicated services it provides. For that reason, she proposed a relatively conservative budget, while still allowing for what she frames as her guiding financial principles: preservation of adequate financial reserves and maintenance of the City's infrastructure. That would include roads, sidewalks, stormwater facilities, parks and City buildings.

This year's proposal includes \$899,000 in unallocated funds which the Council may choose to allocate for one-time proj-

ects during the budget process or later in the year. There is also \$1.3 million for the equipment replacement reserve, and \$250,000 for the facility maintenance reserve.

Revenues up despite dip in local home value assessments

For the first time in many years, housing values have decreased in Takoma Park, consequently decreasing the dollar amount of tax collected on the devalued properties. Properties in Montgomery County are reassessed every three years, on a rotating basis, and this year homes in Takoma Park were on the list for reassessment.

With the lower values, the City would

BUDGET

■ From page 8

have to increase its property tax rate from last year's 58 cents per \$100 to 60.2 cents per \$100 to obtain the same amount of property tax revenue as last year. Ludlow has elected to maintain last year's rate, however, in order to spare residents who may be struggling in a challenging economy further distress.

As a result, projected property tax revenues for the General Fund, which covers most City services, will be lower than last year's projections by about \$277,000. While most of the City's revenue comes from taxes and intergovernmental sources (66 percent of the General Fund comes from taxes and utility fees; see graph), other sources will help make up the difference. Among them are higher State Highway payments to the City (an increase of about \$205,000), an increase in payments for police services from Maryland (up \$170,000) and an increase in cable franchise and operating fees (just over \$400,000).

At her budget presentation to the City Council on April 8, Ludlow noted the "good news" that the Maryland Transportation Infrastructure Investment Act passed in the state legislature this session. The funding will eventually bring in the Purple Line transitway and related economic development, she said, along with the potential for increased highway user revenue.

Maintaining focus: economy and environment take the lead

Expenditures follow the City Council's directives, laid out in the Strategic Plan adopted in 2009. Among its priorities: sustainability, livability and engagement.

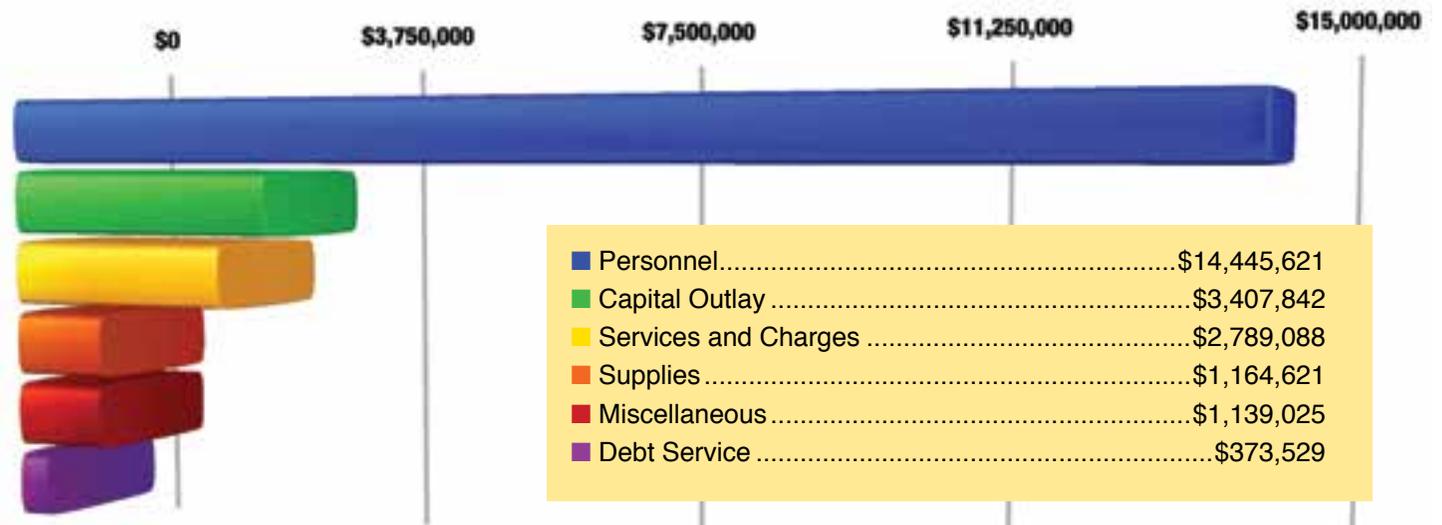
This year's proposal focuses on economic development and sustainability in particular. There is \$955,000 for gateway and street improvements; continued financial support for Main Street Takoma, support for the Crossroads Community Food Network and Takoma Park festivals, and \$596,000 (to be state funded) for the Flower Avenue Green Street Project, which enhances both the local economy and environmental sustainability.

Sustainability initiatives would get \$150,000 if this proposal is approved; they will be determined by the sustainability plan currently being crafted and expected to be finished by October. There is also \$448,900 for construction, maintenance and repair of storm drains, inlets, channels and ditches.

Other budget highlights include continued funding (\$166,000) to supplement the State Homeowner Property Tax Credit Program; support for the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee, Folk Festival and Celebrate Takoma festival; emergency assistance services; and \$125,000 for large community grants yet to be determined by the City Council. Speed camera revenues will cover public safety positions and \$315,000 in new police field radio equipment. Grant-funded projects include school safety programs and a commercial façade improvement program.

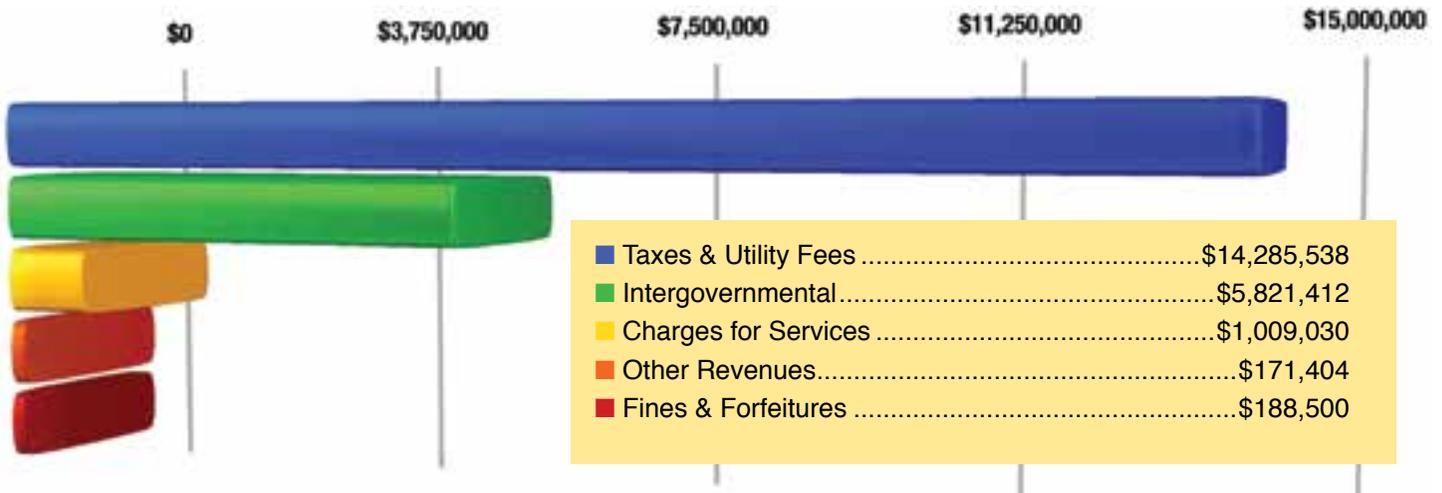
FY14 BUDGET: GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES BY TYPE

