A new season

The Crossroads Farmers Market opens for the season on June 5, at 7676 New Hampshire Ave. With locally grown produce and locally made prepared foods, the market is open every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and this year has added new vendors with meat, eggs, baked goods and organic produce. On opening day, farmer Forrest Frichard will sign his new book, “Gaining Ground.” Here, Rosa Sanchez, who runs the SNAP program, and Michelle Dudley, market manager, at the pre-season potluck in May. For more information, see www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org. And remember the Takoma Park Farmers Market on Laurel Avenue in Old Takoma, every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and the new MarYa Harvest at 777 Maple Ave. (see story, page 4).

FY '14: City Council votes to lower taxes, add staff

Annual budget approved May 20

By Virginia Myers

For the first time in recent memory, property taxes for most Takoma Park residents are going down.

The City Council voted May 20 to set the tax rate at 57 cents per $100 of assessed value: that’s one cent less than last year, and 2 cents less than the constant yield rate (the rate at which the revenue, based on lower assessed property values, would be the same as last year). That means, for a $400,000 home, a property owner will pay $2,280 for City taxes: $120 less than he or she would have at the constant yield rate, and $40 less than at last year’s rate.

The unexpected break is due in part to an increase in some State and County payments, including State Police Aid and Highway User Revenue and County cable operating funds and tax duplication funds.

The number of full time staff will increase by 5.5, which will accommodate Sunday hours for the library and computer center, expand the Recreation Department’s after school care program, and shift part-time positions for City TV staff to full time positions. Also, there will be an increase in large grants to community organizations and projects, and funding for sustainability initiatives, among other items.

More specifically, the $23.1 million general fund for the City’s operating budget will be lower than at last year’s rate.

City Council extends the vote to minors, felons

By Virginia Myers

Takoma Park was all over the news last month after the City Council voted to change the City’s charter and allow 16- and 17-year-old residents to vote in municipal elections. It is the first time a city in the United States has extended voting rights in this way.

In addition, the charter change allows former felons to vote, and provides for same-day voter registration.

The 6 to 1 City Council vote generated intense interest during public hearings, council meetings, and in online email discussions, with residents weighing in on both sides of the issue. Those who favored access to voting booths for younger voters argued that participating early in life would increase the likelihood that these teenagers would grow up to be active citizens.

Kenner chosen as new City manager

Takoma Park’s City Council has selected Brian Kenner, currently the Chief Operating Officer for the Deputy Mayor’s Office of Planning and Economic Development for the District of Columbia, to fill the role of Takoma Park’s City Manager. Kenner was chosen with the help of a 28-member search committee of residents representing each of the City’s six wards. He was one of about 70 applicants, five of whom made it to the interview stage of the hiring process. Kenner’s first official day in office is June 23.

Mayor Bruce Williams and the Takoma Park City Council seek to leverage Mr. Kenner’s unique background to help push Takoma Park forward. “We believe that Mr. Kenner’s strengths in the area of public-private partnerships, budget and finance, and economic development are well suited to provide the City with the leadership needed as we move into the future,” said Williams. “Mr. Kenner brings a wealth of experience in the areas of strategic planning, staff relations and collaboration as we believe that his addition will be beneficial for our community.”

Kenner’s work for the District of Columbia has included managing a team that completed the reuse plan for the Walter Reed Army Medical Center site, and similarly, leading a team that developed and implemented a planning/redevelopment framework for the St. Elizabeth’s East Campus. Kenner also served as the primary liaison for the D.C. Housing Strategy Task Force, which created a five-year plan for affordable housing strategy in the city.

In addition to his work in D.C., Kenner served as a senior fund manager of the Community Investments Group at Fannie Mae; as vice president of the Public Institutions Group at Jones Lang LaSalle (specializing in public-private initiatives); as a manager of the Government Real Estate Advisory Services Consulting Practice at Ernst & Young; and, as a Presidential Management Fellow for the federal government. He holds a master’s degree in public policy from Harvard. Kenner says his career has consistently involved bringing various entities in the private and public sectors together, and he considers his posi-
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docket

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@takomapark.gov.

WELCOMING RECEPTION FOR NEW CITY MANAGER BRIAN KENNER
Monday, July 1, 6:45 p.m.
Atrium Lobby
Join the City Council in welcoming Brian Kenner on Monday, July 1, 6:45 to 7:25 p.m. in the Atrium Lobby of the Takoma Park Community Center.

RESOLUTION 2013-21
Adopted April 22
Regarding funding for the Flower Avenue Green Street project
Rescinds Resolution 2011-12 which provided direction to the City Manager regarding the budget of the Flower Avenue Green Street Project.

RESOLUTION 2013-22
Adopted April 22
Providing for an appointment to the Committee on the Environment
Appoints Erin R. Kelley (Ward 4) to the Committee on the Environment for a term to expire on June 30, 2015.

RESOLUTION 2013-23
Adopted May 6
Resolution commenting on the countywide transit corridors functional master plan update
Recommends adoption of the Countywide Transit Corridors Function Management Plan conditioned upon certain revisions to the draft document.

RESOLUTION 2013-24
Adopted May 6
Authorizing submission of MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Application
Authorizes the TAP application, including both the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape project and the Flower Avenue Green Street project, with priority given to the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Project and assures a 20 percent cash match requirement for eligible construction activities for both projects.

RESOLUTION 2013-25
Adopted May 13
Affirming the right to vote, establishing a task force on voting, and supporting a Constitutional amendment granting an individual right to vote
Affirms that the right to vote is a fundamental right to be cherished, protected and exercised and sets forth a number of steps to encourage voting; establishes a Task Force on Voting to make recommendations to the City Council on policies or regulations needed to strengthen the right to vote and voter participation in City elections; and endorses an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would grant an individual right to vote along with legislative actions related to elections and voting.

RESOLUTION 2013-26
Adopted May 13
Supporting state funding for renovation of the Essex House
Approves the rehabilitation of the Essex House Apartments and the financing of the project either directly by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development or through the Department’s Community Development Administration.

RESOLUTION 2013-27
Adopted May 13
Providing for an appointment to the Arts and Humanities Commission
Effects the appointments of Chiara Atayebi (Ward 6) and Karin Abromalis (non-resident) to the Arts and Humanities Commission.

RESOLUTION 2013-28
Adopted May 13
Providing for an appointment to the Personnel Appeal Board
Effects the reappointment of Sandra Coles-Bell to the Board.

