

April
2014

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 53, No. 4 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

WHAT'S NEW?

WARD 3 SPECIAL ELECTION

Tuesday, April 8

Three candidates vie
for vacant seat

See page 4 for profiles and
details

BUDGET HEARINGS

April 7 and 28

Resident input on city budget

See page 2 for details

TRASH COLLECTION

No changes this month



Winter reached its snowy talons far into March with unexpected snow and unusually cold temperatures across the region. As a result, spring will be especially sweet this year.

Photos by Selena Malott

Budget proposal includes new programs, targets priorities

City manager introduces new approach to process

By Virginia Myers



City Manager Brian Kenner is proposing a \$26.6 million budget to City Council on April 7, \$360,000 less than last year's adopted budget (including amendments). It is the first budget he has presented since he joined the city June 23, and it follows a set of retreats and meetings unlike any the city has utilized

in the recent past.

Instead of presenting the budget solely from city staff perspective and having council discuss already-established suggestions, Kenner pulled councilmembers in earlier, at retreats and departmental roundtables. In the roundtables, directors shared information about best practices and trends in their professional areas as well as the challenges they foresee in the coming years. Informal discussions followed, so that councilmembers could become more familiar with the priorities, day to day function and specific needs

CITY BUDGET □ Page 8

Art, gardening and fitness events kick off spring

Three different events mark the first weekend of May in Takoma Park: Art Hop, the Takoma Park House and Garden Tour, and the Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge.

The annual Art Hop spans both days, Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., with displays from more than 60 artists installed in shops, restaurants and galleries throughout Old Takoma. The festive trail of all things creative – paintings, jewelry, pottery, wearable art, photography and more – includes both established and emerging artists working in a variety of media, plus there are artist receptions and free outdoor music and dance performances.

Look for Dance Afire on Saturday night, and participation from new businesses like Republic, Everlasting Life, the Nature Lab and Dolci Gelati, plus several 4th Street businesses. A Friday night kick-off party for artists will be hosted at Trohvv.

Maps and schedules will be available online at www.arthoptakoma.com, and at the businesses. All the work will be available for sale.

For a tour of neighborhood homes, the 41st Annual Takoma Park House and Garden Tour runs from 1 – 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 4, showcasing the "Spirit of Holly Avenue." This three-block, self-guided tour, sponsored by

SPRING EVENTS □ Page 15

Crime in Takoma Park decreases 4 percent

Police target larceny, robbery prevention as priorities

By Virginia Myers

Statistics show that overall Part 1 Crime in Takoma Park – homicide, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, larceny and auto theft – is down for the fourth year in a row in Takoma Park. These crimes decreased by 4 percent between 2012 and 2013. Also, 2013 overall crime is 19.3 percent lower than the five-year average, calculated between 2008 and 2013.

That said, police are concerned with

a spike in burglaries last year, which increased from 73 incidents to 125, or 71.2 percent. Assaults also rose from 16 to 20, or 25 percent. There was one homicide (none in 2012) and two rapes (one in 2012).

Incidents of robbery went down by 14.3 percent, from 42 to 36; larceny, which includes such things as shoplifting (when there is no illegal entry involved) decreased by 17 percent, from 364 incidents to 302; and auto theft, which police focused on last year, de-

TP CRIME □ Page 9

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SAFE ROUTES 5K RUN

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COMMUNITY BAND

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DOCKET

TAKOMA TOPICS:

“Work continues on the Takoma-Langley Crossroads Transit Center, with Phase I of construction winding down on University Blvd, and Phase II set to gear up this spring on New Hampshire Ave.”

— www.facebook.com/mainstreettakoma

City Council & Committee Calendar

Official City Government Meetings*
TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

Monday, April 7, 7 p.m.*, budget public hearing and city manager's presentation of the proposed FY 2015 budget

Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m., to receive certification of the election results

Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m., budget work session

Monday, April 14, the City Council will not meet

Thursday, April 17, 7:30 p.m., budget work session

Monday, April 21, 7:30 p.m., swearing in of new Ward 3 city councilmember

Thursday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., tentative budget work session, Azalea Room

Monday, April 28, 7 p.m., budget public hearing, constant yield tax rate public hearing

Monday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Auditorium

*When public hearings or presentations are scheduled, meetings may begin at 7 p.m. Detailed agendas are always available for review online: www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, April 8, 6:30 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 8, 6:30 p.m.

TPCC Rose Room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Atrium Room

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, April 14, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 17, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 22, 7 p.m.

TPCC Room TBA

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 24, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

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

City Council Action

All actions take place in scheduled legislative meetings of the Takoma Park 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@takomaparkmd.gov.

ORDINANCE 2014-11

Adopted March 24 (first reading March 18; second reading March 24)

Setting Forth Details of the Ward 3 Special Election

The ordinance sets the date of the special election as April 8, 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; sets early voting days on April 6 and 7; appoints election judges; and provides for other aspects of the election.

ORDINANCE 2014-12

Adopted March 24 (first reading March 18; second reading March 24)

Opting Out of Chapter 47 of the Montgomery County Code (Vendors) and Revising the City's Vendor Code

The ordinance opts out of the county vendor code. When applying to vend in Takoma Park, applicants will no longer need to obtain a license from Montgomery County Permitting Services. Indemnification and insurance requirements are added for vendors on city property or in the right-of-way.

ORDINANCE 2014-13

Adopted March 18

Awarding a Contract for a Compensation and Classification Study

The ordinance awards a contract to Condrey and Associates for professional consulting services associated with a classification,

VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Appointments are made by the City Council. Apply by completing an application form and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications to the city clerk. Go to www.takomaparkmd.gov/boards-commissions-and-committees for complete information or to apply. For questions, contact Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov.

Board of Elections

Committee on the Environment

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee

Recreation Committee

Residential Streetscape Task Force

Safe Roadways Committee

compensation and benefits survey for employees of the city.

ORDINANCE 2014-14

Adopted March 18

Approving HD Upgrades to City TV Equipment

The ordinance authorizes a contract with Contract Video Specialists, Inc. for an upgrade to City TV equipment to high definition and other related improvements at a cost not to exceed \$100,000. The funds are available in the Cable Grant account.

ORDINANCE 2014-16

Adopted March 24

Authorizing Purchase of a Shed for Ed Wilhelm Field

The ordinance authorizes purchase of a prefabricated shed from Studio Shed, LLC at the cost of \$12,840. The Takoma Sports Leagues and Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission have each donated \$5,000 for the project, leaving \$2,840 to be paid for by the city.

ORDINANCE 2014-17

Adopted March 24

Repealing Ordinance 2014-2

On Jan. 27, the City Council adopted Ordinance 2014-2 awarding a contract to Summer Winter Automation for HVAC repairs. The Public Works Department has been notified by the Maryland Energy Administration that the HVAC repairs are no longer an eligible use of the grant. Consequently, the ordinance is repealed by Ordinance 2014-17.

ORDINANCE 2014-18

Adopted March 24

Awarding a Contract for Indefinite Quantity Site Construction Services

The ordinance authorizes a contract with

Highway and Safety Services, Inc. for indefinite quantities of maintenance for stormwater systems, stream channels and other infrastructure in the city. The services are to be provided at the quoted unit price.