Total Expenditures: \$23,319,726



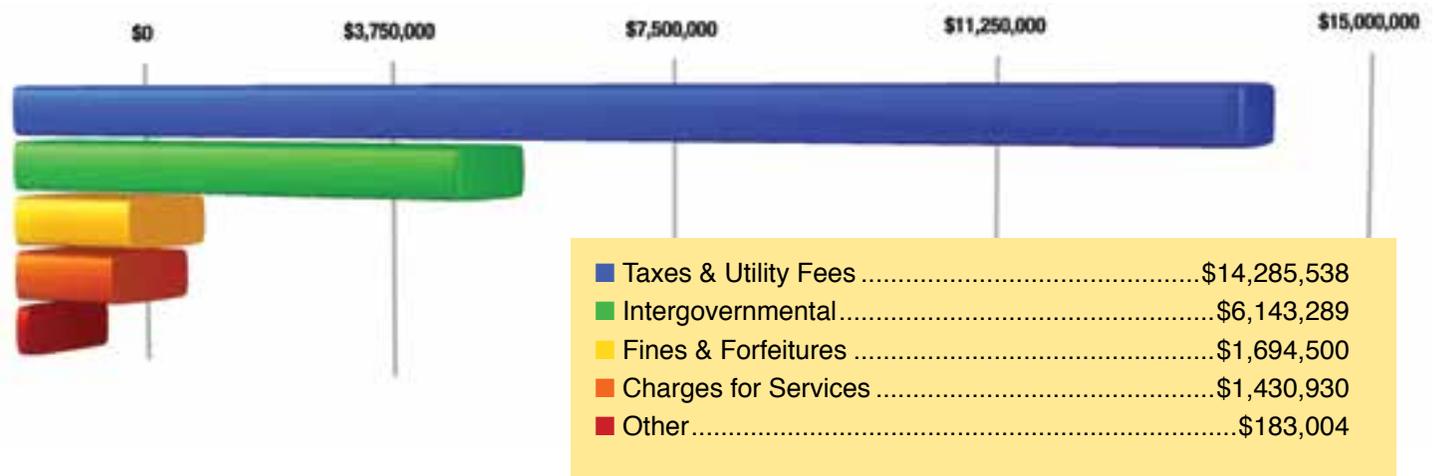
FY14 BUDGET: GENERAL FUND REVENUES BY TYPE

Total Expenditures: \$21,475,884



FY14 BUDGET: COMBINED REVENUES BY TYPE

Total Expenditures: \$23,737,261



Moving forward

The City Council has been working double time, with sessions twice a week, to discuss the intricacies of each division's revenues and expenditures. Two public hearings were held on April 15 and 29 to ensure public input, and residents also registered their opinions and

preferences through email and written letters. Comment is welcome during the public comment period of City Council meetings and work sessions as well.

Remaining meetings will be May 6, for reconciliation of proposed budget and City Council changes; May 13, for the first reading of the ordinance establishing the budget; and May 20, for the sec-

ond and final reading of the ordinance. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center; check the agenda for the timing of the budget items at takomaparkmd.gov/council.

Council is expected to hold the final vote on the budget for FY 2014 on May 20.

YOUTH/TEENS

Babysitting Class

Ages 11-13

Topics include CPR, fire safety, first aid, infant and child care and personal safety. A certificate will be issued upon completion of all five classes and exam. Co-sponsored by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department.

TP Community Center Lilac Room

Mondays, May 6 – June 10, 7 – 9 p.m.

Free, but must pre-register

Counselor in Training (CIT)

Ages 14-17

This volunteer opportunity involves working directly with children in Camp Takoma by helping them to enjoy and feel successful in each camp activity. The three-day training and resulting CIT Certification is required before volunteering during summer camp. Training allows teens to develop leadership skills while becoming first aid/CPR certified. During the summer camp sessions, the CIT will support all planned program activities on site as well as any regularly scheduled off site activities such as swimming and field trips.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge

Training dates: (all dates required)

Tuesday, May 7, 4 - 8 p.m.
(intro/camp standards)

Thursday, May 9, 4 - 8 p.m.
(what it means to be a CIT)

Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
(first aid/CPR training)

\$25

Double Dutch

Ages 6 – 14

Learn the art of Double Dutch jump rope through a fun and aerobic endurance workout that includes single rope jumping, Double Dutch turning and jumping, stretching, toning, jogging and calisthenics.

Thursdays, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m. (on-going)

TP Recreation Center

Free with membership card

Kid's Night Out

Ages 6 – 12

Want a night to yourself while your kids have a blast with their friends? Takoma Park Recreation Center Kid's Night Out is a fun filled night for children. It will involve activities such as games, art and crafts, movies and theme nights.

First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

Free with membership card

Teen Night

Ages 12-17

Nothing to do on Friday night? The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides high quality, affordable, safe and fun activities for teens. Bring your friends for a cheap night out of the house.

TP Recreation Center

Second and fourth Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

Free with membership card

Teens on the Move

Ages 13-17

Teens On The Move is a week-long series of trips that balance experiential learning, community service, fun activities and career development. Paperwork must be completed prior to the first day of camp. Must register seven business days before the start date.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge

1 Week Sessions, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.:

July 8 - 12 OR

July 15 - 19 OR

July 22 - 26

TP resident \$110 per session / \$35 per trip
*Space permitting

Non-resident \$120 per session / \$45 per trip

*Space permitting



The girls get in a bit of lacrosse. From left, Instructor Stephany Sulbaran, Nicole Stuart, Bridget Griffith, Anna Gorman, Nicole Scribner, Ceilidh Wagner, Isabela Crane-Rodriguez, Sophia Kim, and instructor Leanne Klock.

Photo by Eric Rasch

FITNESS/HEALTH

Girls Lacrosse Clinic

Ages 8-11

Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports in the area and this popular program is great for anyone who wants to learn the sport. The clinic will emphasize skill development in shooting, passing, catching and field alignments. This five-week clinic will also cover basic rules and interpretations of the game. Lacrosse sticks will be provided. No experience required.