RESOLUTION 2013-29
Adopted May 13
Providing for appointments to the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee
Effects the appointment of Linda Gunder and the reappointment of Paul Gunter, Julie Boddy and Linda Kanazaki to the Committee.

ORDINANCE 2013-16
Adopted May 20 (first reading May 13; second reading May 20)
Adopting the FY 2014 tax rates
Sets the FY 2014 tax rates as follows: real property $0.57 per $100 of assessed valuation; personal property $1.55 per $100 of assessed valuation; railroad and public utilities $1.57 per $100 of assessed valuation.

ORDINANCE 2013-17 (FIRST READING MAY 13; SECOND READING MAY 20)
Adopted May 20
Adopting the FY 2014 Stormwater Budget
Adopts the FY 2014 Stormwater Management and sets the base rate for the Stormwater Management fee at $55.

ORDINANCE 2013-18 (FIRST READING MAY 13; SECOND READING MAY 20)
Adopted May 20
Adopting the FY 2014 Budget

CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 2013-1
Adopted May 15 (first reading April 15; second reading May 15)
Amends the Takoma Park Charter regarding elections and voting. See the fair summary of the resolution for additional information.

Takoma Topics:

Teens ages 14-17 can become Counselors in Training this summer! Prior to volunteering for summer camp, teens will be required to attend trainings to learn leadership skills and become First Aid/CPR certified. Register soon!

---www.facebook/takomaparkmd

City Council

Official City Government Meetings*

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL
Monday, June 3, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, June 17, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, July 1, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Monday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Azalea Room

TREE COMMISSION
Tuesday, June 11, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC lilac Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION
Tuesday, June 25, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 27, 8:30 a.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@takomapark.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 suzanne@takomapark.org at least 48 hours in advance.

City Council Action

As part of the Right to Vote Resolution adopted on May 13, the City Council established a Task Force on Voting to make recommendations to the City Council on any policies or regulations needed to strengthen the right to vote and voter participation in City elections. Up to 11 members will be appointed by the Council. Members should be Takoma Park residents or represent organizations with expertise in election law or policy, voting rights or voter registration. The Council will aim to appoint at least two youth members (aged 16 to 21 on the date of appointment). Two members of the Task Force will be selected by the Takoma Park Board of Elections and recommended to the Council for appointment.

The Task Force will be asked to issue a preliminary report with recommendations for the 2013 election by September 15, 2013 and a final report with its findings and recommendations to the City Council by June 30, 2014 unless its term is extended by the Council.

Additional information and an application form is available at takomaparkmd.gov or by contacting Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 to receive preliminary information about qualifications and requirements.

CITY NOTICES

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June 2013
Emergency Preparedness Committee Needs New Members

The seven-member Emergency Preparedness Committee is seeking three members to fill vacancies. The Committee (EPC) provides community input into the City’s planning for emergencies and encourages residents and others to be prepared. Committee membership includes seven Takoma Park residents appointed by the City Council, senior City staff selected by the City Manager, and several members representing other agencies. Currently, the EPC meets on the fourth Thursday of each month, alternating between morning and evening meetings.

Newly Established Safe Roadways Committee

The Safe Roadways Committee will advise the City Council on transportation related issues including, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and safety, traffic issues and transit services. The Committee will also encourage Takoma Park residents to use alternatives to driving, including walking, bicycling, and transit. Residency is required. The meeting schedule will be set based on members’ preferences.

Other opportunities to serve on City boards, commissions and committees

- Aris and Humanities Commission (vacancies)
- Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (landlords or property managers needed)
- Committee on the Environment (vacancies)
- Ethics Commission (one vacancy)
- 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 takomaparkmd.gov or contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessiee@takomaparkmd.gov to apply or request information.

By Rick Henry

Nancia Sical speaks Spanish. The reporter does not. When asked through a translator what a community kitchen might mean to her life, no words were necessary, however.

As Sical paused to consider the question, a steady smile crossed her face. Soon she was beaming, realizing the possibilities and opportunities that could come her way if she had access to a commercial kitchen.

There was no need for translation.

Nancia Sical, a native of Guatemala who lives in Langley Park, operates Nancia’s Antojitos, a food business which sells tamales, tacos, grilled corn and other Latin specialties at festivals and the Crossroads Farmer’s Market. She also operates Decoraciones Nancia, crafting fruit arrangements for special occasions. As such, she represents exactly the type of micro-entrepreneur organizers at the Takoma Park Silver Spring Community Kitchen Coalition hope will utilize the Takoma Park Silver Spring Community Kitchen, which will be housed at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church on Tulip Avenue when it opens some time in 2014.

Michelle Diagne is another. Diagne, a native of Senegal, lives just down the street from the church. She is very popular among her friends and family because of the Senegalese beignets she makes. She is hoping to move beyond that small circle and start making and selling the beignets commercially. A community kitchen could allow her to do just that.

“I would love to sign up and use the kitchen, depending on the cost,” she said. “It would be a great advantage to me to have a kitchen I could use right around the corner -- if there is room for me to roll and mix dough.”

Members of the coalition, representing such groups as Meals on Wheels, the Crossroads Community Food Network, DC Central Kitchen and the church itself, plan to charge a sliding scale membership fee based on income to those who want to use the kitchen. They envision an average monthly fee of $250. The plan calls for 75 available rental hours per week with up to five people being able to work in the kitchen at a time.

As to whether Diagne will have room to roll and mix dough, that shouldn’t be a problem, but coalition members are still working out the specifics of the kitchen, no small challenge given the diverse needs and interest of those who will be utilizing it.

“We don’t know exactly how the kitchen will be equipped,” said member Jill Feasley, who is also the Director of Meals on Wheels of Takoma Park and a member of the church. “Will we want grills and deep fryers? Probably not, but we don’t know.”

The coalition has reached out to Dan Hall of the DC Central Kitchen, which has set up a similar community kitchen in the District, for advice and insight.

Reaching out – whether for advice, legislative assistance, or funding – has been a hallmark of the coalition’s efforts. They have been working since August 2011 to bring the community kitchen to fruition. Recently, they have shepherded the project through some important regulatory and development hurdles, most notably when the Montgomery County Council passed Zoning Text Amendment 11-08, allowing commercially certified kitchens in houses of worship in residential neighborhoods, provided that the kitchen is not more than 5 percent of the total square footage of the building.

