Bike Share rolling into Takoma Park

By Erkin Ozberk
Planning Division

This year, 2013, is quickly becoming “The Year of the Bike Share.” From snowy Ann Arbor to car-centric Los Angeles, the two-wheeling movement to get more urbanites on bicycles is broad and fast-moving. And now it includes not only Montgomery County, but Takoma Park, in an expansion of the successful Capital Bikeshare program in the D.C. metro area.

So what is bike share? Most people in the area are now familiar with the red bikes of Capital Bikeshare, poised to mark its third anniversary this September. The bikes – more than 1,800 of them – can be borrowed from one of 200 stations spread across the Washington, D.C., Arlington and Alexandria region, and returned to any other station in the system. Users pay a membership fee that covers a selected time span (24 hours, three days, one month or a year). The membership allows them to pick up bikes at any time, from long “docks” where they are parked, using a membership key to unlock them. The first half hour of use is free with the membership, and a modest charge applies after that. The bicycles are meant to be used for short, one-way trips through the city, unlike bike rentals which typically span several hours to several days.

Expansion of the bike share system into Montgomery County has been made possible by a state grant awarded to the county Department of Transportation, which will pay for start-up costs for docks located near Red Line Metro stations in Silver Spring, Takoma Park and Bethesda. Bike share station locations will be finalized over the summer, with installation expected in September. Takoma Park residents will benefit from stations in Old Town (near the Gazebo on Carroll Avenue), Takoma Junction, Washington Adventist University, on Maple Avenue, at the Takoma Park Community Center, at Montgomery College, and possibly in the Long Branch neighborhood.

In urban areas like Takoma Park, many trips are less than two miles, but nearly all of those trips are traveled by car. The addition of bike share means that transportation options are expanded for residents, workers and visitors with an efficient, healthy and green mode of travel. The new

Silver Spring, Takoma Park and Bethesda Bike share station locations will be finalized over the summer, with installation expected in September. Takoma Park residents will benefit from stations in Old Town (near the Gazebo on Carroll Avenue), Takoma Junction, Washington Adventist University, on Maple Avenue, at the Takoma Park Community Center, at Montgomery College, and possibly in the Long Branch neighborhood.

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Takoma Park “Village” project builds local networks

By Kevin Adler

Wolfgang Mergner moved to Takoma Park in 1987. Like many other residents, he decided he wanted to remain in town as long as possible. Unlike most of us, he’s doing something about it.

Nearly three years ago, Mergner decided to gauge the community’s interest in building a support network for seniors who wish to “age in place” without having to leave their homes. The retired physician secured meeting space in the Community Center and asked his friends to spread the word about his idea. An overflow crowd of more than 60 people arrived, and Takoma Park’s “village” program was born.

“I learned about the idea of a village or, as we call it, ‘neighbors helping neighbors,’” and I thought it would be good in Takoma Park,” said Mergner, age 80. “But I didn’t expect to get such a big response.”

Today, a growing group of volunteers provide services and support to the estimated 1,600 seniors in Takoma Park. Through the program, aging neighbors get connected with county and state service agencies, are driven to doctors’ appointments, and get help with everyday household tasks like food shopping and taking out the trash.

Through workshops, meetings and surveys, a village task force of City resident volunteers has identified community priorities: in-home care, access to health services, housing and financial support. “Housing and finances might surprise some people, but there is a two-year waiting list at Victory Towers for senior housing.”

Parade, fireworks celebrate the Fourth

Historic Takoma will be featured this year as the grand marshal of the annual Takoma Park Independence Day parade on the morning of July 4. The parade will start at 10 a.m. at Lee and Carroll avenues, in the heart of the Takoma Junction, which coincidentally is same block where the new Historic Takoma headquarters is located.

Following the usual route, the parade will wind through the main streets of Old Takoma, turn onto Maple Avenue, go past a reviewing stand and finish at the corner of Maple and Ritchie avenues. The parade typically draws large numbers of spectators who cheer from lawn chairs or from cars.
WELCOMING RECEPTION FOR NEW CITY MANAGER BRIAN KENNER

Monday, July 1, 6:45 p.m.
Atium Lobby
Join the City Council in welcoming Brian Kenner on Monday, July 1, 6:45 to 7:25 p.m. in the Atium Lobby of the Takoma Park Community Center.

ETHICS COMMISSION ADVISORY OPINION

Issued June 11, 2013
The Takoma Park Ethics Commission has issued an advisory opinion at the request of a City Councilmember. The Councilmember asks if acceptance of a prize from a random drawing for participants in the Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K would be a violation of the Ethics Ordinance. The Commission concluded, based on the facts presented, that the Councilmember may legally accept the gift. The full opinion is available for review at takomaparkmd.gov.

RESOLUTION 2013-30
Adopted May 28
Rededicating Lee Jordan Field at Takoma Park Middle School
Assures that a meaningful and lasting tribute to Lee Jordan will be created by rededicating the field on the 25th anniversary of its naming for Lee Jordan, with the installation of signage that includes historical information.

RESOLUTION 2013-31
Adopted May 28
Providing for an appointment to the Board of Elections
Appoints Oliver Njong, Ward 4 resident, to the Board of Elections.

RESOLUTION 2013-32
Adopted May 28
Providing for an appointment to the Ethics Commission
Appoints Paras Shah, Ward 6 resident, to the Ethics Commission.

RESOLUTION 2013-33
Adopted June 3
Approving an employment agreement between the City of Takoma Park and Brian T. Kenner as City Manager, and authorizing the mayor to execute the agreement Kenner’s employment commences on June 23, 2013.