ORDINANCE 2014-19

Adopted March 24

Awarding a Contract for Phase 2 Lighting Efficiency Upgrades in the Community Center

The ordinance authorizes additional funding for retrofitting certain existing light fixtures with light emitting diode (LED) fixtures at the Community Center. The contract work is to be done by Elysian Energy. (Voting no: Male)

RESOLUTION 2014-9

Adopted Feb. 24

Providing for an Appointment to the Tree Commission

The resolution appoints Herbert White to the Tree Commission.

RESOLUTION 2014-10

Adopted March 4

Setting a Date for the Ward 3 Special Election

The resolution sets April 8 as the date for the Ward 3 Special Election to fill the vacancy created by the passing of Kay Daniels-Cohen.

RESOLUTION 2014-11

Adopted March 17

Providing for an Appointment to the Facade Advisory Board

The resolution appoints William A. Fischer to the Facade Advisory Board.

RESOLUTION 2014-12

Adopted March 24

Recognizing Arbor Day 2014

The resolution recognizes Arbor Day 2014 to be held Saturday, April 12.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON PROPOSED FY 2015 BUDGET

The City Council will hold two public hearings on the Fiscal Year 2015 budget. The budget will be presented to the City Council on April 7.

The first public hearing will take place Monday, April 7, 7 p.m.; the second public hearing will be held on Monday, April 28, 7 p.m. Both hearings will be held in the auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center.

All interested persons should attend the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912; or clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The proposed budget will be posted online at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Notice on ADA Compliance

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services or accommodations is invited to contact the deputy city manager at 301-891-7229 or suzannel@takomaparkmd.gov at least 48 hours in advance.

Prison poets find a voice in Takoma “Write Night”

By Sandy Moore

Poet Alisha Carrington began with a story that stunned many volunteers assembled at the Seekers Church for “Write Night” in Takoma Park. Incarcerated at age 16, Alisha spent almost two and half years in solitary confinement at the D.C. Jail. She was allowed just an hour a day outside her cell: to shower, watch television, make phone calls. Before long, her thoughts turned to suicide.

Fortunately, Tara Libert, Director of the Free Minds Book Club, threw her a lifeline -- and Alisha grabbed on tight.

“Tara reached out to me,” said Alisha. “She sent me free books, and asked me questions about which character I could relate to, and what other books I’d recommend for the Book Club. It made me feel a part of something. After D.C., I was sent to prison in six different states. Free Minds stood by me, sending me their newsletter, more books, birthday cards, everything.”

Libert, a former television reporter turned activist, is co-founder of the Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop, which uses books and creative writing to transform the lives of young prisoners in the D.C. Jail. The Book Club meets twice weekly at the jail, where members discuss books that reflect their own lives, like “The Turnaround” by George Pelecanos, or “Fallen Angels” by Walter Dean Myers.

Reading a book from cover to cover is a significant achievement for many club members, who often experienced failure in school. Each member is issued a dictionary and a journal for writing. Book Club sessions also include writing exercises to encourage the young inmates to express themselves with poetry. Their poems are then shared with a wider audience at Write Night.

On February 19, when she addressed the nearly 50 volunteers gathered for Write Night, Alisha, now 23, seemed poised and confident. She read from her poem, entitled, “Whether,” including this stanza:

*Whether you ask or not ...
I will speak with conviction
Follow my truth
Lead with a purpose
Inspire our youth*

The daughter of a drug-addicted mother and a father who was in and out of prison, Alisha is determined to break the cycle of violence and chaos. She’s a student at Montgomery College in Takoma Park, and works part-time with Free Minds, arrang-



Poet Alisha Carrington, left, tells how Free Minds, a writing program for young prisoners, offered her a lifeline to the outside world while she was incarcerated. Above, Takoma Park residents and other volunteers gather to give still-incarcerated poets feedback and support at Write Night.

Photos by Stephen Bobb

ing community programs. Other former prisoners hired by Libert spoke in Takoma as well: Outreach Coordinator Sherman Justice, “Poet Ambassadors” Deante Harden and Latrae Nichols, and volunteer Damon Carrington. Like Alisha, they read powerful poems about broken families and past mistakes, as well as those full of hope for a brighter future.

Seated at wooden tables, volunteers were given a stack of poems written by current inmates. After reading, they wrote encouraging comments to the writers. Former prisoners say the community feedback inspired them to keep writing, even when they were shipped off to prison in places like Wisconsin or North Dakota. Especially if their family wasn’t good about writing, they relied on the kindness of strangers to lift their spirits.

“Reading the work of these young people is deeply moving,” said Takoma Park resident and ESOL teacher Susan Dennis. “Seeing the courageous way they carry on has had a big impact on me.”

“It’s important that they know they’re not alone, that we care, that we know they can do it,” said new volunteer Abeba Tsegaye. She was glad to hear that Free Minds offers a job readiness program to members recently released from prison. “As a business owner, I’ve seen it – kids who come in looking for work, but not able to make eye contact or express themselves.”

The Free Minds Book Club created Write Night three years ago, offering volunteers at Dupont Circle’s Pilgrim Church the chance to connect with newly released

Poet Ambassadors as well as young writers who are still behind bars. The Takoma offshoot was launched in December of last year. Organizers are hopeful that Write Night Takoma, which drew 75 volunteers at its debut in December, will happen bi-monthly for the remainder of 2014, and likely beyond.

Montgomery College faculty member Lucy Vitaliti recruited a half dozen students from the Takoma campus to participate in February’s Write Night. At the next Write Night, scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, organizers hope to have an equal number of students from Montgomery Blair High School and Sandy Spring Friends School. They also plan outreach to Takoma Park’s Victory Towers, where they aim to sign up senior volunteers.

Interested volunteers are encouraged to contact Busy Graham at grahambusy@gmail.com.

FREE MINDZ

by Michael Kemp
Poet Ambassador, Free Minds

*To have a Free Mind is to challenge
all constraints*

You have no complaints

You hold the key to your own freedom

There is no lock you cannot pick

There is no situation you cannot switch

There is no burden you cannot lift

Because your mind is meant to be opened

Like a given gift . . .

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND

NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City Council of the City of Takoma Park, Maryland proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2014, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 1.1 percent from \$1,934,374,180 to \$1,955,102,265.
2. If the City of Takoma Park maintains the current tax rate of \$0.57 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 1.1 percent resulting in \$118,150 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.5640, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The city is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The city proposes to adopt a real property tax of \$0.57 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 1.1 percent higher than the constant yield rate and will generate \$118,150 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2014, in the auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged. Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, at 301-891-7267 for further information.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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Asst. editor: Sean Gossard
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Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered

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

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.





BUILDING COMMUNITY

April is Anti-Litter Month in Takoma Park

“Your litter hits close to home.” That’s the slogan behind a new anti-litter initiative launching this month in Takoma Park.

With major state roads such as New Hampshire Avenue passing through our community and Sligo Creek (part of the Anacostia Watershed), litter is of key concern for residents, councilmembers and city staff. Through a partnership with the Alice Ferguson Foundation (AFF), the city will launch the initiative using AFF’s Trash Free Potomac outreach campaign materials with the city logo. Residents will notice banners at litter hotspots and on the city trash trucks, posters in school and community buildings and a refrigerator magnet for every home.



The Public Works Department will place additional trash and recycling receptacles at locations with a history of litter and expand collection services at high-use bus stops, heavily trafficked intersections, and commercial districts.

Additionally, businesses and community groups have been approached to keep a spot litter free by collecting litter once a month in exchange for signage recognizing their efforts. The program, dubbed Adopt-a-Spot, is patterned after the Maryland Adopt-a-Highway and Montgomery County Adopt-a-Road programs.