Another important development was securing a $250,000 bond bill from the state legislature. In order to access all of the bond money, the coalition must raise an equal amount in matching funds.
HOUSING MAILBOX

Keeping cool with air conditioning fee

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

With the weather turning hot, I am so glad to have air conditioning! But my landlord just sent me a note to say he’s increasing the air conditioning rental fee — next month. That seems fast! Is that adequate notice of an increase? And what’s the maximum amount he can charge for renting a window air conditioner?

With the warmer days of summer rapidly approaching, you’re not the only one with air conditioner fees on your mind. And you’re right: a month’s notice isn’t much.

Any proposed increase in an air conditioning fee requires two months advance written notice (6.16.110.D of the Takoma Park Code). That means an increase that would begin June 1 would require written advice no later than March 31. If your notice of the proposed increase did not provide the required two months notice, you should contact your landlord and ask that he provide you with the required two months’ notice before the increase goes into effect.

In accordance with Section 6.16.110.C and Administrative Regulation Number 3-06, the maximum amount that may be charged for the rental of a window air conditioner is $35 a month. This rental fee may only be charged for the months of May through September. Tenants may, if permitted by their lease, provide their own window air conditioner if the unit is equivalent in size, configuration and energy efficiency standards to the unit being rented from the landlord.

Also, remember that if your landlord pays for the building’s electricity and a separate fee has been charged for increased electricity usage during the summer months (May through September), that usage fee must be for the actual electricity charges incurred. You may request your landlord in writing to provide you with copies of applicable bills from the utility provider along with an explanation of how the increased usage fee was calculated.

Residents may think that Takoma Park is all about property owners, but the City is working hard to corral the energy and interest of renters as well. At approximately 50 percent of the population, tenants have enormous influence in shaping City life.

To build community among its renters, the City has been hosting Tenant Summit meetings, offering tenants an opportunity to share their experiences at various properties, and to learn about how to communicate effectively with their landlords. At the May 18 meeting, a dozen tenants gathered at the Takoma Park Community Center, where they learned about the new produce market held on Saturdays at the Essex House (7777 Maple Ave.), a rental building with 135 units (see article above for details on the market). They exchanged information about activities within their respective tenant associations and learned about the mechanics of reporting code violations in their buildings.

Perhaps the most timely presentation was a review of changes that have been proposed for Takoma Park’s housing code, including a new rule allowing political campaigners access to apartment buildings, another requiring landlords to supply voting information to new tenants, a new requirement regarding how tenants prepare units for scheduled maintenance, and clarifications of such matters as repair cost notification and rekeying of units between tenants.

The next tenant summit will be in October. For more information on how to form a tenant association or to obtain a copy of the minutes of the meeting, contact lindaw@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7222.
John Fahey documentary premiers in Takoma Park

Friday, June 28
7 p.m.
Advance Passes Available
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

The 18th Annual Takoma Park JazzFest, on June 9, will kick off the day before with a series of free workshops at the Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center (7995 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring). The workshops include Jazz-singing for elementary kids, featuring Lisa Yves Jazz for Kids; and instrumental jazz technique workshops for students from middle-school age to adult, which will be followed by two concerts.

On Sunday, June 9, JazzFest moves to downtown Takoma Park with continuous free live performances on two stages, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Featured performers include the all-star 20-and-under Philadelphia Jazz Orchestra, the Army Blues jazz band, vocalist Lynn Veronneau, and University of Maryland jazz program director Chris Vadala. The festival will also feature arts, crafts, and international food from more than 75 craft and food vendors.

A pre-JazzFest warm-up concert with the Takoma Park Middle School Jazz Band is also scheduled at El Golfo Restaurant in Silver Spring, 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, June 2.

For more information, go to www.tp-jazzfest.org, call 240-277-6291, or send an e-mail to clarinet1@netzero.net.

THE ARTS

MORE Art

Rock and roll, sea shanties and two plays on stage

Red Sammy
Saturday, June 1
7 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

On Saturday, June 1, rock band Red Sammy will celebrate its new CD release at a night of poetry and song, with University of Baltimore professor and poet Steve Matanle. The band name is a reference to a character in Flannery O’Connor’s short story, “A Good Man is Hard to Find.” Red Sammy’s latest album, “These Poems with Kerosene,” deals with the beauty in imperfection: life, work, hard work, disappointment, love and loss are all themes intertwined in their songs.

Admission is free. The band will be selling (and signing) CDs after the show.

Sea Shanties
Saturday, June 15
7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

Once upon a time the Dutch were masters of the sea. Today, their maritime music lives on in Kapoët?, a lively quartet from the coastal region along the North Sea. Singing in both Dutch and English, the band’s repertoire of sea shanties features interpretations of ancient Dutch and Frisian songs as well as their own compositions. Their music showcases Renaissance, Scandinavian and Celtic music, as well as Bal Folk (a form of folk dance which originated in France).

A donation of $15 per person is requested at the door, all money raised goes directly to the musicians.

Student one-acts
Wednesday, June 5
6 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

Free

Ninth grade students from Montgomery Blair High School’s Communication Arts Program have created 10-minute plays that explore a diverse set of social issues including the evolution of music, peaceful revolutions, technology (and its malfunctions) and more. Students will host a bake sale for a charity following the performances.

Palestinian/Israeli voices
Friday, June 7, 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

Free

Nine actors use historical narratives to present the drama of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict in a staged reading of Voices Spoke to Us by local playwright David McLellan. From the turn of the 20th century until the present, the play introduces the perspectives of a rotating cast of ten Israelis and Palestinians as they confront one another through both narratives and poetry.

Personal dialogue, poem and song are combined into a theatrical format. The drama escalates to a climax and then to the characters better understanding the crisis and their lives.

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June 2013
YOUTH/TEENS

Double Dutch
Ages 6 – 14
Learn the art of Double Dutch with viewing opportunities for grades 6-12. Must register seven business days before the start date. For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort at 301-391-7283 or leicia@takomav.org.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge
1-week Sessions, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.: July 8-12 OR July 15-19

TP resident $10
Non-resident $35 per trip
*Space permitting

Tenacious

Ages 6 – 12
Spend a day or two with us between the end of the school year and the first day of camp. Each day offers a different experience. Before Care and After Care are not available. *Trips subject to change.