RESOLUTION 2013-34
Adopted June 10
Authorizing the City Manager to sign a Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement
Enables sharing of public works personnel, equipment and/or material assistance between municipalities in emergency situations.

RESOLUTION 2013-35
Adopted June 10
Providing for appointments to the Recreation Committee
Appoints Julie Kurland (Ward 1) and reappoints Cindy Dyballa (Ward 2), Pat Rumbaugh (Ward 1), and Ray Scannell (Ward 1) to the Recreation Committee.

RESOLUTION 2013-36
Adopted June 10
Providing for an appointment to the Arts and Humanities Commission
Appoints Diane Ness to the Arts and Humanities Commission.

RESOLUTION 2013-37
Adopted June 10
Providing for reappointments to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs
Reappoints Peter Munger (Ward 1), Juan Jose Canales, H. D. Edwards (Ward 1), and Gehmelle L. Johnson to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs.

RESOLUTION 2013-38
Adopted June 10
Providing for an appointment to the Committee on the Environment
Appoints Denis Borum (Ward 6) to the Committee on the Environment.

ORDINANCE 2013-19
Adopted May 28
Awarding a contract to extend FiberNet to the Public Works facility
Authorizes the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Baldwin Line Construction of Maryland, Inc. for extension of fiber connectivity to Public Works and required electronics for a combined cost of $146,500.

ORDINANCE 2013-20
Adopted May 28
Authorizing the purchase and installation of SMART Interactive Whiteboard and Video Conference System
Authorizes the purchase of SMART Board equipment, associated software, and installation for $28,491.

ORDINANCE 2013-21
Adopted (first reading June 3; second reading June 17)
Repealing Takoma Park Code, Ch. 8.12, Peddlers, Canvassers and Transient Merchants and adopting a new Ch. 8.12, Vendors
The ordinance establishes three classes of vendors required to obtain City permits: door-to-door vendors, roaming vendors, and fixed location vendors. It also sets the permit fee at $75 per year, establishes new requirements for food vendors including a prohibition on the use of polystyrene (and Styrofoam) food service ware. Requires site plan review for fixed location vendors on private property, adds recycling requirements and allows vending at certain City-owned locations by reservation.

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 Peggy Washington at peggywash@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7220.
When they moved into their house on Cockerille Avenue, the Hatton family could not see the forest—or anything else, for that matter—for the trees that covered their backyard and the land behind their house. Rotting and downed trees, bamboo, invasive plants and other maladies made the area a literal urban jungle.

Two years later, three-year-old Eleanor, younger brother Ash and parents April and Adam can often be found scrolling through that same area, now a lush green space, on their way down to the cascading stream that winds through the Circle Woods neighborhood.

“When we bought our house the area behind it was all overgrown and we didn’t even realize what was back there,” said April Hatton. “Now it’s just beautiful.”

The beauty Hatton refers to is the result of an ambitious long-time effort undertaken by the Circle Woods Community Association and the City of Takoma Park. According to Todd Bolton, City arborist, the project involves stabilizing the 400-foot open stretch of live stream that is partially fed from the spring at Spring Park through Circle Woods, an open green space bordered by Poplar and Cockerille avenues on the north and south and Spring and Circle avenues on the west and east.

Bolton said the project involves recreating a flood plain so that the stream, a tributary of the Takoma Branch that runs to Sligo Creek, and surrounding area is more stable and sustainable. That is no small feat given the stream’s small area is no small feat given the stream’s small size impedes natural processes. But the effort is essential if the area is going to become sustainable.

‘Without our help the stream will never reach stability,’ Bolton says bluntly. Before the stabilization project, the small stream was unable to handle natural rainfall and runoff, resulting in eroded banks, toppled trees and runoff spill-over, a particular problem in an urban environment such as Takoma Park.

To address the issues, Bolton and his team have re-graded and redesigned the stream bank, widening it from six to 10 feet and manually reconfiguring its flow in certain places. They started the project in April and expect finish “touch-up” work by late June or early July. The other main component of the effort involves reforestation.

To do the grading necessary for the flood plain, trees and vegetation had to be removed, said Bolton. He said that over the next five or six years, new vegetation will be replanted with shrubs and trees being added this fall. In the areas outside of the immediate flood plain, there has also been a sustained and diligent effort to eradicate invasive plants.

“When we first started, 80 percent of the vegetation was invasive exotics,” said Bolton.

Having finally won the battle against the invasives, Bolton and his team have planted more than 400 native shrubs and trees, but now must contend with a new challenge.

“The deer got at least 150 of them before they could start growing,” he said.

A quick look beyond the stream banks illustrates Bolton’s point. There, in an enclosed area surrounded by a nine-foot tall deer fence, one can see lush vegetation and growth. Outside the fence, the growth is much thinner.

And while the Hattons marvel at how far the effort has come in the past two years, longtime residents are even more amazed.

“When I bought my house in 1984 there were 30 abandoned VWs on the property because there had been an unlicensed auto repair shop operating there,” said Terry Lewis, who lives on Circle Avenue near Cockerille Avenue, where the creek re-enters a culvert before re-emerging east of Fourth Avenue.

“The condition of the stream was pretty deplorable. There was so much trash that it was completely blocked and not flowing. It became a pond, not even a flowing creek.”