Takoma Piney Branch Local Park

Wednesdays, May 15 - June 12, 3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

TP residents \$25

Non-residents \$35

Introduction to Qi Gong (Energy Work)

Ages 16 and older

Explore gentle ancient Chinese movements that increase basic health, mind/body coordination, stress reduction, blood circulation and muscle joint strength. Experience your own "qi" or "vital energy" and learn how to draw energy from nature in Animal Walking, Sunlight, and other forms of Qi Gong. No experience is necessary to learn and enjoy the benefits of Qi Gong throughout life.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

Wednesdays, May 29 - June 19, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Free

Jazzercise

Ages 16 and older

Jazzercise is the art of Jazz combined with the science of exercise physiology. Each 60-70 minute class includes easy-to-follow, fun, aerobic dance routines, weights for muscle strength and stretching exercises, all to the beat of music from oldies to jazz to the newest pop tunes.

TP Recreation Center

Mondays and Wednesdays, 7 - 8 p.m. (on-going)

Saturdays, 8 - 9 a.m. (on-going)

(No class on May 25 and 27)

\$45 per month EFT (Easy Fitness Ticket)

\$110/8 week pass

\$25 joining fee required for EFT

\$15 drop-in (with \$20 fee)

Ladies' Boot Camp I

Ages 16 and older

A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour.

TP Recreation Center

Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 4 – June 27,

6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

\$45/4 weeks

Pilates

Ages 16 and older

A fun and invigorating workout that teaches controlled movements utilizing the body's "core" - abdomen, back and hips. This mind-body exercise improves core control, coordination, standing alignment and balance with mat exercises, and helps participants tone, streamline and realign the body.

TP Recreation Center

Wednesdays, May 22 – June 26, 6 - 7 p.m.

\$60/6 weeks

Ride of Your Life

Ages 18 and older

Takoma Bicycle is partnering with the Recreation Department to hold several spring/summer biking workshops for commuters. Owner Bruce Sawtelle will cover basic safety concerns, bicycle maintenance, how to fix a flat and what to take on rides. This workshop is open to cyclists of varying skill levels and will conclude with a question-and-answer session. Registration is required. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Bringing your bicycle along is not required.

TP Community Center Azalea Room

Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Free

Tennis Clinic

Ages 7 to 9 and 10 to 13

Structured tennis instruction is an excellent vehicle for building character, developing discipline and promoting physical fitness. Please bring your own racquet and a water bottle. If you do not own a racquet, the Recreation Department will provide.

Tennis courts behind Takoma Park Middle School

Tuesdays, May 7 – June 4

Ages 7 – 9: Tuesdays, 3:45 - 4:45 p.m.

Ages 10 – 13: Tuesdays, 4:45 - 5:45 p.m.

TP residents \$25

Non-resident \$35

Zumba

Ages 16 and older

An exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness program, Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

TP Recreation Center

Four weeks.

Wednesdays, 6-6:55 p.m. (on-going)

Saturdays, 9:15-10:10 a.m. (on-going)

Feb. 20 – March 20

\$40/4 weeks per session

\$10 drop-in fee

ART/FILM/VIDEO

Collage

Ages 16 and older

Using a variety of collage and paper altering processes, students combine found and altered papers and lightweight three-dimensional materials. Principles of color and design will be presented, such as limiting the color palette; design lessons will explore structure, balance, repetition, value and gradation. This class is suitable for beginners as well as more experienced students. Basic materials will be provided (some personal or found collage elements may be desired to enhance the collage as well). \$30 materials fee due on the first day of class.

TP Community Center Art Studio

Tuesdays, May 7 – June 11, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

TP residents \$210

Non-residents \$240

MAKE/Shift Studio I - Art Inspirations

Ages 8-10

This new after school class involves creating two- and three-dimensional art through drawing, painting, collage, assemblage and mixed media. Each meeting explores a different subject and medium. Children learn to express themselves and engage in visual problem solving while producing works that use color, shape, line, texture and pattern. Beginning students welcome. Materials fee included.

TP Community Center Art Studio

Thursdays, May 2 - June 6, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

TP residents \$150

Non-residents \$170

MAKE/Shift Studio II - Drawing & Watercolor

Ages 11-14

Learn to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Beginning students welcome. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School. Materials fee of \$25, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day.

TP Community Center Art Studio

Tuesdays, May 7 - June 11, 3:15 - 5:15 p.m.

TP residents \$140

Non-residents \$160

ENVIRONMENTAL

Backyard Composting

Ages 5 and older

Want to know the secret to a healthy, thriving garden? Compost. Yard waste and vegetable scraps can make up as much as 20 percent of our household garbage and end up in landfills. In the garden, though, they become compost piles that cost next to nothing, are easy to maintain, and provide rich fertilizer. This workshop will show what makes a good compost pile and how to create one.

TP Community Center Art Studio

Saturday, May 18, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

TP residents \$25

Non-residents \$35

Organic Vegetable Gardening in Containers

Ages 5 and older

You don't need to have a big plot of land to grow your own food. If you are a city dweller, have little to no yard, or have only small amounts of sunlight in your yard, this



RECREATION

■ From page 10

workshop is for you. Container gardening saves money on groceries, takes up very little space and lets you use what you've got. The workshop will show various methods and materials for growing organic food in small spaces. Bring a medium-sized container, about the size of a milk jug. Seeds and soil will be provided.

TP Community Center Art Studio
Saturday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
TP residents \$35
Non-residents \$45

FOREVER YOUNG: 55 PLUS

Baby Boomer Social Network

Ages 55 and older

The new Baby Boomer Social Network will host a conversation with Dr. Warren Greenberg, professor emeritus, The George Washington University, who will discuss optimal health care reform. Refreshments included. For more information, call 301-891-7280.

TP Community Center Azalea Room
Tuesday, May 7

Meet-up and networking 6:30 p.m., discussion at 7 p.m.

Free

Clutter: What To Do About It?

Ages 55 and older

Is clutter a challenge in your life? Are papers in piles? Kitchen counters overcrowded? Closet doors hard to close? Professional organizer Judy Tiger will share her approach to getting and staying organized. Registration required.

TP Community Center Senior Room
Wednesday, May 8, Noon - 1 p.m.

Free

Escorted Transportation Program

Ages 55 and older

Do you need help with transportation? The

JCA (Jewish Council for the Aging) will present information about transportation and other services offered in Montgomery County. Speakers will include Harriet Shapiro, Director, Connect-A-Ride and Abby Levin, Information & Mobility Specialist. Drop-in.

TP Community Center Senior Room

Thursday, May 9, Noon - 1 p.m.

Free

Forever Young Birthday Party

Ages 55 and older

Honoring April, May and June birthdays with cake, ice cream and good wishes. Drop-in.

TP Community Center Lilac Room

Friday, June 14, 1 - 2 p.m.