TP Community Center Azalea Room
Mondays, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
TP resident $30
Non-resident $60

Kung Fu

Ages 16 and older

TP Community Center Front Meeting Room
Mondays, 7:30 – 10:15 a.m.
TP resident $145
Non-resident $170

Yoga Nidra – Meditation and Relaxation

Ages 16 and older

TP Community Center Front Meeting Room
Mon, June 3 – June 24
TP resident $40
Non-resident $60

Encouraging a healthy lifestyle, with an emphasis on mind and body.

There is a one-time, non-refundable fee of $50 paid to the instructor at the first class for uniform.

TP Community Center Dance Studio
Saturday, July 13 – August 31
Beginners 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
Advanced 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
TP residents $150
Non-residents $170

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 Gymnasium
Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 4 – June 27
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
$45/4 weeks

Pilates

Ages 18 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 exercise, and helps participants tone, streamline and realign the body.

TP Recreation Center front meeting room
Wednesdays, May 22 – June 26, 6 – 7 p.m.
$60/6 weeks

Ride of Your Life Bike Workshop

Ages 18 and up

Takoma Bicycle is partnering with the Recreation Department to hold several spring/summer biking workshops for commuters, called Ride of Your Life. Bruce Sawtelle will be talking about basic safety concerns, bicycle maintenance, how to fix a flat, and things to take on rides. Open to cyclists of varying skill levels. The workshop will conclude with a question-and-answer session. Registration is required. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and bringing your bicycle along is not required.

TP Community Center Azalea Room
Tuesday, June 4, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
Free

Yoga Nidra – Meditation and Relaxation

Ages 16 and older

TP Community Center Front Meeting Room
Thursdays, May 2 and Thursday evenings
TP resident $20
Non-resident $30

This meditative yoga practice helps reduce stress, increases general physical and mental well-being and brings greater joy and ease into everyday life. Students are guided through the meditation while lying on a yoga mat and blankets or seated in a comfortable position. This systematic practice uses positive affirmations, visualization, awareness of the body and breath, and self-inquiry. Each student should bring their own yoga mat, a few blankets, and a pillow.

TP Community Center Dance Studio
Mondays, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Session 1: June 3 – June 24
Session 2: July 1 – July 22
TP resident $50
Non-residents $60

For a full listing of Takoma Park Recreation Department programs, activities and classes, please visit us online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation and click on our Spring/Summer guide.
RECREATION
From page 6
provided for the $40 materials fee, including all substrates, medium, brushes and paint.
TP Community Center Art Studio
Saturday, June 8 – Sunday June 9
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
TP residents $230
Non-residents $260

Film Appreciation
Ages 18 and older
Have fun exploring the world of film. Over the course of six weeks, we will view, study and discuss the best in comedy, Western, musical, mystery, sci-fi and horror films. We will view these films in Takoma Park's state-of-the-art, big screen auditorium.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Tuesdays, June 4 – July 9, 7 – 9:30 p.m.
TP residents $75
Non-residents $85

ENVIRONMENTAL
Make Your Own Organic Herbal Body Care Products
Ages 10 and older
Organic herbal body care products can be pricey, but everyone deserves products that are safe and affordable. In this workshop, we will make our own face scrub and shampoo, while pampering ourselves at the same time. It's easy, inexpensive and fun to make your own! Bring an empty shampoo bottle that has been rinsed out and a towel.
TP Community Center Art Studio
Saturday, June 1, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
TP residents $25
Non-residents $45

FOREVER YOUNG: 55 PLUS
Antique Crossroads and Beaver Creek Malls, Hagerstown, MD
Ages 55 and older
For those who like to browse antique shops, we’ll visit Beaver Creek Antiques and Antique Crossroads, a big double antique malls in Hagerstown, Maryland. Bring spending money for lunch and shopping. Lots of walking! Bus pick up at Franklin Apartments, Mapleview Apartments, and Victory Tower only. Registration opens June 3.
Friday, June 7, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Free
Forever Young Birthday Party
Ages 55 and older
Honoring April, May and June birthdays with cake, ice cream and well wishes. Drop-in.
TP Community Center Lilac Room
Friday, June 14, 1 – 2 p.m.
Free
Historic Tudor Place, Washington, D.C.
Ages 55 and older
Tour the 1805 estate of Thomas Peter and Martha Curtis (granddaughter of Martha Washington) in the heart of Georgetown. Explore a fascinating collection of decorative arts, many from Mount Vernon, and five acres of historic gardens. Bring spending money for lunch. Bus pick up at Franklin Apartments, Mapleview Apartments, and Victory Tower only. Registration opens June 3.
Thursday, June 13, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
$8

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.
TP Community Center Lilac Room
Choose the day that fits in your schedule:
Wednesday, June 5, 1 p.m. OR
Saturday, June 8, 1 p.m.
Free

Celebrate Takoma, Azalea Awards combine
The first annual Celebrate Takoma festival included activities from the many cultures represented among Takoma Park residents: everything from Brazilian dance to Liberian story telling, as well as food and games. Also at the festival, the Takoma Foundation lauded its Azalea Award winners for outstanding community service. Among the winners were Dan Hutton, a Takoma Park Elementary School teacher named Green Activist for his efforts ininsulting environmental values in his first-graders. With him are Foundation President Franca Brilliant and Hutton’s daughter, Maggie. For a list of winners see www.takomafoundation.org.
Photo by Regina Reese

SATURDAY, JUNE 8
Ed Wilhelm Field behind Piney Branch Elementary School
Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family!
The movie will be a family friendly “G” rated hit. Bring snacks and your own water – the Recreation Dept. will provide one small bag of popcorn per person. Due to limited parking – walking is encouraged! Movie starts at dusk.

THUNDERBOLTS 2013 HOME SCHEDULE
The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts play in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League, a wooden bat league of 12 teams in the D.C. and Baltimore areas. 750 college players are recruited to play. Players from outside the area stay with host families in Takoma Park and Silver Spring. If you are interested in hosting a player, call 301-270-0794.
Home games at Montgomery Blair Baseball Stadium: 51 East University Blvd, Silver Spring, Md. in the Four Corners area.
Adults, $8; Children ages 12, $2
Youth baseball and softball players in uniform and children under age 5, free
Monday through Saturday games, 7 p.m.;
Sunday games, 6 p.m.
Sunday DH on June 3 starts at 5 p.m.
Schedule subject to change. Check website, www.tbolts.org, for updates.