Approximately 20 years ago, Lewis and some of his neighbors formed the Circle Woods Community Association and persuaded the City of Takoma Park to buy tracts of land from the owners under a program entitled Project Green Space. The move prevented a build-out of several single-family homes in what is now essentially park land.

“It took a couple of years, but we were able to facilitate the sale,” Lewis said. “Circle Woods is now a permanent green space.”

“Now the city is in the driver’s seat and we are glad they have taken the opportunity to do additional improvements,” he said. “These things take a long time. It’s really a lifetime project, but we’re very pleased with the progress Todd and his staff have made.”


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Five-story apartments proposed on Metro land

The Washington Metro Area Transit Authority (WMATA), working with developer EYA, is planning a 255-unit, five-story residential building on what is currently a parking area at the Takoma Metro station site. The building would include ground-level parking for people using Metro, a level of parking for residents of the building, and three stories of one- and two-bedroom apartments.

Unlike past center-based development on this parcel of land, this proposal retains the existing set of bus bays and adds an additional bay, plus three bus layover spaces that would be located where part of the current park is now. A bicycle parking structure is also part of the plan. The WMATA Board is slated to hold a vote on the project in late July, with a public hearing scheduled for September. Before moving forward, it would also need approval from the Zoning Commission for Washington, D.C.

Elected officials – Takoma Park City Councilmember Seth Grimes, and D.C. Councilmember Seth Grimes, and D.C. Councilmember, Takoma from the Zoning Commission for Washington, D.C., where Busboys and Poets restaurant will take up residence on the ground floor, and 150 apartments will fill in four stories above. That building, called Takoma Central, is expected to open in mid-to late 2014.

Granted: market fun
Lisa Rowen is happy to model a vintage hat at the Grant Avenue Market earlier this year. The outdoor street market, set for its final summer date on Sunday, July 14, is held each month of the season at the corner of Grant and Carroll avenues at Takoma Junction, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Shoppers will find antique furniture, vintage jewelry, and handcrafted housewares. For more info see www.grantavenuemarket.com.

Exterior Home Repair Program For Income Eligible Homeowners

Call or email now for an application
301-891-7222
lindsw@takomaparkmd.gov

Applicants must have household incomes that do not exceed maximum incomes stated below and cannot have participated previously in a Takoma Park exterior home repair program. Repairs can be critical need, such as a roof leak, outdoor handrails, concrete work, deteriorating wood, or a hazardous tree. Work is done at no cost to the homeowner.

Programs begin July 2013.

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<th>Household</th>
<th>Maximum Income</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
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All Around TOWN

Play Lady goes print
Pat Rumbaugh, the Takoma Park resident who originated the City’s annual Play Day, has taken play to a new level with her recently published children’s book, “Let’s Play at the Playground.” An extension of her campaign to get more people out to play – both children and adults – Rumbaugh’s book, which is illustrated with photographs from Takoma Park resident Daniel Nakamura, reflects her lifelong commitment to fun. A retired physical education teacher, she founded Takoma Plays several years ago, hosting community events centered around activities like hopscotch, board games and jump rope. Rumbaugh, known locally as “the Play Lady,” is starting a nonprofit organization called Let’s Play America, with Nakamura, for more info, see www.letsplayamerica.org.

Taste of the Crossroads: cappuccino
The Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority may seem like a bureaucratic mouthful, but the real mouthful is on its new web site, www.takomalangley.org, where you’ll find this tasty morsel of info: a new cappuccino bar at Expo Emporium, that has not only coffee drinks, but also doughnuts, cream puffs and a café area where customers can enjoy them. The store, at 1101 University Blvd., is one of dozens of businesses served by the CDA, a business association organized 25 years ago to advocate for merchants in the area. Other tidbits from the CDA web site include info on the new FroZenYo frozen yogurt shop expected to open later this summer, a schedule for the Crossroads Farmers Market, and a complete list of businesses, from used tires to medical services, laundry to legal services. It’s an effective complement to TheNewAv.com, another source for info on the Crossroads and beyond.

Kudos for the pizza rooster
Urban Spoon, an online restaurant listing and crowd-sourced review site, named Roscoe’s Neapolitan Pizzeria to its list of “Best Washington D.C. Restaurants” in May. The restaurant, named for Takoma Park’s infamous stray rooster, Roscoe, is known for its wood-fired pizza and locally sourced salads, as well as a full bar and friendly service. Its pizza is certified by the Associazione Verace Pizza Napoletana as the real thing, just like what you’d get in Naples, Italy, but set in a place where you can greet friends from the sidewalk café tables and catch up on hometown news. Buon appetito!

Bundle up for recycling
Since recycling guidelines changed to

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

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**All Around Town**

**FROM Page 6**

allow mixing of recyclable trash (plastic, metal, and glass in one container), there's been some confusion about how to recycle paper. Paper for recycling can be mixed, with cardboard from cereal boxes, newsprint, office paper and magazine pages all mingled together. And it can go in with other recyclables. But here's the bit that many residents are missing: it must be bundled up with twine, or contained in paper bags. Otherwise, recycling pickup days become a flurry of loose paper escaped from the bins.

**Shop smart with the library**

If you go on the website for Consumer Reports, you'll get just enough information to know you need more – then comes the notice that you must be a subscriber to get the real low-down on whatever product you might be researching before purchase. Enter the Takoma Park Maryland Library. If you are a library card holder – and any resident can become one – you can access Consumer Reports and many other magazines online, in their entirety. No subscription necessary.