The Young Activists Club has signed on to keep Piney Branch Elementary School and the Community Center grounds litter

free. Advance Auto, at the corner of Eastern and New Hampshire Avenues, has agreed to maintain the area around the store.

The Young Activists Club at Piney Branch Elementary School is also organizing Trash Free Lunch day this spring. After all, the first R in the “Three ‘R’s” stands for reduce, then reuse and then recycle.

If you are looking to get your hands dirty to help make Takoma Park clean, here are two opportunities to participate:

April 5: Old Takoma Business Association, Old Takoma Clean Up

April 5 and 6: Friends of Sligo Creek, Sweep the Creek

Additional information about these activities and others can be found at: www.fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/potomac-river-watershed-cleanup.

Later this spring, residents will be encouraged to participate in Sick of Signs Week and remove signs illegally posted on utility poles, transformer boxes, bus shelters and other public property in Takoma Park. Participants will turn the signs in to be tallied and judged in a bit of friendly competition. Illegal signs include free-standing signs displayed in the public right of way and in the grassy area between the sidewalk and the curb. Signs displayed in someone’s front yard are legal and should be left in place.

To be considered in the count, the signs residents collect must be turned in to the Takoma Park Community Center at the end of the week when the signs will be tallied and judged. Prizes will be awarded for the most signs, the wackiest sign, the most colorful sign (and more) collected during the week.

To be kept up to date on when the sign collection week is scheduled, email Lucy Neher at lucyn@takomaparkmd.gov.

WARD 3 SPECIAL ELECTION

The Ward 3 City Council seat is vacant due to Councilmember Kay Daniels-Cohen’s recent death (see Takoma Park Newsletter March 2014). City law requires the seat be filled by special election if it is vacant more than 240 days before the next regularly scheduled city election. The term of office for the person elected will be from April 21 to Nov. 16, 2015.

VOTE ELECTION DAY

Tuesday, April 8, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department
7201 Carroll Ave.

EARLY VOTING

Sunday, April 6, noon – 4 p.m.

Monday, April 7, 4 – 8 p.m.

Senior Room of the Takoma Park Community Center/Computer Learning Center
7500 Maple Ave.

ELECTION INFORMATION

Voter Registration Information – You may still register and vote in this election!

To vote in this election, a voter must be a qualified voter of Ward 3 in the City of Takoma Park and must have resided within the corporate limits of the city for 21 days immediately preceding the election.

Ward 3 residents not yet registered may register at the City Clerk’s Office up to and including the day of the election.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING

Expanded voter eligibility includes residents who are 16/17 years old, on parole or probation after a felony conviction, and residents who are not U.S. citizens.

Complete election information is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov. Questions may be

addressed to Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, 301-891-7267, or jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov.

INFORMACIÓN DE ELECCIÓN

Inscripción de los Votantes – ¡Se puede registrar como votante y votar en esta elección!

Para poder votar en esta elección tendrá que ser un votante calificado en el distrito 3 y deberá haber residido en el límite corporativo de Takoma Park por lo menos 21 días inmediatamente antes del día de la elección.

VOTANTES CALIFICADOS

Se extendió la elegibilidad para poder votar en Takoma Park a residentes de 16/17 años de edad y a residentes en libertad condicional después de una condena por delito mayor.

CALIFICACIÓN DEL VOTANTE

Cualquier votante calificado del distrito 3 puede votar por medio de una boleta de voto en ausencia.

Se publicará información adicional en la siguiente dirección de la página web <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov>. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta, llame la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal, al 301-891-7214 o al 301-891-7252 través del correo electrónico jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov

Following are profiles of each of the three candidates running for the Ward 3 City Council vacancy. These were submitted by the candidates, who were limited to 150 words.

WARD 3 SPECIAL ELECTION CANDIDATES



KATE STEWART

My husband and I came to Takoma Park 20 years ago, renting on Philadelphia before purchasing a home on Elm Avenue. My priorities include revitalizing Takoma Junction, building a sustainable future, and ensuring a safe and welcoming community. As the city grows, I will provide strong leadership to ensure our community thrives. I will support

efforts such as the Community Kitchen, expanding innovative opportunities for small businesses, preserving and reinvesting in affordable housing and promoting initiatives to improve the health of the community. I will expand opportunities for young people and support programs to help seniors stay in the community as they age. My two daughters have benefited from great local public schools and I have enjoyed being an active volunteer and soccer coach. As Executive Vice-President of Advocates for Youth and a former small business owner I have experience managing a large staff, complex projects, and multi-million dollar budgets.

www.KateStewartforTakoma.com
KateStewartforTakoma@gmail.com



JEFFREY NOEL-NOSBAUM

Hi. I am Jeffrey Noel-Nosbaum and have been a Takoma Park resident nearly my entire life, always as a Ward 3 resident. I’m running to provide new and important perspectives to the Council. I’m 31 and look forward to being a generational bridge on the Council in a town many young residents are leaving. Also, I don’t own a home but instead rent my current

residence and think in a city with as many rental units as Takoma Park, a tenant’s perspective is useful on the Council. Last (but certainly not least) of all, I’m a Montgomery County employee and since Marc Elrich left for the County Council, nobody on the City Council has provided a local government employee’s view to our local government. All these factors would lead me to work with all the city’s stakeholders, not just the city’s activists.

<http://jeffnnforward3.webs.com>
JeffreyNNForWard3@gmail.com



ROGER SCHLEGEL

An Allegheny Avenue resident, I’m married with two children. I’ve taught high school English, geography and theater for 20 years. I have an MPA and have worked for local governments in D.C. and North Carolina. In recent years, I’ve helped lead the city manager selection committee, the Takoma Junction Task Force, Pinecrest Association and the

Cooperative Nursery School; and I received a 2012 Azalea Award. Focused and fair-minded, I’m good at putting people at ease and turning conflict into a productive, rather than paralyzing, situation. In my view, Ward 3 priorities include Takoma Junction revitalization, park improvements, public safety, sidewalks and street maintenance. Citywide priorities include maintaining incoming diversity, fixing the county reimbursement and adopting a goal-oriented budgeting approach. But one priority underlies and unifies all the others: setting bold, measurable objectives for reducing our ecological footprint. Please cast a vote for me on April 6, 7 or 8. Thanks!

www.robertakoma.com
roger.b.schlegel@gmail.com



BUILDING COMMUNITY

What to do about the vacant house next door

From time to time, the Code Enforcement Division receives complaints about vacant houses in the city. It is important to note that the property being vacant is in itself not a property maintenance code violation. The city will address exterior issues such as overgrowth, trash, abandoned vehicles, missing windows and peeling paint.

If exterior violations are found, the city attempts to find the owner of record for the property, but it can be difficult if the property is in pre-foreclosure, foreclosure or abandoned. A foreclosure filing does not necessarily mean the property is for sale or has been sold. There are also instances where the borrower or lender walks away.

Some of the foreclosed properties owned by banks have service companies to maintain their properties, and they are usually able to address some of the exterior violations on those properties. Many of the vacant houses remain in good condition and are well kept.

If the city is not able to find the responsible party, it can step in to board up broken or missing windows. Other issues must be resolved through the legal process and can take time, especially when the city cannot determine the responsible party.

To report vacant properties please call the Code Enforcement Division at 301-891-7255.