DAY DATE OPPONENT
Thursday 6/6 Gaithersburg Giants
Friday 6/7 Vienna River Dogs
Sunday 6/9 Bethesda Big Train
Wednesday 6/12 Rockville Express
Friday 6/14 Yousse’s Orioles
Saturday 6/15 Rocks Days
Saturday 6/22 Presstman Cardinals
Monday 6/24 Herndon Braves
Wednesday 6/26 Baltimore Redbirds
Friday 6/28 Baltimore Redbirds
Sunday 6/30 So. Md Nationals (DH)
Wednesday 7/3 Vienna River Dogs
Saturday 7/6 Alexandria Aces
Sunday 7/7 Gaithersburg Giants
Wednesday 7/10 D.C. Grays
Friday 7/12 Rockville Express
Sunday 7/14 Yousse’s Orioles
Saturday 7/20 Alexandria Aces
Wednesday 7/24 Bethesda Big Train
Friday 7/26 Herndon Braves
Sunday 7/28 Presstman Cardinals

Thunderbolts Summer Camps
The team also runs summer baseball camps in June and July for boys and girls 7 to 15. Instruction is from Doug Remer, the Thunderbolts head coach, assisted by T-Bolts coaches and players, who emphasize fundamentals, baseball values and discipline, conditioning and healthy lifestyle choices. After camp in the evenings, campers can cheer for their coaches at T-Bolts games!
Week long camps: June 17-21, June 24-28, July 1-5 (no camp July 4), July 8-12, July 15-19, and July 22-26 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day, St. Bernadette School, 80 University Blvd. East in Silver Spring, across the street from Blair High School. $200 per week except for week of July 4, at $175.
Three-day specialty camps: For ages 11-16. Intensive training from Thunderbolt coaches on batting (Day 1), pitching and catching (Day 2), and the camper’s choice of an expanded session on pitching or catching (Day 3). Three to one camper to counselor ratio. June 17-19, June 24-26, and July 1-3, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. each day. $250 for each three-day session. St. Bernadette School, 80 University Blvd. East in Silver Spring.
Each camp session is limited to a total of 50 campers. We provide bats, balls and equipment. Campers bring their own gloves and lunch. Each camper gets a Thunderbolts T-Shirt. Go to the T-Bolts website, www.tbolts.org, for early bird, sibling, and multi-year discount information, refund policy, and application forms, or call 301-270-0784.
This program is not affiliated with the Takoma Park Recreation Department.

Photo by Regina Reese
CALANDER

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

PETES CHANSONS
Saturday, June 1, 10:30 a.m.
Come sing French songs and rhymes with Madame Marie.

BEDTIME STORIES
Monday, June 3, 7 p.m.
Come in pj; great for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Friends Reading Group
Wednesday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.
Discussion of “Last Man in Tower” by Aravind Adiga
Community Center

Father’s Day Crafts
Saturday, June 8, 1-3 p.m.
Community Center

Summer Quest Kick-Off
Monday, June 10, 7 p.m.
Come to the launch of Summer Quest 2013!
Registration encouraged.

Comics Jam
Tuesday, June 11, 4 p.m.
Join library staffer and comics guru Dave Burbank as he reads comics on the big screen.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 18, 7:45 p.m.
Library

LIBRARY

Summer Quest inspires kids’ reading

By Karen MacPherson

Looking for an unusual reading challenge for your kids this summer? Check out our Summer Quest 2013 summer reading program, which will feature robots, drones, electronic “toddlerballs” and other technology running merrily amuck.

It’s not a summer reading program you’ll find at any other library. The Takoma Park Maryland Library is the only public library in Maryland – and one of the few in the country – to create its own summer reading program each year.

This year, we’re celebrating the 15th anniversary of Summer Quest, which combines an adventure story, 10 entertaining and unusual reading challenges, an interactive game, and a giant mural in our Children’s Room – all designed to encourage kids to enjoy reading throughout the summer.

Summer Quest 2013 kicks off on Monday, June 10, at 7 p.m., but kids can sign up anytime during the summer. We also encourage adults to sign up for the program, and, if they prefer, to read adult books for the reading challenges.

Each year, Dave Burbank, library assistant and artist extraordinaire, creates a new story and artwork, ensuring that each year’s Summer Quest is unique. As always, Summer Quest is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Our program emphasizes letting kids make choices, and that starts at the beginning when young readers choose or create a Summer Quest character for themselves. As readers complete each challenge, their character is then moved along a huge game board the Children’s Room mural as they complete the reading challenges. This allows proud young readers a visual – and public – record of their progress.

Kids also get to choose which books to read within each Summer Quest challenge. For example, the first challenge is always “Read an Adventure Book,” and it’s up to kids to choose an adventure book to read.

There are no coupons or toys for Summer Quest participants. But we offer something even better – two or three free books (and lemonade and cupcakes!) for those come to the September party that will conclude Summer Quest 2013.

Send us Takoma Park’s yard art

Along with azaleas, trees and Victorian architecture, Takoma Park is also full of public art – whether it’s on the side of a commercial building or in someone’s yard. The City is asking for help in cataloguing it all. Have you passed by a piece of art that is visible from the street? Send a picture and the address or location of the art to nicholask@takomagov.org. We’ll include it in our collection, which will eventually be portrayed through a walking guide. Here, a kangaroo mama camps out on the front lawn of a Carroll Avenue home.

Photo by Nicholas Malarguros

Participating in Summer Quest is both fun and easy

First, come to the library’s circulation desk, and choose your Summer Quest character. We have several dozen choices, each of which has both a large version of the character and a smaller version. All are designed by Summer Quest creator Dave Burbank. Since our program is built around creativity, however, you don’t have to choose one of Dave’s characters; you can always choose a blank form and create your own.

Next, color the character and give it a name. When you hand it back to us, we will register you and keep the larger version of the character so we can move it along the giant game board mural Dave creates in the Children’s Room as you complete the challenges. You keep the smaller version and use it to track your own progress on a miniature game board included in the Summer Quest packet given to each participant.

You can always choose a blank form and create your own.

A Summer Quest character for themselves.

Reading when young readers choose or create a Summer Quest character for themselves.

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By Patti Mallin  
Library Instructor

In April, a small but hardy band of Takoma Park residents embarked on a hero’s quest. They joined 20,000 others from around the world to study “The Ancient Greek Hero” under renowned Harvard professor, Gregory Nagy. The course is offered through EdX, a free, internet-based distance education program.