**Futuristic search for the past**

Historic Takoma is using modern technology to dig back into the past. That means, if you're curious about the rumors that your neighborhood was once a hotbed of Swedish saunas, you can hop onto www.historictakoma.org and find out whether it's true. Well, actually, that might take a bit more research – like a visit down to the archives at 7328 Carroll Ave. But the website will afford you hours of noodling around old photographs and bits of historic trivia. If you want to know more, you might have to interface the old fashioned way: with one of the historians or, even better, one of your older neighbors. But the website is a good place to start.

**City maintains living wage for all employees, contractors**

In order to guarantee that all people who do work for the City of Takoma Park are paid a living wage, City Council adopted the Living Wage Ordinance in 2007. Under the ordinance, every City staff member and every employee of contractors hired by the City must be paid a living wage.

The ordinance is updated every three years, and this year, the living wage was set at $13.95 per hour. City Council also voted to make an adjustment in the ordinance, which now requires even small contractors (less than 10 employees) to abide by the living wage benchmark. The change reflects a similar action by Montgomery County, on which Takoma Park's living wage ordinance is modeled.

The new living wage rate will be effective July 1, 2013. For more information on the living wage ordinance, see http://citycouncil-takomaparks3.s3.amazonaws.com/agenda/items/2013/05/28/13-3.pdf.

**Picturing Takoma Park**

Artist Mia Massimino, a student at the Visual Arts Center at Einstein High School, uses her imagination on a wall mural she contributed to the City of Takoma Park at the Community Center parking lot last month.

- **JULY Arts**

**Gaining Ground**

Thursday, July 18, 7:30 p.m.

**Book discussion**

The mantra of eating locally and living sustainably may be mainstream these days, but when Forrest Pritchard, owner of Smith Meadows, began farming in the mid-1990s, Takoma Park was on the cutting edge.

Pritchard describes Takoma Park as a national model where community and farmers markets intersect. “Farmers markets operate under a spirit of collaboration” and the Takoma Park community instinctively understood not just the connection between farmers, but the interdependence between farmers and urbanites. “You can’t have a herd of cattle in downtown Takoma Park,” he says on a cellphone interview, during which he is hauling 14 pigs out to pasture in the back of his trailer. Smith Meadows sells free range meat and prides itself on transparency. The farm is open to the public and no hormones or antibiotics are given to animals. Smith Meadows wants to further connect folks in the city with where food comes from. Pritchard says his memoir seeks to give the human story behind our food, something, he says, we’ve lost in the last 50 years.

Pritchard will be coming to the Takoma Park Community Center on July 18 to discuss his memoir; Gaining Ground: A Story of Farmers’ Markets, Local Food, and Saving the Family Farm.

**Animalia: A Varied Approach**

Opening Reception: July 12

Exhibit runs through Sept. 8

Galleries at the Takoma Park Community Center

The Takoma Park Community Center is transformed into not just an art gallery, but a zoo for the new exhibit opening on July 12. Animalia: A Varied Approach features animals and the natural world in a variety of mediums, including origami, fiber arts and metal mobiles.

“Familia” might also be an appropriate title for the show, as the artists include husband-wife, Marcie Wolf-Hubbard and David Hubbard, as well as mother-son, Nancy Ungar and Jonathan Schneider.

Perhaps most unusual is that the exhibit features the youngest-ever artist to display his work at the Takoma Park Community Center, eight-year-old origami artist Charles Wajda-Gotwals.

**Star Spangled Banner and All Its Cousins**

Saturday, July 27, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

Celebrate the 200th anniversary of the War of 1812 and the writing of the United States’ national anthem in a production coming to the Takoma Park Community Center this month. In period costume, actors from Baltimore-based New Old Theater will reenact the U.S.S. Constitution’s battle with British ship Guerriere. Singing anthems, ballads and toasts in authentic vocal style and accompanied by familiar instruments of the early 1800s (piano, fiddle, and whistles), actors and singers transport the audience to an earlier time.

Free and appropriate for all ages.

**Origami by Charles Wajda-Gotwals**

For more information on the living wage ordinance, see http://citycouncil-takomaparks3.s3.amazonaws.com/agenda/items/2013/05/28/13-3.pdf.
Camps

Camp Takoma
Ages 6 – 12
Explore a new adventure each week with games, crafts, activities, trips and projects related to the theme for the week. The fee for camp includes swimming once a week. Instructors will focus on building self-esteem and personal creativity. At the end of each session, campers can showcase what they have learned with a performance. Paperwork must be completed prior to the first day of camp.
TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Monday – Friday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Session 1: July 22 – 26
TP residents $175
Non-residents $205
On Stage: Footlight Camp
Ages 5 – 7
Campers get on the stage and get to work acting, singing and dancing. Each day begins with physical, vocal, imagination and focus building warm-ups. Camp will end with a revue show so parents can see what campers have been working on. Emphasis is on process, not product, but campers haven’t disappointed audiences yet! Paperwork must be completed prior to the first day of camp.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Monday, July 22 – Friday, July 26, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
TP residents $120
Non-residents $140

Kung Fu (summer session)
Ages 4 – 16
This ancient form of self defense provides physical and mental exercise which could help students defend themselves by strengthening hand and eye coordination. The student will gain physical fitness, mental and spiritual strength. 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
Saturdays, July 13 – Aug. 31
Beginners: 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.
Advanced: 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
TP residents $150
Non-residents $170