Free

Historic Town of Sykesville, Md. Trip

Ages 55 and older

Tours of Sykesville Gate House Museum, the restored 1903 historic "Colored Schoolhouse," and Old Main Line Visitor Center and Post Office. Bus pick up at Franklin Apartments, Mapleview Apartments, and Victory Tower only. Registration is required. For more information, call 301-891-7280. Lots of walking, rain or shine.

Thursday, May 16, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Free

Mixed Media Collage

Ages 55 and older

Use acrylic paint in a variety of ways to create a background, then cut and glue images and paper to the background to create a collage. Registration is required.

TP Community Center Art Studio

Session II: Fridays, May 3, 17, 31, and June 7, Noon - 2 p.m.

\$5 Materials fee, payable directly to the facilitator on May 3

Planning Your Legacy/Legal Services Workshop

Ages 55 and older

Are your affairs in order? Do you have questions about wills, living wills, power-of-

attorney and advance funeral planning? Have your legal questions answered by Kelly A. Perkins, Staff Attorney, Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, and LaVerne Ross, Advance Planning Counselor. Registration is required. For more information, call 301-891-7280.

TP Community Center Lilac Room

Choose the day that fits in your schedule:

Wednesday, June 5 OR

Saturday, June 8, 1 p.m.

Free

Sandy Spring Museum and Brighton Dam Azalea Garden Trip

Ages 55 and older

Visit historic Sandy Spring Museum; after lunch at the museum (bring lunch), we will visit Brighton Dam Azalea Gardens. Rain or Shine. Bus pick up at Franklin Apartments, Mapleview Apartments, and Victory Tower only. Registration is required. For more information, call 301-891-7280.

Friday, May 10, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

\$3

PETS

Dog Obedience Training

Getting your dog started with a solid foundation of obedience training is one of the most critical and rewarding things you can do for your dog. Improve your relationship with your dog and build your dog's confidence with proven positive rewards techniques that use not only food, but real time rewards such as praise, play time, toys and freedom. We'll show you techniques and games to teach your dog the basics such as sit, down, come, stay, stand and heel that you can share with the whole family. We'll also address any problem behaviors such as jumping, nipping, barking and pulling on the leash.

Heffner Park Community Center

Tuesdays, May 7 - June 11, 7 - 8 p.m.

TP residents \$100

Non-residents \$120

VOTING RIGHTS

■ From page 1

Code amendment could allow candidates access to apartment buildings for campaign purposes.

At the first reading of the amendment on April 15, City Council voted 7 to 1 in favor of the proposal. Councilmember Fred Schultz (Ward 6) was the lone vote against the proposal.

At the April 8 hearing, 26 people favored the proposal, three opposed it and one was undetermined; 16 of the commenters were from Takoma Park, and 14 were not. The City clerk, says numerous written comments mostly supported the proposal. Most addressed reducing the age requirement for voters to 16.

Councilmembers Tim Male and Seth Grimes introduced the proposal, and each has reasoned that involving young people with voting earlier in their lives will increase the likelihood that they will continue to be active voters as they get older. They praised the articulate presentations of the young people at the hearing, and argued that such individuals can be well-informed, engaged and passionate about the issues on which they would be voting. Other councilmembers agreed, and two said they'd changed their minds about the idea: "The comments, the deep thinking and their attitude actually shifted me over," said Councilmember Kay Daniels Cohen (Ward 3) of the testimony at the hearing. Councilmember Terry Seamens (Ward 4) had a similar experience, and realized that teenagers today are more informed than he had at first realized.

Schultz expressed doubt that young people have the depth of experience necessary to make informed election decisions, and added that many of his constituents were against the change. He also wondered about setting the age at 16, and suggested that the number might be arbitrary: "We could let 15 year olds vote, if the case is to get people habituated to voting," he said.

Arguments for including former felons in the vote framed the opportunity as an important way to re-involve them in the community, and help them become more active and productive members of society.

There was little disagreement regarding same-day voter registration, which was considered to be one way to increase voter turnout.

To learn more about this issue, see the April 2012 issue of the Newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/news, or see videos of the council meetings and hearing, and read background information at takomaparkmd.gov/council. Comments are welcome: send to the City Clerk at jessiec@takomago.org or 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md 20912.

Spring is Prime Time for Tornadoes. Are you ready?

The Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee is available to meet with neighborhood and tenant associations upon request. Contact TPepc@takomagov.org or visit <http://takomaparkmd.gov/committees/epc/index.html>.

CALENDAR

Sunday Hours Begin

Sunday, May 5

12-5

Library and Computer Center (see article)

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

Author Meg Medina

Wednesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.

Medina will discuss her new book for teens,

"Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass"

Best for teens and adults

Registration encouraged

Illustrator Charles Vess

Thursday, May 2, 7 p.m.

Vess will discuss the artwork in his new children's illustrated chapter book,

"The Cats of Tanglewood Forest"

Registration encouraged

Petites Chansons

Saturday, May 4, 10:30 a.m.

Come sing French songs and rhymes with Madame Marie

Bedtime Stories

Monday, May 6, 7 p.m.

Come in pjs; great for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups

Author Erin Hunter

Saturday, May 11, 2 p.m.

Hunter will discuss her latest series for kids, "Survivors"

Registration encouraged

Caldecott Birthday Club

Monday, May 13, 7 p.m.

Celebrate the birthday of the Caldecott Medal

Great for all ages. Lemonade and cake

Registration encouraged

Comics Jam

Tuesday, May 14, 4 p.m.

Library staffer and comics guru Dave Burbank reads comics on the big screen

Friends Big Book Group

Wednesday, May 15, 7:30 p.m.

"Ulysses" discussions conclude

Community Center Azalea Room

Friends of the Library Booksale

Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Library lawn (see article, page 13)

Friends of the Library Board

Tuesday, May 21, 7:45 p.m.

Friends Reading Group

Wednesday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.

Discussion of "Last Man in Tower" by Aravind Adiga

Community Center (see article, page 13)

**Library Hours
Expanded**

**Open Sundays 12 - 5
Beginning May 5**

LIBRARY



Politics and Prose partnership continues with three programs

May brings three book readings with the Library's new partner, Politics and Prose Bookstore, one of the most respected independent bookstores in the nation. Politics and Prose will be selling books at each event, but all of the programs are free and no purchase is required.

Registration for each event is encouraged but not required; to register, please go to: www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents or call us at 301-891-7259.

On May 1, **Meg Medina**, author of the provocatively-titled new teen novel "Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass," will discuss her book in the Library at 7:30 p.m. Medina's book, which so far has received three starred reviews from professional review journals, focuses on how a high school girl fights back against those who are bullying her. Our program is best for teens and



Medina



Vess



Hunter

adults; teens who attend and complete a brief questionnaire at the end of the discussion will receive one Student Service Learning hour.