Greeting spring with the city's mulch

For snow-weary Takoma Park gardeners, the smell of mulch is a welcome spring tonic. Entertaining visions of abundant vegetable gardens and flower beds enriched and protected by homegrown mulch, many city residents are expected to take advantage of the city's communal mulch pile and the delivery service offered by the Department of Public Works.

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

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



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

GET THE WORD OUT!

The City of Takoma Park is on Twitter and Facebook! Keep up to date on events, news and other community info. It's a great opportunity to get the word out about your own events as well: just send an email to craigt@takomaparkmd.gov. Help us build an on-line community that supports arts and culture right here in Takoma Park!

<http://twitter.com/TakomaParkMD>
<http://facebook.com/TakomaParkMD>



Getting tenants out to vote

HOUSING MAILBOX



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

I am a landlord who recently attended the Landlord Certification Seminar that the city requires every three years for landlords, where it was mentioned that I am responsible for providing new tenants with voter registration information. What is the information I am required to provide to my new tenants and can you clarify if there is a deadline for providing the information?

A recent amendment to the city's Landlord-Tenant Law requires that landlords distribute to each new tenant of voting age (city law allows 16-year-

olds to vote in city elections) an electoral and civic information packet created and supplied by the city. This electoral and civic information packet must be provided within seven days of the beginning of a new tenancy and must include 1) a city voter registration form and a state voter registration form for tenants 16 years and older and 2) other material designated by the city regarding public services available to residents, existing laws, rules and regulations and the city electoral process.

The information can be obtained by going to www.takomaparkmd.gov, and then to Departments (at top of page) and then to City Clerk, or by contacting the city clerk's office at 301-891-7267.

Tenants or landlords with questions regarding the city's Landlord-Tenant and COLTA Laws can contact me at mosesw@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7215.



14TH ANNUAL MONTGOMERY COUNTY HOUSING FAIR AND FINANCIAL FITNESS DAY

SATURDAY

5 - 3 - 14

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

FREE Admission

\$500 Prizes
towards your rent
or mortgage!

Activity Center at Bohrer Park, Summit Hall Farm
(next to Gaithersburg High School)
506 S. Frederick Avenue, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

HOMEBUYERS CLASS - 10:00AM - 12:00PM
(MUST PRE-REGISTER 301-590-2765)

HOUSING COUNSELING AND LEGAL ADVICE

FREE CREDIT REPORTS

RENTAL RESOURCES

For more information call 240-777-3602 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DHCA

This Fair is organized by the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs in partnership with the Housing Fair Planning Committee whose members include: Asian American Homeownership Counseling; the cities of Gaithersburg, Rockville and Takoma Park; Housing and Community Initiatives; Housing Initiative Partnership; Housing Opportunities Commission; Latino Economic Development Center; Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development; Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services; Montgomery County Department of Recreation; Montgomery County Office of Human Rights and the Office of Congressman Chris Van Hollen.



The Egg Hunt event includes other fun and games, including this Find the Golden Egg hunt from last year. See right for Egg Hunt details.
Photo by Recreation Department staff

YOUTH

ART

MAKE/Shift Studio I - Art Inspirations
Ages 8 – 11
Elementary students create exciting two and three dimensional projects in this after-school class. Lessons include drawing, painting, collage, assemblage and mixed media – every class a different subject and medium.
TP Community Center Art Studio
Thursdays, April 24 – May 29, 3:45 – 5:30 p.m.
TP residents \$155
Non-residents \$175

For a full listing of Takoma Park Recreation Department programs, activities and classes, please see the 2014 Spring and Summer Guide or visit us online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.

MAKE/Shift Studio II - Drawing and Watercolor
Ages 11 – 14
Have fun learning to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual Art Center at

Albert Einstein High School.
TP Community Center Art Studio
Tuesdays, April 29 – Jun. 3, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
TP residents \$145
Non-residents \$165

Wind Chimes and Whirligigs
Ages 6 – 10
Using a combination of recycled, found and new materials, we will make wind chimes and whirligigs that will harness the wind's energy to create lively music and art.
TP Community Center Art Studio
Saturday, April 26, 10:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
TP residents \$15
Non-residents \$20


DRAMA AND THEATER

Dungeons and Dragons
Ages 9 – 18
They creep through the twilight, quiet as shadows muttering a language long forgotten, a language only spoken by ghosts. Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role playing game.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Thursdays, April 3 – May 8, 4 – 6 p.m.
TP residents \$55
Non-residents \$65

DROP IN

Kid's Night Out
Ages 6 – 12
Bring your children to the Takoma Park Recreation Center Kid's Night Out! It will involve activities such as games, art and crafts, movies and theme nights.
TP Recreation Center
First and Third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with membership card

EGG HUNT



Annual Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19, 11a.m.
Ed Wilhelm Field

Get your baskets ready and join the Takoma Park Recreation Department for an "egg" citing time! There are four age categories: 2 and under, 3 – 4 years old, 5 – 6 years old, and 7 – 8 years old.
The hunt begins at 11 a.m. SHARP!
Don't miss out. Don't forget to bring your basket to Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School) for a morning of fun.
Monday, April 21 is the rain date.

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Kindermusik – "Big Back Yard"
Ages 1 – 3
Sing and Play classes encourage toddlers to uncover an engaging musical world while building confidence, self-control and communication skills. Singing and object identification foster language skills.
Heffner Park Community Center
Wednesdays, April 23 – May 14
9:30 – 10:15 a.m.
Wednesdays, April 23 – May 14
10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Thursdays, April 24 – May 15, 10 – 10:45 a.m.
Saturdays, April 26 – May 17, 9 – 9:45 a.m.
TP residents \$75
Non-residents \$95

Kindermusik – "Dew Drops"
Ages Newborn – 1
Through a unique blend of multi-level activities that include creative movement, vocal play, object and instrument exploration, and a colorful literature component, baby's growth and development are stimulated and all senses are engaged.
Heffner Park Community Center
Wednesdays, April 23 – June 11, noon – 12:45 p.m.
Thursdays, April 24 – June 12, 9 – 9:45 a.m.
Saturdays, April 26 – June 14, 11 – 11:45 a.m.
TP residents \$165
Non-residents \$195

Kindermusik – "Down on the Ground"
Ages Newborn – 7
Bringing children of all ages together provides a dynamic and integrated learning experience for everyone. Sibling discount offered for enrollment of multiple children.
Heffner Park Community Center
Thursdays, April 24 – May 15, 11:15 a.m. – noon
Saturdays, April 26 – May 17, 10 – 10:45 a.m.
TP residents \$75
Non-residents \$95

MARTIAL ARTS

Kung Fu
Ages 4 – 16
This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise which could help the students defend themselves by strengthening hand and eye coordination. There is a onetime, non-refundable fee of \$50 paid to the instructor at the first class for uniform.
TP Community Center Dance Studio
Saturdays, April 5 – May 31
Beginners 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
Advanced 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

REGISTRATIONS UNDERWAY FOR



SPRING BREAK CAMPS!