In this activity, singing and dancing session, campers perform scene work and work on at least three musical numbers from a Broadway show. Camp will end with a revue show so parents can see what campers have been working on! Emphasis is on process, not product, but campers haven’t disappointed audiences yet! Paperwork must be completed prior to the first day of camp.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Monday, July 22 – Friday, July 26, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
TP residents $260
Non-residents $290
Super Sports Camp
Ages 10 – 12
In addition to more traditional sports, this camp exposes campers to new activities, develops recreational skills and promotes social growth. Participants will be separated by age. No experience necessary to participate. Camp will conclude with sport challenges and game competitions. Paperwork must be completed prior to the first day of camp.
TP Community Center Teen Lounge
One-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

Teens on the Move Camp
Ages 13 – 17
This busy camp combines experiential learning, community service, fun activities and career development. Must register seven business days before the start date. For more information or questions, please contact Leicia Monfort at 301-891-7283 or leiciam@ takomaparkmd.gov. Paperwork must be completed prior to the first day of camp.
TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Saturdays, July 13 – Aug. 31
TP residents $150
Non-residents $170

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.
Petition for referendum on voting rights fails

A group of Takoma Park residents, unhappy with the City Council’s recent move to extend voting rights to people under the age of 18, launched a petition to let current voters decide the matter. If successful, the petition would have resulted in a referendum on the ballot this November, and voters would have decided for themselves whether to change the City charter to accommodate several changes in voting law. But the petition, which drew 529 signatures by its deadline June 24, fell short of the 20 percent of registered voters’ signatures required to place a referendum on the ballot.

City Council had already passed a charter amendment in May, extending voting rights to 16-year-olds and former felons, reducing the residency requirement from 30 days to 21 days for voting, and allowing for same-day voter registration. The changes were part of an effort to increase voter participation. The charter amendment now stands. Takoma Park is the first City in the United States to extend the vote to people younger than 18.

The petition objected to a change in voting policy being made solely by councilmembers, and not by voting residents, and suggested a referendum would be more appropriate. “Many people believe that these changes are too big for the City Council to decide and that this amendment should also be placed on the ballot,” it read. It also noted that when the change to allow non-U.S. residents to vote in City elections was made, the matter was put to referendum.

Expanding voting access was debated for several weeks before the City Council finally voted in May, 6 to 1, in favor of giving the vote to 16- and 17-year-old residents. Those in favor of the change argued that participating in the voting process at a young age would result in continuing participation in civic life, including elections. They were supported by teenagers who spoke at various council meetings and displayed enthusiasm and informed opinions about the issue. Those who opposed the change say young people lack the experience needed to make mature decisions about candidates and civic life.

Community Development Block Grant applications available

The City of Takoma Park is accepting proposals for the use of its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to community organizations for a wide range of activities directed toward neighborhood revitalization, economic development and the provision of improved community facilities and services.

Approximately $15,000 is available for programming which primarily benefits individuals or households of low and moderate incomes. An estimated $110,000 is available for capital projects benefitting low and moderate income neighborhoods. The project could be something that an organization does on its own or in partnership with the City of Takoma Park. Funds would be available in mid- to late 2014.

Applications are available online www.takomaparkmd.gov

Deadline for submissions is 4 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 23.
New recordings available for summer listening

By Ellen Robbins

The Library recently acquired a number of new recordings to add to its collection of music on CDs. The selections represent varied genres and selections, and come just in time for summer road trips, meditating, driving, running in place — or just expanding awareness of the creativity and originality in the vast world of jazz, folk and ethnic music. Below is a sampling.

Blue Skies (CD 1930) is the third studio album by the American jazz singer Cassandra Wilson. It was originally released in 1988, re-released in 2012, and features 10 jazz standards. Critic Thom Jurek (“Allmusic”) called it “…a really compelling first experiment with the more intimate forms and smaller groups Wilson would employ later on.”

Barton Hollow (CD 1942) is the first full-length studio album by the musical group The Civil Wars. It won Grammy awards for Best Folk Album, Best Country Duo/Group Performance in 2011. “…Civil Wars is less a duet than two voices pulled inextricably together as one,” writes hyperbolium.com. “The alchemy of their voices is never less than mesmerizing.”

Ravi Shankar wrote of “The Living Room Session” (CD 1966): “This is a rather different recording when, at almost 92 years, I was fooling around at home in Encinitas, California with my sitar. For me, the tracks illustrate the depths and beauty of Indian classical music, which can evoke a range of emotional intensity through energetic and complicated rhythmic patterns.”

Babel (CD 1957) is the second studio album by the British indie folk band Mumford and Sons. Released in 2012, it became the fastest selling album in both the UK and the US that year, and subsequently won a Grammy Award for Album of the Year.

The Rough Guide to Arabic Revolution (CD 1960) “charts the best underground tunes by [musicians] El Tanbura, Sami Yusuf and Free-muse award winner Ramy Essam… Essam was on the ground at Tahrir Square throughout the Egyptian Revolution,” according to liner notes. “Since the events of 2011 he has continued to campaign for democracy via his impassioned songs.”

Searching for Sugar Man (CD 1958) was a Swedish-British documentary film which described efforts to find out what became of the near-legendary musician Sisto Rodriguez, who disappeared in the 1970s after his music became popular in South Africa. After nearly three decades, Rodriguez was rediscovered at home in Detroit. This CD features the most distinctive and definitive songs from Rodriguez’s two albums.