Takoma Park Maryland Library staff decided to close the distance on distance ed and offer patrons taking the course an opportunity to meet and discuss each week’s readings and lectures in person. Now that the library and computer center are open on Sundays, they seized the opportunity for weekend gatherings. Undaunted by a lack of success rounding up classics students to lead the group, they embraced their “Takoma Parkiness” and chose to forge ahead and make it up as they went along.

Five patrons and two library staff formed the core group in this pilot project. As the hosts, librarians provided technical support during the registration process and in navigating the online lectures, discussions and reading materials. They connected course discussions with materials from the library’s collection, and in one instance, created a slide show in order to facilitate the group’s “close reading” of Greek vase paintings. Patrons were so engaged, however, that librarians were unable to limit their role to support and instead found themselves in the thick of things, struggling with everyone else to keep up with the reading. On any given Sunday, the group debated the answers to “quizzes,” compared translations of “The Iliad,” referenced obscure musicals, and generally left with a better understanding, or at least a different understanding of the language, themes and symbols covered that week.

Wayne Sherwood, elder statesman of our group, credits the weekly meetings with providing the incentive to work through the sometimes overwhelming amount of course materials. Every week there has been a very interesting discussion. I didn’t realize how little I knew about these things. Now I realize that. That’s progress.

“I skirted through a limited assortment of Greek classical literature briefly in my freshman year in college, and I have glanced at these epic poems, plays, histories and other works from time to time since then,” he says. “Now I have more time to read these classics, but I still needed an extra jolt to turn my interest into active engagement. It keeps my brain working, gives me goals to accomplish, keeps me more mentally alert, and provides me with the opportunity to talk with some very bright and interesting people in this community. It has also been very interesting to observe that the youngest person in our discussion group usually grasps the material the quickest.”

That youngest person would be 14-year-old Abraham Joyner-Meyers, whose whole family participated in the pilot. As a home-schooler, Joyner-Meyers has the most experience with distance education courses as well as other creative learning opportunities in the community.

“I’ve really enjoyed getting to talk and think with people of various ages in the class,” he says. “Each time we meet gives me an opportunity to make intellectual connections and see similarities with people who are at a different stage in their life and have had very different experiences. I love seeing how these different experiences affect our interpretations of Homer’s texts.”

“One of my favorite moments was when Wayne Sherwood read aloud the opening passage of a beautiful translation of the “Iliad.” His voice communicated to me why this epic was originally meant to be shared aloud. He brought alive the fiery rage of Achilles in a way that reading it never has.”

Each Sunday, everyone brought their gifts, their worldview and the benefit of their unique set of experiences. Sherwood sums it up thusly: “You can have a 20,000 person online course, but I am 99 percent sure that I would have dropped out if the Takoma Park Library hadn’t set up a discussion group here.”

The Library is already planning for more distance learning in the fall. Possible courses include UT Austin’s Ideas of the 20th Century, and Harvard’s Science and Cooking. From Haute Cuisine to Soft Matter Science.

Interested patrons can consider the offerings at www.edx.org and let Library staff know what interests them most.

In the meantime, the Library is running informal workshops on Web-based tools and mobile apps for photo editing, information organizing and sharing, and even some video animation. These are presented on weekdays at 4 p.m. in Computer Room A, and again on Sundays at 3 p.m., in Computer Room B.

Patti Mallin is a library instructor in the computer center and can be reached at pattim@takomaparkmd.org

CITY BUDGET

From page 1

eral fund budget, which was discussed by City Council over the course of six weeks and two public hearings, shows $21.3 million in revenue, with the balance made up from reserves. The unrestricted fund balance remains at about 17 percent of the City’s total General Fund expenditures.

Among the more notable budget items are:

- A new part-time, two-year contract position to coordinate and establish services designed for seniors and others.
- A new half-time position in the police department for emergency management coordination.
- Just over two position equivalents for the Library, Computer Center and Community Center to staff facilities on Sundays – a first in the history of the Library.
- A half-time administrative assistant for the Information Services division.
- The conversion of part-time staff hours into two full-time audio-visual specialist positions for City TV and the Community Center Auditorium.
- Money for environmental initiatives to be identified by the Sustainability Action Plan currently being crafted.
- Funding for a visioning process regarding the future role of the library.
- Funding for an assessment of the City’s hardware and software assets and needs.

City Council debated over many issues, and modified the City manager’s initial recommendations in some cases. Among these changes were the reduction of funding for economic development at Takoma Junction from $250,000, meant for capital improvements, to $60,000, slated for preliminary studies – the reasoning being that the City was not ready to spend the larger amount before more planning and assessment has been completed. There was considerable discussion about whether to add the equivalent of a full time position to the Recreation Department, as councilmembers considered whether or not in that department should be slower, and as they weighed how to balance the mission of serving low-income populations with budget limitations. In the end, the position was retained in part-time increments to expand the after-school care program, assist with special events and to provide staffing when facilities are rented. The library position was also debated, but kept.

A proposal to eliminate the proposed emergency management position in the police department also drew debate, but was finally kept; similarly, one of the new positions at City TV was questioned, then kept.

Other changes include an additional $20,000 to assist residents with code enforcement violations; additional $20,000 for a city-wide anti-littering campaign; $15,000 for MANUP, a college-bond program for teens, and another $20,000 for a teen vocational training program. Sustainability program initiatives get $60,000 more than initially requested. A $30,000 item to study BY Morrison Park, at Takoma Junction, was postponed for another budget year, and a proposal to spend $25,000 on the development or maintain trails along the City right of way, or “paper streets,” was denied. On a larger scale, the $95,071 additional contribution to the police retirement account was voted down. There are many more details available in the full budget, which can be accessed at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Book Sale success

Undeterred by some morning rain, droves of volunteers and book-lovers came out in force for the Friends of the Library spring book sale on May 18. The five-hour sale netted just under $2,200. Thanks go out to all the volunteers who helped make the event a success.

Photo by Maurice Belanger
Arrest made in “Cracker” graffiti case

For the past six months, Montgomery College Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus has been plagued with a rash of vandalism that seemed racially motivated. Graffiti on the interior wall inside the library bathroom read, “Cracker is Interior Race!!” in red ink, and the word “Cracker” was written in various places throughout the school, in red and green permanent marker. “Crackers!!” also appeared in pencil on desktops and monitors in the school’s computer lab.

Cracker, sometimes “white cracker” or “cracka” is sometimes a pejorative expression for white people. These acts of vandalism appear to be hate/racially motivated.