The second event, which takes place on the following evening of May 2 at 7 p.m., will feature artist **Charles Vess**, whose full-color artwork adds further enchantment to the new children's illustrated novel, "The Cats of Tanglewood Forest." Written by Charles de Lint, the book tells the story of

a girl named Lillian, who longs for magic things to happen in her life and then gets more than she bargained for when she is transformed into a cat. Vess will talk about this book, as well as others he has illustrated, including "Blueberry Girl," a picture book written by Neil Gaiman, "Rose," a "Bone" prequel written by Jeff Smith, and "The Faery Reel," edited by Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling. Our program is great for both kids and adults.

Erin Hunter, author of the best-selling children's series called "Warriors," will discuss her new series, "Survivors," on Saturday, May 11 at 2 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium. Hunter will speak briefly, then take questions and end by signing books. Registration is strongly encouraged for this program.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Happy birthday Caldecott

Since September, the Library has celebrated the 75th birthday of the Caldecott Medal – given annually to the best-illustrated children's book – by gathering once a month to look at some of the classic Caldecott winners.

On Monday, May 13, the Library will conclude its Caldecott Birthday Club by looking at the newest winners of the medal and then enjoying a 75th anniversary birthday cake. All are welcome to our Caldecott Birthday Bash – you don't need to have attended other sessions during the year. Normally the Library does not require registration for this program, but for this last event, each registered child participant will receive a Caldecott-winning book. If you want a book, please register so staff knows how many books to purchase. To register, please go to: www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents or call us at 301-891-7259.

Honoring Mom

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 12. Kids are invited to come to the library between noon and five p.m. on Sunday, May 5 – our first Sunday to be open – to make a couple of simple gifts for their mothers or the other special women in their lives. All materials will be provided, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland

Library. So kids, come and enjoy our first open Sunday and make some keepsake gifts. No registration is required.

Library launches Sunday hours

For the first time ever, your leisurely Sunday afternoons in Takoma Park can now include a visit to the City Library – to re-stock your kids' reading, pick up a copy of that newest best-selling mystery, or attend a special program.

Through the encouragement and support of the Mayor and City Council, the Takoma Park Maryland Library, and the Computer Learning Center and the Community Center will be open 1 to 5 p.m. on Sundays beginning May 5.

The Computer Center already began its discussions of "The Ancient Greek Hero" in April, to accompany the Harvard-based distance learning course. Those will continue on Sundays in May, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. This is a pilot project, and the Library plans to offer other courses and activities in the months ahead, designing programs that will give residents the opportunity for engagement, learning, and plain old fun. The full complement of Library services will be available each Sunday as well.

On the first Sunday the Library is open there will be some opening day surprises,

including Mother's Day crafts (see previous brief), an opportunity make bookmarks for the Library, and refreshments for everyone who visits.

"Spring For Poetry" returns to Takoma Park

Since 2007, Takoma Park has been bloom with poetry from spring into fall – along the sidewalks of Carroll Avenue from Takoma Junction to Old Town, in City parks, outside the Community Center and Library and at Takoma/Langlely Crossroads. Colorful posters showcasing the poems are designed by graphic arts students at Montgomery College, under the direction of Andrea Adams.

Stroll the poetry walk, which is a project of the Friends of the Library, and you will read poems by familiar poets: among them William Butler Yeats, Carl Sandburg, Ogden Nash, Emily Dickinson, Robert Herrick, Gerard Manley Hopkins and May Sarton. You can also read striking poems by poets who may be new to you: Aimee Neshukumatahil, Frank Matuk., Robert Hayden, Zinaida Gippius, Kwesi Brew, Nancy Arbuthnot – in all, more than 30 works that reflect the diversity of world poetry.

In addition to the students at Montgom-

LIBRARY BRIEFS □ Page 13

LIBRARY BRIEFS

■ From page 12

ery College, those who have made Spring for Poetry a reality are the poets and writers who select poems, including former Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker, poet/novelist Ian March, poet Rosanne Singer, and Ann Slayton and Merrill Leffler, who first conceived of the idea; Michele Morgan, whose original poster designs led to the collaboration with the college; and Clair Garman, who made all of the frames. Thanks to the Takoma Park Public Works Department who plant the poles and had the help of Sherman Avenue residents.

This year all 33 poems were mounted by Clair Garman, to whom the Friends extend their heartfelt thanks. For a complete list of this year's poems and their locations, go to the Friends' web site at www.ftpml.org.

"Last Man in Tower" chosen for June book discussion

Join the Friends Reading Group on Wednesday, June 5 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center to discuss "Last Man in Tower" by Aravind Adiga.

The second novel by the Booker Prize-winning author of "The White Tiger" brings modern day Mumbai to life – in a poignant and hair-raising tale of the struggle between residents of a high-rise slum about to be demolished, the developer who offers them seemingly resplendent new homes, and the sole inhabitant who clings to life as he has known it.

"Last Man in Tower" was chosen as a best book of the year by *The Boston Globe*, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, and *The Daily Beast*. *The Washington Post* called it "provocative and decadent...The kind of novel that's so richly insightful...it's hard to know where to begin singing its praises...Vain, shrewd and stubborn, [Masterji] is one of the most delightfully contradictory characters to appear in recent fiction." And *The Economist* praised it as "a rare achievement...Adiga captures with heartbreaking authenticity the real struggle in Indian cities, which is for dignity. A funny yet deeply melancholic work, "Last Man in Tower" is a brilliant, and remarkably mature, second novel."

Copies of the novel are available at the Takoma Part Maryland Library. All are welcome to attend the Friends Reading Group discussions.

Friends Book Sale Planned for May

The Friends of the Library will hold their semi-annual book sale on Saturday, May 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Library lawn. A major source of income for the Friends, the book sales offer fiction and nonfiction for adults and children of all ages at bargain prices. All proceeds go to the Library in the form of gifts, and have been used to provide Spanish and French Circle Time, original art and story for Summer Quest, crafts and special performances and workshops, as well as refreshments for special events.

Volunteers are sought to help at the sale in two hour shifts, beginning at 8 a.m. High school students may earn service learning hours for working at the sale. To volunteer, contact Ellen Robbins at ellenr@takomagov.org.

Ready, Set, Run!

Fifth annual Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge May 5

By Emily Cohen

Now in its fifth year, the Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge is set to break records—and not just in how fast participants reach the finish line. With more than \$8,000 in donations as of April 16, the race, organized by the City's Safe Routes to School program, raises funds to support the PTAs at the five affiliated schools: Piney Branch Elementary, Takoma Park Elementary, East Silver Spring Elementary, Rolling Terrace Elementary and Takoma Park Middle.

Started in 2009 as a way to spread the word about the Safe Routes to School program, which promotes pedestrian and bicycle safety, the race also has proved a great way to keep kids and families active. In its first year it drew 350 participants; last year there were 825. An estimated 1,000 people are expected to participate for this May 5, 2013 event.