Gua (CD 1990) is the debut release of a young Ethiopian parasitic Samuel Yirga. “…he blends his soul and jazz influences with music of his homeland,” says Downbeat. “[Gua] stacks up well next to the best music of swing- ing Addis. His three solo piano pieces show huge range”

Tempest (CD 1940) is the 35th album by Bob Dylan. Released in 2012, Dylan wrote all but one of the songs himself. “Rolling Stone” included it in its list of 50 best albums of 2012, calling it “typical of his astonishing late-career rejuvenation: teaming with wit and history, marinated in a couple centuries of folk and pop music, from Celtic waltzes to doo-wop balladry… Fifty years after his debut, he’s still rock’s greatest bard — and its most fearsome badass.”

Boys and Girls (CD 1949) is the debut studio album by the American rock band Alabama Shakes. It also included in Rolling Stone’s 50 best albums list, its reviewer wrote: “Fronted by ex-mail carrier Brittany Howard — a slow-boil belter shaped by punk and roots rock as much as the Stax-Vel-Muscle Shoals sound she so mightily channels — the Alabama-based Shakes sprang from Southern souls cradle. Their debut is a set of lean, hookey originals about the big stuff: love (‘Be Mine’), death (‘On Your Way’), human struggle (‘Hold On’) and getting crunk (‘Got To the Party?’).”

Little Broken Hearts (CD 1945) by singer-songwriter Norah Jones was released in 2012. It received positive reviews, and, according to Wikipedia, “tells the story of Jones emancipating herself from a relationship and finding that she is better off alone.”

The Next Day (CD 1947) is the 24th album released by David Bowie, and was announced on his 66th birthday, on January 8, 2013. Despite some controversy, and opposition to the video of its lead single, “Where Are We Now?” by the Catholic League, Bowie’s video of its lead single, “Where Are We Now?” became popular in South Africa. After nearly three decades, Rodriguez was rediscovered at home in Detroit. This CD features the most distinctive and definitive songs from Rodriguez’s two albums.

Summer Quest kicks off

The children’s library was busy last month as children of all ages launched into the Summer Quest program, choosing characters who would “journey” through a world of book choices throughout the season. Above, Bailey Whitney works on her character before choosing a book; left, Eleanor Sharp visits with children’s librarian Karen MacPherson. Photos: by Jane Sharp.

Friends Reading Group discusses Elizabeth Bowen

By Tim Rahn

On Wednesday, July 31 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room of the Takoma Park Community Center, the FTPML bimonthly book group will meet to discuss “The Death of the Heart” by Elizabeth Bowen. Set in between-World Wars Britain, “The Death of the Heart” tells the story of Portia Quayne, a 16-year-old orphan living with her half brother and his wife in London. After falling for Eddie, an opportunistic young man, Portia learns of love’s loss, betrayal and the truth of human character.

Elizabeth Bowen (1899-1973) was the daughter and only child of a lawyer and landowner in Ireland. Raised by aunts after her mother’s death when she was 13, Bowen became much like an orphan herself. She turned to writing, became friends with many of the writers in the Bloomsbury Group, and published her first collection of stories in 1923.

Bowen’s chief theme, in her words explores “life with the lid on and what happens when the lid comes off.” Considered by many to be her finest novel, and consistently ranked one of the 100 best books of the 20th Century, “The Death of the Heart” leads the reader into just that kind of a tale: where normal becomes innocence lost.

All are welcome to attend friends Reading Group discussions. Copies of “The Death of the Heart” are available in the Library.
many projects, and this is their first debut album together. It was released earlier this year.

People, Hell and Angels (CD 1953) is a long-awaited posthumous studio album by Jimi Hendrix. It contains 12 previously unreleased recordings of tracks he was working on for the planned follow-up to “Electric Ladyland.” The recordings, according to liner notes, “encompass a variety of unique sounds and styles incorporating many of the elements — horns, keyboards, percussion and second guitar Jimi wanted to incorporate within his new music.”

Paul Motian on Broadway (CD 1961) contains five volumes of original works by this important jazz drummer, percussionist and composer, as well as tributes to Thelonious Monk, Bill Evans and others. In his 2009 review of vol. 5 in this set Mark F. Turner wrote: “An unorthodox timekeeper and masterful drummer, Paul Motian’s momentum has not waned since

July 2013

Listen to this: The benefits of Audiobooks
By Karen MacPherson

Summer is a great time for kids, teens and families to enjoy different kinds of reading — listening to audiobooks. If you’re like some parents, however, you may be distrustful of the literary merits of audiobooks and wonder whether listening to a book could possibly be as educational as reading the print version. Research shows that listening to a book can be as beneficial as reading a printed book. It’s just a different kind of reading, and there are different benefits to listening, compared to reading in the traditional sense.

One important benefit is allowing kids to use their imaginations as they listen to an audiobook. There is no screen to watch. Listening to audiobooks helps kids develop their imaginations and their ability to get along without a screen – or a printed book – for at least a while. That doesn’t mean they have to stay still, though! In fact, listening to audio books is a great way to read books while doing other things. Kids can do their chores while listening to a good book, or they can run or go for a walk.

Audiobooks also highlight the characters of a book. A good audiobook narrator can underline both the quirks and admirable qualities of a character. It really brings the character to life for young listeners.

A second and very important benefit of audiobooks: they can train a spotlight on the humor inherent in a book. Many times, readers just don’t get how truly funny a book is, and a good audiobook narrator can ensure that the comic aspects of a story are front and center for the reader.

More reasons why audiobooks are a good thing for kids and teens? Well, audiobooks allow kids and teens to read above their grade level and be exposed to much more sophisticated vocabulary than they might be able to read on their own. For struggling readers or non-native English speakers, audiobooks offer a literary lifestyle. These readers can combine the audiobooks with the print versions as a way of connecting print and oral learning.