Takoma Park’s special assignment team began an undercover investigation at the school, which is located in the 7600 block of Takoma Avenue. The investigation led to the arrest of Dawit Bezuneh, 32, of Washington, D.C., for five counts of malicious destruction of property, malicious destruction of property scheme, and race, religion ethnic property damage. Other charges may be pending.

Bezuneh was responsible for several previous campus vandalism incidents of a similar nature, including a tagging of “Death to America” throughout the campus. Takoma Park Police investigators made appropriate notifications to all interested agencies.

Bezuneh was arrested and charged accordingly. He was transported to the Montgomery County Central Processing Unit without incident.

Prescription take-back and anti-crime event a success

When Takoma Park Police told residents of Takoma Park they could dump their prescription and other drugs at the station, no questions asked, they responded with piles of pills, capsules and liquid medicines. In all, police collected 150 pounds of medications – and that’s 150 pounds of potentially dangerous drugs taken from homes where they could conceivably be abused, stolen, or ingested by children.

On the same day, April 27, residents also signed up for the Watch Your Car program, which registers vehicles with the police department. Officers become familiar with the vehicles, and report in if they see an unauthorized driver. In addition, 23 people had their vehicles etched with identification numbers, which have been proven to discourage theft.

The Maryland Automobile Insurance Fund (MAIF) assisted in the VIN etching. The police department expects to conduct a similar event for Prescription Drug Take Back, VIN etching and Watch Your Car registration next year.

The Firehouse Report

As of Apr. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 193 fire-related incidents in 2013. The department addressed or assisted with 933 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,126. Totals for 2012 were 190 and 1,002, representing a decrease of 66 incidents.

During the month of April 2013, Takoma Park volunteers put in a total 1,200.5 hours of standby time at the fire station, compared to 1,078.5 in April 2012. That’s an increase of 122 hours. Grand totals as of April 2013 is 4,356 hours, compared to 3,730 hour in 2012, an increase of 626 hours.

Check Your House Numbers

During an emergency, time is of the essence. It can make the difference between life and death. Many times the fire department or ambulance is delayed in arriving at the scene of an emergency because the address numbers were poorly visible or missing.

Try this: Take a ride by your house to determine if you have any difficult seeing your address numbers. If so, you need to give the matter prompt attention, i.e., do whatever is necessary to make the numbers more visible.

Should you have any questions, please contact your local fire department.

As always, make sure you have a working smoke alarm on each level of your home, test them monthly.

Also, don’t forget an escape plan. They go together!

Local Lion elected to district post

Takoma Park Lions Club member Michael L. Bigler was elected to become the Second Vice District Governor for District 22-C. The position – the third highest-ranking officer in the 51-club District – represents clubs of Lions Clubs International within the District of Columbia and suburban Maryland.

Bigler, 63, is the first Takoma Park club member in over 50 years to hold one of the top leadership posts in the District. The election was recently held at the organization’s convention in Ocean City, Md.

A 22-year member of the Takoma Park Lions, Bigler resides in Colesville, Md., with his wife, Donna. His association with the club began with his employment and co-ownership of the former Takoma Funeral Home, now operating as the Torchin-Sky Funeral Home, where he continues to serve families in the Washington metropolitan area.

Bigler, a life member of the club, currently serves as the president of the Takoma Park Lions, a position he has held for seven terms, overseeing community projects that help needy individuals and families in the area. These projects include free eye exams and glasses, sending local children with vision problems to summer camp, Thanksgiving meal baskets for families, toys for Needy Children, and other community-wide projects. A recipient of numerous awards for service, Bigler received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award in 1997, the highest form of recognition for exceptional service to Lions Clubs International.

The International Association of Lions Clubs, a civilian service club organized by Chicago insurance broker, Melvin Jones in 1917, fosters a spirit of “generous consideration” among peoples of the world and to promote good government, good citizenship, and an active interest in civic, social, commercial, and moral welfare.

Safe Speed Corridors utilize speed cams

In an effort to encourage drivers to respect the speed limit along City roadways, the Takoma Park Police Department is implementing Safe Speed Corridors, identified and approved for speed camera enforcement. By extending enforcement along an entire stretch of roadway, the system prevents drivers from slowing down specifically for the cameras, then speeding up immediately outside of range.

Corridor boundaries include:
- New Hampshire Avenue, northbound, 6900-7600 blocks
- New Hampshire Avenue, southbound, 7600-6900 blocks
- University Boulevard, eastbound, 900-1300 blocks

There will be a 15-day warning period for each new location, with the first location having been established on May 22.

The City of Takoma Park currently has five fixed pole speed cameras and three portable speed camera units.

Locations of these cameras are as follows:
- 400 block Ethan Allen Avenue, eastbound
- 500 block Ethan Allen Avenue, westbound
- 7100 block New Hampshire Avenue, northbound
- 7200 block New Hampshire Avenue, southbound
- 900 block University Boulevard, eastbound
- 900 block East West Highway, westbound
- 7400 block Carroll Avenue, northbound
- 7400 block Carroll Avenue, southbound

Any questions on the program may be directed to Safe Speed at 301-891-7138.
Sligo Creek bridge construction to disrupt traffic

Last month, the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) began a $2.2 million bridge deck replacement project along MD 650 (New Hampshire Avenue) over Sligo Creek in Takoma Park. Located between MD 410 (Ethan Allen Avenue) and MD 193 (University Boulevard), the project should be completed in late 2014, weather permitting.

Beginning May 9, SHA temporarily closed Sligo Creek Parkway access to MD 650 and also closed lanes on southbound MD 650 near Sligo Creek Parkway to maneuver a temporary pedestrian bridge into place, providing access to Sligo Creek Parkway from MD 650.