YOUTH

Dribble, Pass and Shoot Spring Break Camp
Ages 6 – 12
Campers will be provided with excellent coaching which allows each participant to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment.
TP Recreation Center Gym
Monday – Friday, April 14 – April 18
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Standard fee: \$200

Spring Break Camp
Ages 6 – 12
Go on a scavenger hunt finding nature's little

secrets. Find out why the sun is so important and why water is essential to all living creatures. Hiking, swimming, crafts and fun!
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Monday – Friday, April 14 – April 18
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
TP residents \$140
Non-residents \$160

TEENS

Spring Break Career Week
Ages 13 – 17
During Career Week a few professionals will stop by and guide participants in exploring some of today's hottest careers. Spend the mornings with our career introductions and the afternoons attending our break away trips like: bowling, laser tag, roller skating and more. Contact Ms. Leicia at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7283. Limited spaces are available.
TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Monday – Friday, April 14 – April 18
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
TP residents: \$25/day, \$100/week
Non-residents: \$30/day, \$120/week

RECREATION

■ From page 6

TP residents \$129
Non-residents \$149

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Flag Football League 2014

Ages 6 – 14

Takoma Park Recreation Department brings you the Takoma Park Flag Football League again for its second season. There are three divisions: 6-8 years old, 9-11 years old, and 12-14 years old.

Ed Wilhelm Field

Saturdays, April 7 – May 17, noon – 5 p.m.

TP residents \$40

Non-residents \$50

Kid’s Yoga

Ages 5 – 8

Come learn yoga poses, practice mindfulness meditation and learn different types of breathing. We will play games, listen to music, tell stories and, most of all, have fun! Yoga mats will be provided.

TP Community Center Dance Studio
Thursdays, April 24 – June 12, 4 – 5 p.m.

TP residents \$80

Non-residents \$90

T-Ball League 2014

Kindergarten-1st Grade

This coed league allows girls and boys to have fun while learning the basic fundamentals of baseball. Emphasis will be on fun, learning to hit, running bases and catching. Participants must bring their own baseball gloves. Volunteer coaches are a key element of this program’s success.

Belle Ziegler Park, Ed Wilhelm or
Lee Jordan Field

Saturdays, June 7 – July 26, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

TP Residents \$60

Non-residents \$70

TEENS

DROP IN

Teen Lounge

This special room is for teens only

Ages 13 – 17 are welcome to become members to gain access to a 60-inch plasma television, Xbox 360 with games, workstations, and a comfortable sitting area for socializing with friends. A parent/legal guardian must give consent for children under age 18 to participate by signing a permission form.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge

Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 3 – 7 p.m.

Tue: 3 – 8 p.m.

Sat and Sun: closed

Teen Night

Ages 12 – 17

Come on out to a night of games, activities and more. Bring your friends for a cheap night out of the house.

TP Recreation Center

Second and fourth Fridays of the month
(on-going), 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

Free with membership card

Illumination - Photography for Beginners

Ages 13 - 17

You have the power this spring to tell the world your story using your voice, your eye and your images! You will explore shooting on-location, experiment with creative techniques and develop your eye. No experience necessary. Every student will compile a portfolio of imagery and essays that will equip them with the necessary tools to capture the lifetime of adventure ahead. Must bring own digital camera to class; point and shoot or DSLR format.

TP Community Center Lilac Room

Tuesdays, April 22 – May 27, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

TP resident: Free

Non-resident: \$25

ADULTS

ART

Collage

Ages 16 and older

Have fun working with found, purchased and altered papers, while learning how collage methods can enhance your art making process, whatever medium you use.

TP Community Center Art Studio

Tuesdays, April 22 – May 27, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

TP residents \$215

Non-residents \$245

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Adult Softball League 2014

Ages 16 and older

The Takoma Park Coed Softball League is a fun and exciting recreational program for competitive adults of all skill levels. Team registrations must contain 50 percent of TP residents to qualify for Resident Team entry fee. Roster limit is 25. All games are double headers. Individual participants will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if space becomes available on a team; you will be responsible to pay your registration and any other associated fees to that team.

Lee Jordan Field, Nolte Local Park #2,
Hillandale Park and Argyle Local Park

April 13 (seven-week season and playoffs)

Sundays, Apr. 13 – Jun. 22, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

TP Residents Team Fee: \$545

Non-residents Team Fee \$645

Aerobics: Cardio-Intense Groove and Strength

Ages 16 and older

Heart pumping and easy-to-follow, Hi-Low Aerobics flows to the beat of a great sound system. Fifty minutes of high-energy moves interspersed with moments that really make you sweat!

TP Community Center Dance Studio

Mondays, April 14 - May 19, 6:10 - 7:15 p.m.

TP residents \$65

Non-residents \$75

Jazzercise

Ages 16 and older

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

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium

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

Saturdays, 8 – 9 a.m. (on-going)

\$45 per month EFT (Easy Fitness Ticket)

\$110/8-week pass

\$25 joining fee required for EFT

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

Ladies’ Boot Camp Beginner

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 in a quick hour. Eight weeks.

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium

Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 6 – 29
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

\$45/4 weeks

Qi Gong: Five Animal Play

Ages 16 and older

Come enjoy peaceful exercises modeled after the Crane, Bear, Monkey, Deer and Tiger. Participants will develop strength, grace, flexibility, balance and healing in a relaxing group setting. You will feel its effects in your body, mind and spirit, as you find more harmony with the animals and all of nature.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

Wednesdays, April 9 – May 14, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

TP residents \$75

Non-residents \$85

Tai Chi Chuan

Ages 18 and older

Tai Chi Chuan is often referred to as moving meditation and offers many health and relaxation benefits to people of all ages. In this introductory class the focus is on tai chi principles and how they help us relax and make our bodies stronger, more flexible and more efficient.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

Thursdays, April 3 – May 29

Tai Chi Basics, 6:15 – 7:10 p.m.

The Tai Chi Form, 7:15 – 8:10 p.m.

Continuing with Tai Chi, 8:15 – 9:10 p.m.

TP residents \$75

Non-residents \$85

Yoga for Beginners (Iyengar)

Ages 18 and older

Yoga can be all about strength and flexibility, but more importantly it is about awareness and alignment. Mats and props will be provided to make each pose accessible to all levels of flexibility. Wear comfortable clothing (not too baggy) and come on an empty stomach. TP Community Center Dance Studio
Tuesdays, April 1 – May 27, 6 – 7:15 p.m.
TP residents \$125
Non-residents \$145

Yoga - Intermediate (Iyengar)

Ages 18 and older

For the Intermediate student, Iyengar Yoga takes one deeper into the poses. This Iyengar Yoga class will introduce the more advanced poses and include inversions. The class is appropriate for those who have a firm foundation on Level I (beginner’s class). Mats and props are provided.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

Tuesdays, April 1 – May 27, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

TP residents \$125

Non-residents \$145

Yoga Nidra Meditation and Relaxation

Ages 16 and older

This meditative yoga practice helps reduce stress, increases general physical and mental well-being and brings greater joy and ease into everyday life. Each student should bring their own yoga mat, a few blankets and a pillow.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

Mondays, April 28 – May 19, 7:30 – 8:45 p.m.

TP residents \$75

Non-residents \$85

Zumba

Ages 16 and older

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

TP Recreation Center front meeting room

Wednesdays 6 – 6:55 p.m. and Saturdays 9:15 – 10:15 a.m. (on-going)

April 23 – May 17

\$40/4 weeks (session)

\$10 (Drop-in)

FOREVER YOUNG: 55 PLUS

DROP IN

Bingo

Ages 55 and older

Try your luck. Win a prize.

Thursday, April 24, noon – 2 p.m.

TP Community Center Senior Room

Free

Blood Pressure Screening

Ages 55 and older

Adventist Healthcare will be doing a free monthly blood pressure screening.