We’ve got dozens of great audiobooks on CD for kids, teens and adults at our library. Come on in to browse our collection, and please feel free to ask us for recommendations.

You also can enjoy “streaming” audiobooks (and e-books) via our library’s website, www.takomapark.info/library. Just go to the green-outlined box at the top of our website, click on “Books, Magazines and Newspapers,” then click on “Audiobooks.” There you will find audiobooks for kids, teens and adults, and even books in Spanish. While these audiobooks can’t be downloaded, they can easily be accessed with any device that will connect you to the Internet. If you have any questions, call the Library, 301-891-7259.

Support the Library!
The fundraisers organized by the Friends of the Library – and especially the semi-annual book sales – depend entirely for their success on the support and participation of volunteers. They are also a pleasant way to share time with your friends and neighbors, while giving back to the Library.

Our heart-felt thanks to the 30 volunteers who braved the elements and made our May book sale a success: Mary Rein, Sheryllyn and Jerry Ernst, Nadia Pazolli-Gabriel, Tom Gabriel, Suzanne Morgan, Maurice Belanger, Katherine Dixon-Peugh, Andy Saindon, Britt Cocanour, Tim Rahn, Dee and Mel Raff, Nancy and Dan Kunkel, Walter Mulby, Phil Shapiro, Rebekah Zandt, Emily Van Loon, Pat McMahon, Geoff Burbhart, Cindy Miles, Pat Hanrahan, Ann Hoffnar, Enid Hodes, Sam McCollin, Dave Burbank of the Library staff, Ralph Centoe of the Public Works staff, Clair Garman, and coordinator Merrill Leffler.

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FOURTH OF JULY
From page 1

merrymaking parties along the way.

Takoma Park’s tradition of a July Fourth procession dates back 124 years, making it one of the oldest in the United States. It is notable for steel drum bands on flattened trucks and quirky neighborhood entries, such as a lawnmower brigade, as well as the customary array of political dignitaries and fire trucks.

Gene Herman, president of the all-volunteer Independence Day Committee, said Historic Takoma was selected as the grand marshal not only in tribute to a long record of preservation work but to mark the beginning of a new chapter for the group. Since moving last fall into a refurbished building at 7328 Carroll Ave., Historic Takoma has launched a series of “living history” lectures and events and is making available to the public its collection of historical photographs, oral histories and other archival documents. In addition, a rotating set of exhibits from the archives, as well as the work of local artists and poets, is being showcased in a full-width plate-glass storefront window.

We want our building to become a center for history and culture,” said Diana Kohn, president of Historic Takoma.

The selection of an organization for grand marshal, rather than an individual, started last year when the Takoma Foundation was likewise honored.

The Fourth of July festivities will conclude again this year with an evening of entertainment, starting at 7 p.m. on the field at Takoma Park Middle School on Piney Branch Road, with the Mystic Warriors, the Washington Adventist University Accro Airs, the Takoma Park Community Concert Band and a fireworks show.

BIKE SHARING
From page 1

“down county” stations, in the southern part of Montgomery County, will be part of the larger Capital Bikeshare system, so a Takoma Park resident can ride to a job in D.C., or a D.C. resident can ride to the Farmers Market in Old Takoma.

Behind the scenes, the City is working to improve bicycle safety and way-finding in and around Takoma Park. A newly printed Takoma Park Bike Map showing suggested routes to local destinations is available for free and for download from the City’s website (www.takomaparkmd.gov). New bicycle signage and pavement markings on roads will be installed this summer to better identify shared roadways. During the school year, the City’s Safe Routes to School program teaches bicycle safety and proper helmet fitting to students at five area schools.

To learn more about how the Capital Bikeshare program works, see www.capitalbikeshare.com. For updates on Montgomery County’s expansion of the program in Takoma Park, see www.montgomerycountymd.gov/bikeshare.
Summer hazard terms help navigate stormy season

**By the TP Emergency Preparedness Committee**

You hear them all the time: storm watch, storm warning, thunderstorm, tornado. What are the differences? The following information will help you interpret the various weather warnings we hear in Takoma Park throughout the summer months. And don’t forget heat-related safety, you’ll see tips on treating heat maladies here as well.

**Severe Thunderstorm Watch**

Tells you when and where severe thunderstorms are likely to occur. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio (www.weather.gov/txr), commercial radio or television for information.

**Severe Thunderstorm Warning**

Issued when severe weather has been reported by spotters or indicated by radar. Warnings indicate imminent danger to life and property to those in the path of the storm.

**Tornado Watch**

Tornadoes are possible. Remain alert for approaching storms. Watch the sky and stay tuned to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

**Tornado Warning**

A tornado has been sighted or indicated by weather radar. Take shelter immediately. Delay can be fatal.

**Hurricane/Tropical Storm Watch**

Hurricane/tropical storm conditions are possible in the specified area, usually within 24 hours.

**Short Term Watches and Warnings**

These warnings provide detailed information about specific hurricane threats, such as flash floods and tornadoes. Listen and watch for these warnings on radio, television and social media. Also, Montgomery County can use the Roam Secure Alert Network to contact you during a major crisis, emergency or severe weather event. For more information visit: https://alert.montgomerycounty.gov.

**Heat Disorder Symptoms:**

**Sunburn**

Redness and pain. In severe cases swelling of skin, blisters, fever, headaches. Ominous for mild cases, if blisters appear, do not break. If breaking occurs, apply dry sterile dressing. Do not apply heat or excessive clothing.