Largely because of this race, the City of Takoma Park's Safe Routes to School program is now recognized as a go-to place for pedestrian and bike safety in the City. In October 2012, the program was featured on Fast Lane, the U.S. Secretary of Transportation's blog, when the Deputy Secretary of Transportation walked to school with Piney Branch students and presented a national award to the Takoma Park Safe Routes program and the participating schools.

Race road closings

The Takoma Park 5K Challenge, Fun Run and Youth Run race course includes Maple Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway.

From 7:50 a.m. until 10:15 a.m., Maple Avenue between Philadelphia Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway will be closed to traffic in order to conduct the race.

Sligo Creek Parkway will close one hour earlier at 8 a.m. instead of the normal closing time of 9 a.m. Additionally, no parking will be allowed on Maple Avenue between Philadelphia Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway on the morning of the race.

For additional information regarding the Takoma Park 5K Challenge visit www.TKPK5K.com.

The five schools divide race proceeds equally. Schools have found creative ways to use their funds, 50 percent of which are required to go towards pedestrian and bike education or health and fitness programming. For example, Piney Branch Elementary used proceeds to buy playground equipment and East Silver Spring Elementary now sponsors the popular "run club," which has 87 members.

One thing that sets this race apart from other races is how many families participate. It's not uncommon to see parents and children running together, holding hands. Sometimes it's a mother and daughter racing to the finish line. "The family aspect of this race is unique," says Lucy Neher, director of the Takoma Park Safe Routes to School program and race organizer. "At times, you see parents encouraging their children, sometimes it is the other way around." More than 60

volunteers help make this race possible, many of them returning year after year.

More than 45 organizations and businesses are supporting the race this year, with sponsorships and in-kind donations ranging from \$20 to \$1,000. "Many local businesses have supported the race for all five years. We've been moved by all the support we've received," says Neher. "This proves that the safety of the City's students is at the forefront of our priorities."

The race and its message of pedestrian safety has also made its way into the community vernacular. The challenge to raise awareness about pedestrian and bike safety was the original motivation for the race. "On race day last year, I overheard two mothers discussing crosswalk safety and felt like I had crossed the finish line," says Neher.

For more information on how to participate visit www.tkpk5k.com.

5K RUN
5K WALK
1 MILE FUN RUN
1/4 MILE YOUTH RUN

Sunday, May 5
Takoma Park Community Center
8 a.m. start

East Silver Spring ES
Piney Branch ES
Rolling Terrace ES

Takoma Park ES
Takoma Park MS

For more information, visit www.TKPK5K.com

 SafeRoutes



AT YOUR SERVICE

Spring weather ushers in a rash of burglaries

Throughout the months of March and April, the City of Takoma Park has experienced an increase in residential burglaries. Between March 6 and April 17, nine residential burglaries occurred. The incidents, which took place at various times throughout the day and evening, occurred in the following areas:

- 7200 block of Cedar Avenue
- 100 block of Sherman Avenue
- 8100 block of Lockney Avenue
- 1000 block of Anne Street
- 6800 block of Woodland Avenue
- 7200 block of Garland Avenue
- Unit block of Columbia Avenue
- 7300 block of Buffalo Avenue
- 7300 block of Birch Avenue

To obtain entry, suspect(s) broke residential windows in two cases, pried a door open in one case, opened unlocked residential doors in five cases and entered one residence by unknown means.

Police are urging residents to be sure they secure their homes when they leave. With warmer weather, windows are often left open and burglars choose those homes that are easiest to access.

The most important thing you can do to protect yourself and your neighbors from crime is to call the police to report crime or suspicious activity. Call the police department at 301-270-1100. To leave an anonymous tip, text 847411, type TPP-

DTIP and then the message, with as much detail as possible.

If you do encounter a burglar in your home, police advise you to secure yourself in a room where you have access to a phone and immediately contact police. Do not confront suspect or attempt to fight and/or chase them. Do not touch anything or clean up until the police have inspected for evidence. If you have not checked your house, let the police check

it for you. Leave the house and call the police. Takoma Park Police offer a home security survey free of charge. An officer will survey your home and identify possible improvements that will keep you safer. To set one up, call Community Outreach, 301-891-7126 or email paulag@takomagov.org.

For more tips on preventing burglary, see the April 17 post on www.cathylevy.blogspot.com.

Arrest made in Suntrust bank robbery

Dressed in black with dark-framed glasses to match, the robber walked through the door of Suntrust Bank and up to the teller. He passed a note to the teller that read, "The money or else," the teller gave him \$1,500, and he walked back out. There was no weapon seen.

It happened so fast, Takoma Park Police couldn't get there in time, though the bank alarm reported "robbery in progress." Police searched the area with a K9 tracker, but found nothing.

Still, the case moved quickly: police circulated a photo of the robber, taken by a security camera, a tip came in the next day, and Isaiah Joseph Jackson, 28, of Washington, D.C. was arrested March 28 for robbery and theft over \$1,000.

The robbery occurred on a Tuesday afternoon, March 12, at 3:20 p.m., at the Suntrust Bank on Laurel Avenue in Old Town. By the time of the arrest, Takoma Park, Montgomery County and the District of Columbia police as well as FBI agents had become involved. Together they collected enough evidence for the arrest, which was made by a Montgomery County officer in the District of Columbia. Takoma Park Police Chief Alan Goldberg praised the multi-jurisdictional effort in a press release shortly after.

Jackson is currently being held at the District of Columbia Department of Corrections awaiting extradition back to the State of Maryland.

Police intensify seatbelt enforcement

The statewide Chiefs' Challenge, an annual campaign emphasizing safety restraint enforcement, is underway for the month of May. In Takoma Park, that means police officers will be running the Click It or Ticket program, ticketing drivers and passengers not wearing their seatbelts.

Officers will stand at various locations throughout the City, on the lookout for violations of seatbelt laws, including child restraint.

Here's the law: The driver, front seat passenger and all other vehicle occupants under age 16 must wear a seat belt or be restrained by a child safety seat. The penalty for a violation is \$25. A child under age 8, less than 4'9" tall, and weighing less than 65 pounds should be secured in an approved child safety seat if the vehicle is registered in Maryland. The penalty for this violation is \$58.

Takoma Park Police Chief Alan Goldberg, is hoping for fewer tickets this year, as that would be an indication that residents are taking their safety, and that of their children, seriously. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), "Click it or Ticket" is one of the most successful seat belt enforcement campaigns ever, and helps increase the national seatbelt usage rate.



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Mar. 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 155 fire-related incidents in 2013. The department addressed or assisted with 706 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 861. Totals for 2012 were 147 and 754, representing a decrease of 40 incidents.

During the month of March 2013, Takoma Park volunteers put in a total 1,034 hours of standby time at the

fire station, compared to 909 in March 2012. That's an increase of 125 hours.

Maryland Fire Deaths Update

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of April 6, 30 people have died in fires compared to 18 in 2012. That's a 67 increase increase! The fire department urges residents to check on relatives and neighbors, especially the seniors, to make sure they have working smoke alarms on all levels of the home. Also, neighbors and family can check for any possible safety hazards.