RECREATION
Notes

Open House at the
Recreation Center

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Tuesday, April 8, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Did you know Takoma Park has a recreation site on New Hampshire Avenue? Join us for a fun Open House event just for adults 55 and older. Tour the gym and fitness room; join in some fun active games; or play Bingo and win a prize; enjoy yummy refreshments while you listen to some great music. A free “Forever Young” t-shirt is given to the first 25 “new” registrants. Contact Jurrel Cottman, Recreation Center supervisor, 301-891-7286, jurrelc@takomaparkmd.gov or Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, 301-891-7280, paulal@takomaparkmd.gov. The event is free.

Celebrate Takoma Vendors/
Entertainers/Volunteers Needed

The Recreation Department is beginning to plan the Second Annual Celebrate Takoma Festival for Sunday, May 18 and we need your help. We will be looking for food and merchandise vendors and local entertainers. Vendor packets are available online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/celebrate-takoma or call 301-891-7290

Trade School Expo

Ages 18 – 25

Join us for our Trade School Expo. Speak to admission counselors about possible careers in nursing, construction, computer technology, etc. Bring valid ID, social security card, high school diploma/GED certificate, resume and transcripts.

TP Community Center Azalea Room

Tuesday, April 8, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Free

Instructors and part-time staff
needed (to teach ages 11-17)

Seasonal, year round, flexible, afternoon/evening preferred

The Teen Program is seeking instructors to facilitate a variety of classes for ages 11 – 17. Current instruction is needed for drama, SAT prep – math portion, job training, dance, art, etc. Also looking for energetic part-time staff to work with teens ages 11 – 17. Staff will program activities plan/attend field trips, etc. For more information, contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.

TP Community Center Senior Room

Thursday, April 24, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Free

Open House

Ages 55 and over

Join us for a fun Open House event just for adults 55 and older. Tour the gym and fitness room, and join in some fun activities and Minute to Win It games. Play Bingo and win prizes and enjoy refreshments while listening to music.

TP Recreation Center

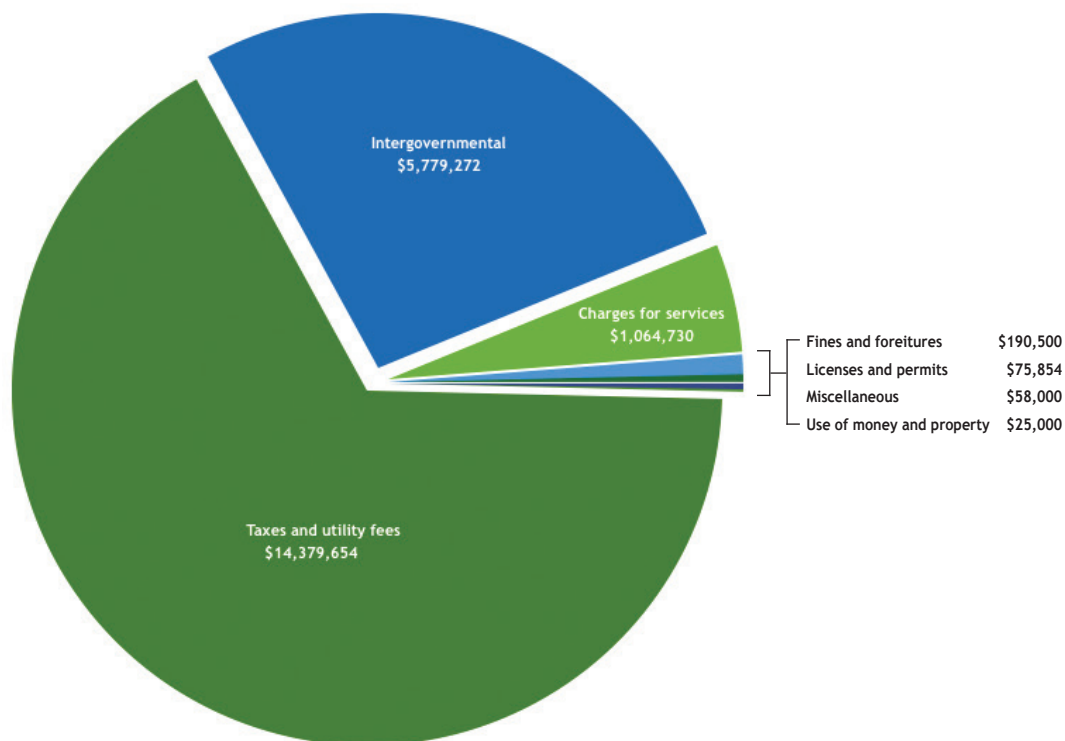
Tuesday, April 8, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Free

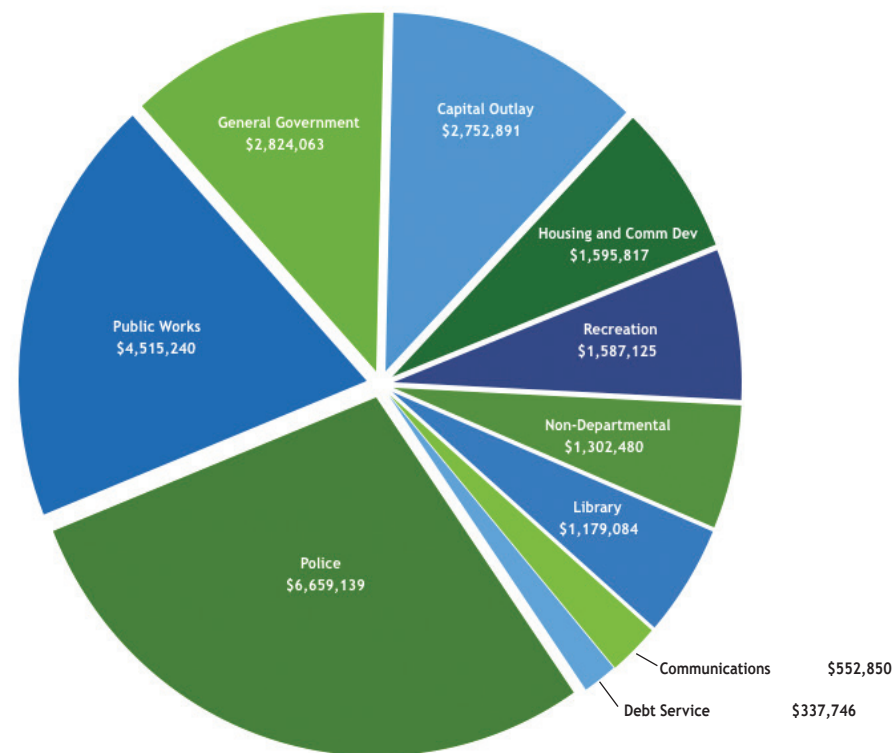


Takoma Park 2015 proposed budget

FY 2015 Proposed Revenues



FY 2015 Proposed Expenses



CITY BUDGET

■ From page 1

and realities of each department before they begin considering budget items and crunching numbers. Councilmembers also attended two retreats to hash out city priorities, and then met individually with Kenner and Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow to discuss their views on budgeting the city's money.

The resulting budget proposal, which Kenner was finalizing at press time, prioritizes economic development, environmental sustainability, quality of life and fiscal prudence. In line with the fiscal prudence priority of the council, Kenner's proposed budget presents a small decrease in expenditures: Expenditures are proposed to be \$360,000 less than last year's amended budget – a 1.3 percent reduction.