**Heat Cramps**

Painful spasms usually in muscles of legs and abdomen possible. Heavy sweating.

**Heat Exhaustion**


**Heat Stroke/Sunstroke**

High body temperature (106 degrees F. or higher). Hot dry skin. Rapid and strong pulse. Confusion and unconsciousness. Faint or unconscious. Get victim to a hospital immediately. Delay can be fatal.

**Firm pressure on cramping muscles, or gentle massage to relieve spasm. Give sips of water. If nausea occurs, discontinue use.**

**TAKOMA PARK NEWS**

July 2013

**The Firehouse Report**

By Jim Jarboe

As of May 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 245 fire-related incidents in 2013. The department addressed or assisted with 1, rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,393. Totals for 2012 were 239 and 1,280, representing a decrease of 126 incidents. During the month of May 2013 Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 1,252 hours of standby time at the station, compared to 1,369 in May 2012. Grand totals as of May 2013 is 5,608 hours, compared to 5,090 hours in 2012, an increase of 509 hours.

**SAFETY TIPS for the FOURTH**

The law hasn’t changed regarding the use of fireworks. All fireworks are illegal in Montgomery County. Let the professionals handle them. Enjoy them with your family on the evening of the fourth at the Takoma Park Middle School, in the 7600 Block of Pinney Branch Road, starting around 9:30 p.m.

**Outside Grilling**

1. Never leave food cooking unattended.
2. Keep children away from the cooking area.
3. Soak the coals when you are finished.
4. It’s the law: no cooking on apartment balconies.

**TAKOMA PARK NEWS**

July 2013

**By Jim Jarboe**

**Baby Sitting Graduates**

On June 10, nine young people completed the popular Baby Sitter’s Training Program, sponsored by the Takoma Park Recreation Department and TPVFD. The next class will be held in the fall. Standing, from left, Curtis Antonucci, Zahava Franck, Lucas Parish Katz, Camden Roberts, Aida Ayuk. Sitting, from left, Alia Rice, Celia Conway, Jordan McDougall, Zoe Smallwood. Class was presented by Jim Jarboe, with assistants Tina and Ashley Willey, TPVFD and Sgt. Paula Gaskin, from the Takoma Park Police Department.
TAKOMA PARK VILLAGE TASK FORCE

Diane Berkley
John Breeskin
Briet Brodie
Coleen DiPaul
Seth Grimes
Steve Hage
Gertrud Mergner
Wolfgang J. Mergner
Marge Tolchin
Urrika Woods-Scott

Longbranch – Sligo Village
Pazit Aviv
Sama Marcus

Sherman Avenue
Linda Kolko

In the upcoming year, the City of Takoma Park will provide its first financial support of the village by funding a half-time village coordinator for two years, beginning in the fiscal year that starts on July 1. “In Takoma Park, the village concept has reached a critical point where it is poised to be a real movement,” said Suzanne Ludlow, deputy city manager, who has also visited Greenbelt to study its program. “The City Council is very supportive.”

From the City’s perspective, villages will complement existing programs for seniors, from Recreation Department exercise classes and field trips to Public Works provision of more easily accessible buildings and sidewalks, Ludlow said. Details about the duties of the coordinator are still being finalized, but plans are for advertising the position this summer.

To get involved in the village project, contact Wolfgang Mergner at wolfgang.mergner@gmail.com.

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ACTION PLAN

OPEN HOUSE
MONDAY, JULY 29TH 2013
Community Center – 7500 Maple Avenue
7:30pm

JOIN US! Learn about the plan and provide feedback on what’s working, where the greatest opportunities lie, and the best pathways to progress.

TAKOMAPARKMD.GOV/PUBLICWORKS/CURRENT-PROJECTS

Additional large recycling carts available

Now that residents can recycle nearly everything that was once tossed into the trash, some have requested larger recycling bins to accommodate the increase. The Public Works Department has purchased an additional 100 recycling carts for residents who need more room for their recycling.

The carts are 32-gallon capacity and have wheels and an attached lid. They are for storing recyclables. The City also provides 18-gallon yellow rectangular containers for recyclables. The larger containers would replace these for households that request them.

The 32-gallon carts are available, first come, first served at the Public Works office, 31 Oswego Ave., Silver Spring, Md. 20910. You can contact the Public Works office at 301-891-7633 to reserve a container or stop by between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. to pick one up.

Residents are reminded that recyclable bottles, cans and containers should be rinsed out prior to storage and all paper items should be placed in a paper bag or tied in a bundle prior to placing in the recycling cart.
The reCYCLE Public Art Projects celebrates its third year with Please Sit on the Art, a collection of 12 sculptures made for sitting. Coordinated by the Old Takoma Business Association, the project invites artists to create sculpture reflective of a theme, which this year is artistic seating. Each piece must be made from recycled and repurposed materials, and each will be displayed throughout the City, from June through October. Art is auctioned off in October. For more information, see www.recyclearttakoma.com.

Clockwise from above, sisters enjoy Check to Check by Nancy Gurganus and Chaya Richman, Silver Screen Bench by Paul Steinboeck, Emily Van Loom tests out Daddy Long Legs by Howard Connelly Design, Fairy Ring by Studio Eco-Bricolage, Vera Periera perches on Blooming Bench by Molly Beiting; and Fall Upright, by Howard Connelly Design.

Photos courtesy reCYCLE