New Members at TPVFD

At the April 10 membership meeting, the following were voted into membership:

Kareen Cowan, Robin Dreher, Scott Huffman, Christina Richardson and Joshua Speiser.



Newest class of certified babysitters graduate

On April 8, 16 girls completed the popular Baby Sitter's Training Program, sponsored by the TPVFD and Takoma Park Recreation Department.

The next class will be held on Monday, May 6 at the fire station. If interested, contact the Takoma Park Recreation Department, 301-891-7290 or takomaparkmd.gov. Class is offered to students ages 11 to 13.

Standing, from left, Keren Webb, Evalyn Angelis, Leah Phillips, Aline Marra, Sara Kleine, Zeld Littlejohn, Lily Kirsch, Gwyn Davies. Sitting (middle), from left, Millie Murphy, Emory Brooks, Emma Gordon, Emma Miller. Sitting (front), from left, Avery Brooks, Adelaide Harris. Not pictured, Addie McDonough and Lucia Parish-Katz. Class was presented by Jim Jarboe, with assistants Rusty, Tina and Ashlee Willey, TPVFD and Sgt. Paula Gaskin, from the Takoma Park Police Department.

Police welcome new community outreach officer

The Community Outreach Program of the Takoma Park Police Department, or C.O.P., has named a new Community Outreach Officer, Sgt. Paula Gaskin. Gaskin, who has been a Takoma Park Police officer for 13 years, is replacing Carla Magnaye, who recently left the department. Gaskin can be reached at paulag@takomagov.org or 301-891-7126. Below are some of the programs she carries forward:

C.A.R.E.

C.A.R.E (Caring About Residents Every day) is geared towards the elderly and those with special needs who live alone. Registered residents receive a courtesy call daily from the police department if they do not call first. If the resident does not pick up the phone, the police department sends an officer to check on his or her welfare. This program is to protect those in need and to bring a sense of peace to those friends and relatives who care, but who cannot check in on a daily basis. If you are interested in participating or registering someone for the CARE program, please contact Cathy Plevy by phone at 301-891-7142 or by email at cathyp@takomagov.org.

Child Safety Seats

Residents who are unsure whether their child's safety seat is installed properly, can come to the police station so that an officer can ensure proper installation.

Citizens' Advisory Board

This group of Takoma Park residents meet on a regular basis to discuss community issues and how the police department can be of service.

Citizens' Police Academy

This program educates interested members of the community about different functions and components of the City's police department.

Citizens on Patrol

Residents patrol a designated area of their neighborhood on a regular basis. Participants usually participate in the Neighborhood Watch program as well.

Click-It or Ticket

A campaign during the month of May to raise awareness of the importance of wearing a seatbelt and using the proper

child safety seats while operating or riding in a motor vehicle.

Community Notification List

An email listserv in which citizens can enroll to receive crime alerts and notice of events hosted by the police department, through email and/or text message. To be added, contact Cathy Plevy at 301-891-7142 or cathyp@takomagov.org. The Department also has a Facebook and Twitter page.

Celebrate Safe Communities Awareness Program

Promotes programs in which citizens can actively participate to ensure safer neighborhoods. Usually conducted during the month of October, which is National Crime Prevention Month.

House Checks

Offered to residents who will be away on vacation for a lengthy period of time (usually one week or more), this service sends a police officer to the residence on a daily basis to ensure no crime (such as burglary) has occurred to the residence.

Internship Program

Anyone interested in offering their services to the police department and/or those who would like to complete community service/internship hours are encouraged to apply.

Move It!

This awareness program is designed to educate citizens to move their vehicles out of the roadway and exchange driver, vehicle and insurance information with each other in the case of an accident.

National Night Out

This annual August event brings the

community together to raise awareness of crime prevention. It includes food, activities, and informational tables.

Neighborhood Watch

Each group of neighbors acts as an extra set of eyes and ears for the police department within their own area, and reports all suspicious activity. Most have informal get-togethers monthly or six times a year to strengthen the sense of community.

Operation Identification

Residents mark their valuables with ID numbers and record serial numbers of valuables to be kept by the police department. A sticker is provided to display on doors and windows to warn potential criminals away.

Ride-Along

Residents can ride in a marked police cruiser alongside a patrol officer to observe the daily duties of an officer.

Safer Seniors

Seminars available by request to keep the elderly population informed of police services that can keep them safe.

Security Surveys

Officers survey the strengths and weaknesses of security measures at residences or retail businesses (fences, locks, alarms, etc.) and provide information on how to improve security.

Take 25

Each May this raises awareness of child safety and encourages parents to take 25 minutes to educate their children in the importance of personal safety.

V.I.N. Etching

Annual event for residents to have their vehicle identification number etched on



Sgt. Paula Gaskin

their vehicles at the police station.

Watch Your Car

Police officers report unauthorized drivers to registered participants.

Youth Outreach

Educates youth and builds positive interaction between police and young people in the community with weekly visits to established youth programs and schools.

Police award teamwork in Officer and Civilian of the Year

Private First Class Michal Godlewski loves his job.

The Takoma Park Police Department's recently named Officer of the Year took the oath of office for the force on July 7, 2008 and still says it's "the best job in the world."

But it almost didn't happen. Godlewski enlisted in the army in 2000, was stationed in Texas, then deployed to Iraq for 18 months beginning in 2003. He was ready to re-enlist, he says, but his brother, who is a secret service officer in Washington, D.C., convinced him to stay here and get into law enforcement. The structure, he says, is similar, and the work is much closer to home. "I chose this, and it's pretty much been the best decision I ever made," he says.

What does he love about it? He lists many things: "Every day is different," for example. His arrest record proves it: he has been involved in approximately 46 arrests, from drugs to domestic violence,

and on several occasions has made more than one arrest in a day. In one traffic stop, he recovered handguns and more than 57 small baggies with cocaine residue; in another he seized 287 grams of heroin. He also played a key role investigating the September robbery at Maple Market.

What else does he love about his work? "The adrenaline rush. You can't get that from anywhere else, unless you're going to be a professional bungee jumper," he says enthusiastically. "It's that rush of getting the guns off the streets, and getting a citizen saved."

But the part that makes him proudest is the teamwork that he's developed



D/Pfc Michal Godlewski



Angelina Cannatella

with his fellow officers, especially in his previous squad. "You get a team that all works together, we motivate each other, but at the same time we have fun," he says. "I'd take a bullet for any of those guys."

That teamwork is one of the attributes that singled him out for the award, which cites his cooperation with the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) on numerous occasions, from providing prints of value from more than one burglary scene, to the use of traffic stops for investigative purposes. "He provides invaluable intelligence to the CID, which is utilized by all the detectives assigned to the division," the Department wrote

in a press release about the award.

Godlewski was recently selected to join the Special Assignment Team in the department's investigative unit, a group he says also has enormous drive and comradery. "We're definitely going to do damage on the street," he says – to the bad guys, that is.