The tax rate has been proposed at 57 cents per \$100, the same as last year. Because property values have risen, that tax rate would result in \$118,150 more revenue for the city; in order to keep the tax income steady, the city would have to lower the rate to 56.4 cents.

The financial outlook

The fiscal picture for Takoma Park is much the same as the current fiscal year, with the caveat that neither Montgomery County nor the State of Maryland have finalized their budgets and elements in those budgets could have significant impacts on Takoma Park's budget.

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett's proposed FY 15 budget was released on March 17 and kept municipal tax duplication payments to Takoma Park at

FY '15 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Economic Development

- New Hampshire Avenue Economic Development (\$40,000)
- Crossroads Development Authority support (\$30,000)
- Old Town Business Association (\$30,000)
- Ethan Allen Gateway (\$253,800)
- Newly targeted grants program streamlines grants process

Environmental Quality/Sustainability

- Expansion of food waste composting to entire city (\$87,150)
- FTE sustainability coordinator (\$77,000)
- Safe Grow (\$25,000)
- Energy Action Plan (\$50,000)
- Stormwater improvements (\$591,150)
- Flower Avenue Green Street (\$356,250)

Quality of Life

- Dog park (\$50,000)
- Website resources (\$35,000)
- Library ILS system (\$50,000)
- Library design (\$50,000)
- Police station design (\$85,000)
- Summer youth employment program (\$10,000)
- Sidewalks and ADA compliance (\$1 million)
- Continued support for festivals/events

Fiscal Prudence

- Property tax rate stays at 57 cents per \$100
- Utilizing equipment replacement and facility maintenance reserves
- Funding equipment replacement reserve (\$840,000)
- Pension funding at the actuarially-recommended level (\$1,157,546)

the same amount as last year. The County Council will be considering the proposed budget through mid May and may make changes. After the budget is adopted, a working group of county and municipal representatives is to begin meeting to try to finally resolve municipal tax duplication matters and provide recommendations to the County Council's Government Operations Committee. Municipal tax duplication payment make up close to 20 percent of the city's general fund budget alone.

Small increases in payments from the State of Maryland for police aid and highway user revenue are expected this year for Takoma Park. Highway user revenue payments to municipalities remain well below

the amounts received annually through 2009; a needed correction in the formula for highway user revenue payments to municipalities has not been accomplished in the General Assembly so far this legislative session, but remains a high legislative priority for Takoma Park and other Maryland municipalities.

Other revenue sources appear to be stable for FY 15 as well. Property tax revenue is expected to stay about the same as last year, with only a slight increase expected. If the council keeps the Takoma Park tax rate at 57 cents per \$100 assessed value, as it was last year, and as the city manager proposes, the City would receive approximately \$118,000 more in FY 15 than the

\$11,025,933 expected to be received by the end of this fiscal year. According to staff at the Maryland Department of Assessments and Taxation, this is due to home and commercial improvements for which building permits have been issued.

These improvements are expected to increase the net assessable real property base in Takoma Park. To have the same amount of tax revenue from real property in FY 15, the City's tax rate would have to be lowered to 56.4 cents per \$100 assessed value. This lower rate equates to an annual reduction of \$30 in taxes for a property assessed at \$500,000 – or \$2.50 per month less.

Priority spending

Kenner's proposal aligns with the city's stated priorities, developed by the City Council earlier in the fiscal year. Among them are economic development, including new investments to help support the Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority and study of the economic development potential along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor.

Environmental sustainability is another big budget item; this category includes expansion of the food composting program, a pilot last year, to include the entire city (at a cost of \$87,150); development of Safe Grow, the new pesticide ban, that would include educational and marketing materials (\$25,000); and implementation of the sustainability action plan, including a full time sustainability coordinator, \$50,000 for special activities and a grant funded program with the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy.

After much discussion, the city may also be poised to launch a city-funded dog park, should this proposal be approved; Kenner

How the FY '14 budget compares to previous budgets

GENERAL FUND SUMMARY FY13 THROUGH FY15			
REVENUES	AUDITED FY13	ADOPTED FY14	PROPOSED FY15
Taxes and utility fees	14,650,731	14,228,000	14,379,654
Licenses and permits	79,371	72,604	75,854
Fines and forfeitures	169,526	220,300	190,500
Use of money and property	25,909	35,000	25,000
Charges for services	1,089,570	1,011,680	1,064,730
Intergovernmental	5,429,915	5,906,412	5,779,272
Miscellaneous	84,394	69,050	58,000
Total Revenues	21,529,416	21,543,046	21,573,010
EXPENSES			
General Government	\$2,340,349	\$2,818,511	\$2,824,063
Police	\$6,005,719	\$6,619,387	\$6,659,139
Public Works	\$3,803,077	\$4,433,054	\$4,515,240
Recreation	\$1,261,458	\$1,576,445	\$1,587,125
Housing and Comm Dev	\$1,267,776	\$1,714,122	\$1,595,817
Communications	\$336,324	\$441,450	\$552,850
Library	\$1,004,960	\$1,160,831	\$1,179,084
Non-Departmental	\$875,875	\$1,183,002	\$1,302,480
Capital Outlay	\$975,647	\$3,431,442	\$2,752,891
Debt Service	\$1,534,430	\$373,529	\$373,746
Total Expenditures	\$19,405,615	\$23,751,773	\$23,342,435

proposes \$50,000 be set aside for design and sitework. Other quality of life expenditures include establishing additional hours at the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center for programming, creating a new online customer entry system for city library patrons (\$50,000); and developing a pilot summer youth employment program (\$10,000).

Mindful of the city’s consistently conservative fiscal policies, Kenner also includes actuarially recommended contributions to the city-funded police pension (\$1,157,546) and the equipment replacement reserve (\$840,000). Funds for facility related design studies will come from the facility maintenance reserve, but no new contributions are proposed to that reserve this year. As recommended during last year’s budget process, city staff undertook an analysis of the equipment replacement reserve. Several changes were made regarding how it is to be calculated to ensure funds are available for replacing expensive equipment in the future. A similar review of the facility maintenance reserve is proposed for this year.

Increases for staff

Kenner’s proposed budget allows for two additional staff positions and minor hour adjustments in a number of positions, resulting in a total increase of full-time equivalent workers of 2.81. One of the positions, a sustainability coordinator, was approved by the council in October, 2014 after the FY14 budget was adopted. A second full-time position is a garden worker, to replace temporary staff used seasonally in the Department of Public Works. A half-time finance department clerk is also proposed. The garden worker will help the city comply with City Council directives regarding full-time and part-time workers, and would comply with

union contract agreements. The finance department clerk would assist the five other employees there as they begin to digitize older information and move away from paper files. This finance employee would help with filing, serve customers paying bills, run errands and cover during staff absences.

Wages for staff will be determined after union negotiations that are currently underway with the city’s two unions. A classification and compensation survey is underway and may result in reclassification or wage adjustments of some positions.

Other personnel costs include a 4.6 percent rise in health insurance, due to increased market rates; and a similar rise in worker’s compensation insurance. A position similar to this existed before the recession.

Next steps

The Takoma Park budget process is designed for resident input. A public hearing will be held the same night the budget proposal is presented to City Council, on Monday, April 7 at 7 p.m. A second public budget hearing is scheduled for April 28. In addition to the public budget hearings, all City Council budget work sessions that will occur in April will be public and all residents are encouraged to attend (see page 2 for a schedule of meetings).