Motorists should expect lane closures and traffic impacts during construction as follows:
- Sligo Creek Parkway will be closed at MD 650, and no through traffic will be allowed. The Sligo Creek Hiker/Biker Trail will remain open during construction.
- During construction, SHA will reduce the number of lanes on MD 650 from three lanes to two in each direction, with additional lane closures as necessary to move equipment through the work zone. Traffic will be diverted northbound to access Sligo Creek Parkway will be detoured. Right-in/right-out turns will be allowed for MD 650 southbound traffic to access local businesses at the intersection of Sligo Creek Parkway and MD 650. The existing traffic signal at Sligo Creek Parkway and the median along MD 650 will be removed and restored following construction.
- Traffic will be detoured using MD 193 (University Boulevard), MD 212 (Riggs Road), MD 410 (East West Highway, Ethan Allen Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue) and Maple Avenue. "Maintaining access to the Sligo Creek Parkway hiker/biker trail and area residents during the bridge deck replacement project is a top priority," said SHA Administrator Melinda B. Peters.
- "SHA asks that motorists remain patient during construction and remain alert for work crews." Original built in 1932 and widened in 1964, the bridge is structurally sound but needs a new concrete deck (bridge driving surface). SHA will begin constructing new concrete medians, curb and gutter and upgrading sidewalks, and MD 650 for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance before replacing the east and west sides of the bridge deck.
- As part of the project, SHA will also replace metal railings on the bridge, clean and prime sections of the bridge, and surface the pavement approaches, replace the traffic signal at the MD 650/Sligo Creek Parkway intersection and apply new pavement markings.

COMMUNITY COOKING

Through a combination of private donations, grants from the Takoma Foundation, Montgomery County and the City of Takoma Park, as well as the in-kind value of the space the church is donating, they have raised nearly $220,000 of the $250,000 needed. They are engaging in a series of activities to raise the remainder of the money. For example, coalition member Lorg Charkoudian hopes to raise $25,000 by participating in a 50-kilometer trail run.

Citing a board member of the Crossroads Community Food Network, sees the kitchen as a key piece in the community’s collective efforts to build a local food infrastructure.

VOTING RIGHTS

Continued voting to vote as adults, and that many already pay taxes through part-time jobs, and are politically well-informed and discriminating. Those who opposed the change suggested that young people lack the experience needed to make the sound judgments needed to move the issue forward more quickly.

The mechanics of the change are as follows:
- City Council adopted Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2013-1, amending Article III, the Council, and Article VI, Registration, Nominations, and Elections, of the Takoma Park Charter.
- Substantive revisions clarify a minimum age of 18 for election as Mayor or Councilmember; reduce the minimum voting age to 16 on the date of the election and reduce the residency requirement for voting from 30 days to 21 days before an election; permits voter registration by persons who are no longer imprisoned but remain on parole or probation after having been convicted of a felony; clarify that a non-U.S. citizen need only meet the qualifications set forth in Section 601 in order to be eligible to vote in City elections; establish a supplemental voter registry for residents convicted of a felony and serving a term of parole or probation (similar to the registry established for non-U.S. citizens voters); close voter registration through the Montgomery County Board of Elections on the 21st day before an election instead of the 30th day before an election, and allow for registration for an upcoming election to continue from the 20th day before an election through the date of registration by the City Clerk.

In addition, the changes clarify that residents not yet registered may participate in the Nominating Caucus by registering to vote with the City Clerk before the Caucus begins, and establish early voting for every City election.

The Charter Amendment becomes effective on July 2, 2013 unless petitioned to referendum by 20 percent of the registered voters of the City on or before June 22, 2013.

For more information regarding the MD 650 over Sligo Creek Bridge Deck Replacement project, please visit www.thesenewhre.com/development/projects. You may also contact SHA project representative Christopher Bishop, 301-513-7405, toll-free 1-800-749-0737, or cbishop@sha.state.md.us.

For more information about the 2013 charter change, residents can see past issues of the Newsletter (April and May), and contact the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Ave, Takoma Park, MD 20912, 301-891-7267, or jessice@takomaparkmd.gov. The full text of the amendment is available for review at www.takomaparkmd.gov.
**What’s in a (restaurant) name?**

Plenty. The new Black’s restaurant, slated to open later this year at 6937-6939 Laurel Ave., will be called Republic, a nod to all things radical in The Republic of Takoma Park. True to its moniker, the menu and vibe will be tailored to the Takoma Park demographic, says chef and co-owner Danny Wells, who grew up right here in town. When it opens this fall, Republic will include 80 seats, an oyster bar, two bar areas and a patio out back. The menu will feature seafood (a Black’s specialty) as well as vegetarian fare, presented as locally defined seasonal American cooking. Viva la Republic!

**Street shopping**

Antique furniture, vintage jewelry, velvety handmade pillows, vinyl albums and a bicycle carousel: all street finds at the new and funky Grant Avenue Market at the corner of Grant and Carroll avenues at Takoma Junction. The eclectic collection of local vendors will be held twice more this summer: on Sunday, June 9 and Sunday, July 14. More than just a shopping strip of antiques and collectibles, the artsy market included a try-it-yourself bicycle carcass last month — a moving sculpture of bicycles welded together in a ring — as well as a photo booth for sampling vintage accessories. For more info see www.grantavenuemarket.com.

**Buy that house**

The market is hot for buyers, but that doesn't mean it’s easy, especially if you're a first-timer. To help newbies through the process of buying their first home, the Office on Landlord-Tenant Affairs is sponsoring a free class on Saturday, June 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. The HUD-certified sessions will demystify the process of buying a home, from finding a suitable place to securing the necessary financing and closing the deal. Registration is required: contact lindaw@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7222.

**The longest mile: road construction on 410**

Things will get worse before they get better on a mile-long stretch of Route 410/East West Highway, as traffic is diverted for the State Highway Administration to repave and upgrade the road. The $550,000 project includes replacing curb and gutter; upgrading sidewalks, ramps and driveways to comply with ADA requirements, patching the road surface and preparing for asphalt paving, resurfacing travel lanes, and applying new pavement markings. SHA warns it will be noisy, dirty and disruptive. Work should be completed late this summer. SHA may intermittently close lanes on 410 (all work is weather permitting), weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. and overnight, Sunday through Thursday, between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.

A recent agreement recently clarified the state's maintainability responsibility. Although there was some concern regarding the possibility of widening the highway once the state took ownership, no such plans are being considered. For more information on the project, residents can contact Yassin Ahmed, project engineer (443-201-6843, yahmed@sha.state.md.us); Christopher Bishop, community liaison (301-513-7405, cbishop@sha.state.md.us) or the SHA District 3 office, 1-800-749-0737, SHADistrict3@sha.state.md.us.

**Music from Takoma’s Porches**

Musicians took to the City’s porches on May 18, during Takoma Porch, an event that involved 22 porches (or equivalents) and more than 30 musical groups, from roots rock to bluegrass and singer songwriter. Here, OTP (for On The Porch) performs at 24 Montgomery Avenue.

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**JUNE ‘13**

**All AROUND Town**