The police department also recognized Civilian of the Year Angelina Cannatella, who has played an instrumental part in the City's Safe Speed Program.

Cannatella joined the Takoma Park Police Department in February 1999 and is another example of effective teamwork. Lauded for her positive attitude, she is also known for her support of officer safety and willingness to take on extra work.

At its June 7 banquet, the Takoma Park Police Department will recognize these outstanding members as well as many others who will receive commendations and recognition for their accomplishments.

MAY '13

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 June issue is May 20

To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomagov.org.

Below, "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

Monday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, May 13, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 28, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
For agenda, see www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas

Takoma Park emergency food pantry

First Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 2 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
www.educare-supportservices.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Food Truck Fridays

5 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.
Trohv, 232 Carroll Street, NW
Various food vendors

Takoma Park 5K Challenge

Safe Routes to School
Sunday, May 5, 8 a.m. start
TP Community Center
See page 13 for details

House and Garden Tour

Sunday, May 5, 1 – 5 p.m.
www.historictakoma.org for details

Baby Boomer Social Network

Ages 55 and older
Tuesday, May 7, meet-up 6:30 p.m., discussion 7 p.m.
GW Professor Warren Greenberg on optimal health care reform
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Free
See page 10 for details

Bike To School Day

May 8, 9 a.m.
7620 Maple Ave.
www.walkbiketoschool.org

Explore Takoma: Ward Three

Saturday, May 11, 4 p.m.
Takoma Junction to Opal Daniels Park
Self-guided walk with info at several stops
Participants urged to gather at 4 p.m.
Potluck picnic, 5:15



Bike To Work Day

May 17, 7 – 9:30 a.m.
Takoma Park pitstops:
Takoma/Langley Crossroads
Sligo Creek Trail (at New Hampshire Avenue)
The Gazebo in Old Town
www.biketoworkmetrodc.org

Library Book Sale

Saturday, May 18, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Library lawn, corner of Maple Ave. and East West Highway
See page 10 for details

Real Food for Kids Recipe Tasting

May 18, Noon to 2 p.m.
Piney Branch Elementary School Cafeteria
Kids taste and vote on favorites for school lunch
Submit a healthy recipe by May 8
\$5/person, \$15/family
www.realfoodforkidsmontgomery.org

Bike To Market Day

May 19, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Ride to the Takoma Park Farmers Market
www.takomaparkmarket.com

Celebrate Takoma

Sunday, May 19, 1 – 5 p.m.
Ed Wilhelm Field, behind Piney Branch Elementary
Food, games and fun celebrating local diversity, plus the Takoma Foundation Azalea Awards
See page 11 for details

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Jazz Jam

Open mic for jazz musicians
Tuesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.
Takoma Station, 6914 4th St. N.W.

Takoma Spark House Jam

Wednesdays after 8 p.m., ongoing
7206 Carroll Ave. across from the firehouse
Bring an instrument or sit back and listen

Meg Medina, "Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass"

Library/Politics and Prose Book Reading
Wednesday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
See page 10 for details

Charles Vess, illustrator

Library/Politics and Prose Book Reading
Thursday, May 2, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
See page 10 for details

HOME: i.v. Two for One, facilitated by Kelly Bond (part 3)

Thursday, May 2, 7 p.m.
Dance Exchange, 7117 Maple Ave.
Two choreographers share a work in progress
\$5
www.danceexchange.org/

The Art of Life: Passages of Youth Untold Saturday, May 4, 1 – 4 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium
Documentary film and art from youth with mental illness
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Eclectics Gallery Opening Night Reception

Paper, Rock, Scissors, Brush
May 10, 6 – 8 p.m.
TP Community Center galleries
Four artists in different media
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Jennifer Cutting and the OCEANS Quartet with Calico Jack

Friday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.
Carroll Café, 276 Carroll St., NW
Ancient ballads meet cutting-edge electronics, bagpipes meet the Beatles
\$15
www.carrollcafe.org

Erin Hunter, "Warriors" and "Survivors"

Library/Politics and Prose Book Reading
Saturday, May 11, 2 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
Free
See page 10 for details

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Donna Cowan, Rachel Adams, Kathi Wolfe, Meredith Pond
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

The Fishtank Ensemble

Gypsy music
Thursday, May 16, 8 p.m.
Theatre 1, Cultural Arts Center at Silver Spring
Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus of Montgomery College

930 King Street, Silver Spring
\$10-30
<http://cms.montgomerycollege.edu/edu/altsub1.aspx?id=20490>

The Ziz Art Workshop and Children's Program

Saturday, May 18, 3-5 p.m.
TP Community Center Art Room
A colorful twist on the classic story of Noah's Ark
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Byline: Ernie Pyle – Dispatches from WWII

Saturday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Dispatches of Ernie Pyle, one of the first embedded reporters
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Film Screening of the Epic Persian Tale of Haft Paykar

Thursday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Screening of dance performance of Persian tale from 1197
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

David Potts-Dupre

Friday, May 24, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Ballads, ghost stories, songs of love and relationships, blues rock, rabble rousing labor songs, and more
\$15 advance/\$18 door, students \$12/ \$15
www.imtfolk.org

Washington Improv Theatre

Friday, May 31, 8 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Live improv comedy
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

FOREVER YOUNG

Ages 55 and older

Historic Sykesville, Md.

Thursday, May 16, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
See page 8 for details

Sandy Spring Museum and Brighton Dam Azalea Garden

Friday, May 10, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
See page 8 for details

MAKE A DIFFERENCE PLANT A TREE

Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Replace the Canopy

The season is right to plant trees, and in Takoma Park that means residents can help replenish the aging tree canopy in the City. As last year, there is an added incentive of the City paying \$100 towards the cost of the first tree purchased (unless it is a replacement tree required as part of a Tree Removal permit). Residents can add a tree to their yards for just \$95 plus 6 percent sales tax, a total of \$100.70. Add a second tree and the bill is still only \$307.40, planted and guaranteed for one year.

Established discounts still apply as well, through the City's annual bulk buy tree sale. As a purchasing agent with Arbor Landscapers, the City is making five species available at wholesale prices. Swamp White Oak, Sugar Maple, Sweet Gum, Black Gum and American Linden—all native shade trees that usually retail for about \$350—are available to residents at \$195, installed.

Sale dates run through May 10

ORDER FORM

Please include check, including tax, written to the City of Takoma Park and be sure to draw a map of the property and locations for installation (see order form). Submit to Todd Bolton, Takoma Park Department of Public Works, 31 Oswego Ave., Silver Spring, Md., 20910 by close of business May 10.

Someone will be in touch regarding installation dates.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please include a map of property/tree installation locations.

___ Swamp White Oak (2") ___ \$195 Sugar Maple (2") \$195 ___ Sweet Gum (2") \$195
___ Black Gum (2") \$195 ___ American Linden (2") \$195

+ 6% sales tax

Total _____