The special election to fill the vacant Ward 3 Council seat will take place on April 8. Although the new councilmember will not be sworn into office until April 21, it is expected that the council will allow the incoming councilmember to participate in budget work sessions that take place before that date.

The Council will vote to adopt the final budget on May 12 and May 19.

TP CRIME

■ From page 1

creased by 22.2 percent, from 54 incidents to 42.

Larceny tallied the most incidents; Police Chief Alan Goldberg specifically stated that the department will target larcenies to bring that number down. The department is also focusing on robberies after a rash of them prompted a town meeting in February (see Takoma Park Newsletter, March 2013).

Gang violence is showing a decrease, since the Takoma Park Police began a collaborative effort with the Montgomery County Police Department’s Special Investigations Division Criminal Street Gang Unit in 2010. At that time, there was a gang-related incident in Takoma Park every 3.5 days; these incidents have declined each year since, and in 2013 there were fewer than 50 gang-related incidents within the city limits. Gang activity continues in neighborhood jurisdictions, however, and the city continues to work collaboratively to address it (see related story, page 12).

Examining the year in crime

Goldberg presented his Annual Crime Report to the City Council March 31. It includes a breakdown of crime by ward and by type; shows the origin of crimes, i.e. what percentage of suspects committing crime are from Takoma Park and how many come from other jurisdictions; the percentage of case closures; and information on internal investigations. There are descriptions of a dozen different community outreach programs such as home security surveys and the Citizens Police Academy; and statistics on the speed camera program, with numbers of citations by location and year. It also describes some of the more notable crimes that occurred in the city last year, profiles last year’s Officer of the Year and Civilian of the Year and offers other information about crime prevention and enforcement.

The police department made several technological advances this year. A complete upgrade of radio equipment is nearly finished, and will allow for more interac-

tion with law enforcement in neighboring jurisdictions, an important tool in addressing criminals who cross jurisdictional lines to escape arrest. New software has improved tracking complaints, compliments and other internal processes, satisfying the desire for more transparency in the department. An ACRS system has been implemented to complete collision reports, and a computer program called Beast is being used to track evidence and internal property.

Traffic count technology is helping police make decisions about traffic enforcement and engineering. Other technologies are described as “force multipliers,” extending officers’ capabilities with surveillance video partnerships, thermal cameras that detect suspects who are hiding, and license plate reading technology.

Other changes include an expansion of the Special Assignment Team to address crime hotspots; the hiring of three new officers; and the establishment of a new emergency management position.

Among the new laws enacted this year were the ban on cell-phone use while driving (now police can pull over drivers for this reason alone); stricter seat belt laws; and prohibitions on cyberbullying.

Trending

Trends in crime this year have been much like those in surrounding jurisdictions, says Goldberg. Among the most common crimes were thefts of electronics like cell phones and laptops, and thefts from auto, including several at gas stations. Also common were cell phone store thefts and robberies; carjackings and “jump-in” auto thefts when thieves jump in cars left running.

Looking forward, Goldberg is anticipating that two new officers will join the force in September 2014 (after completing training at the Montgomery County Police Training Academy), bringing the total number of officers to 42, which is fully staffed. Staffing is a continual challenge, says Goldberg, as officers are frequently absent due to injuries, officer-involved shootings, retirements and in-house advancements.

For a complete copy of the Takoma Park Police 2013 Annual Report, go to <http://bit.ly/1lfDSM3>.

TAKOMA POLICE COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

- Caring About Residents Everyday (CARE) ensures residents with special needs are checked on every day
- The Citizen’s Police Academy educates residents on all the functions of the police department
- Click it or Ticket raises seatbelt safety awareness each May
- A community notification email uses listserves to send crime alerts and event information
- Home security surveys are provided free, with recommendations for improvements
- House checks are available during vacation time
- National Night Out wraps safety information in a fun community event each August
- The Police Chief’s Advisory Board keeps the chief in touch with community needs through a group of volunteer Takoma Park residents and business owners
- The ride-along program allows residents to observe the daily life of a police officer
- Secure Your Property Checks reminds residents to keep their property out of view with postcard reminders
- The Take 25 Awareness Program raises awareness of child safety, with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- The Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Etching and Watch Your Car programs keep residents’ cars safe from theft

CITY Briefs

Takoma Park moves forward on Sustainability Coordinator position

Takoma Park has 128 applicants to sort through in its search for the city's first sustainability coordinator. The person hired for the position will help the city with its Sustainable Energy Action Plan, a roadmap for Takoma Park's efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions.

Following interviews with potential coordinators, the city hopes to fill the position by mid- to late April.

Additional duties for the coordinator include developing and implementing programs targeting building efficiency and transportation challenges, such as carpooling, and renewable energy projects.

Live music lights up Old Town

Several restaurants and two gathering places in Takoma Park are increasingly turning to music to liven evenings around town.

Upscale dining establishment Republic (6939 Laurel Ave.) has live music on Saturdays, an open-mic night every other Sunday and a blues night on Mondays. A list of shows can be found at www.republictakoma.com.

Carroll Café (Seeker's Church, 276 Carroll St. NW) has established itself as a go-to venue for folk music with its Second Friday series. Some upcoming acts include Lea Gilmore, Eric Byrd and Phil Wiggins playing in April, and Magpie and Bob Zentz in May. Find out what else is lined up this season at www.carrollcafe.org.

Community meeting place Electric Maid (268 Carroll St.), which opened in 2001, holds regular performances, including group jam sessions. Events span the entire week and can be found at electricmaid.org.



Annette Wasilik plays at Republic, where the music program is just one of several in Takoma Park.

Photo by John Paul Zajackowski

tricmaid.org.

Starting around 9:30 p.m. Thursdays, Roscoe's Neapolitan Pizzeria hosts live shows and plans on adding shows to Saturday nights as well. For a list of upcoming acts, visit the pizzeria's Facebook page. In Takoma, D.C., Takoma Station offers a full slate of live music, including jam sessions on Tuesday (see www.takomastation.com).

And once Busboys and Poets opens in the Takoma Central building at Maple and Carroll Avenues, there will be another music venue/eatery to choose from.

For a host of musical events, including those produced by the city's We Are Takoma program and others from the Institute of Musical Traditions, see the Takoma Park Newsletter calendar on the back page or our arts coverage on page 12.

African American health fair at MC

The African American Health Program (AAHP) Executive Committee and its partner organizations will host its first Community Day event on Saturday, April 19 at Montgomery College's Takoma Park campus' Charlene R. Nunley Student Services Center, 7625 Fenton Street.

The event will kick off with a Men's Health and Wellness Walk at 9:30 a.m. and activities will run noon – 4 p.m. The event highlights health issues common among the African American population. Keynote speaker is Dr. Griffin Rodgers, director of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases; activities include cooking demonstrations, group fitness demonstrations, screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, body mass index and vision, free HIV testing and health information booths. Children's activities include science demonstrations.

The event is free. For more information, see <https://aahpcommunityday2014.eventbrite.com>.

Requests for proposals, April 14 deadline

The City of Takoma Park Maryland is seeking a qualified and experienced organization to administer its Emergency Assistance Fund, providing financial assistance to income eligible residents for documented housing, healthcare, food, transportation and other basic human needs. Bids must be received by 3:30 p.m. Monday, April 14. Additional information may be found online at takomaparkmd.gov/bids-and-contracts or by contacting Moses A. Wilds Jr. at 301-891-7215.

The city also is seeking a qualified firm or individual(s) to provide services for the Tenant Capacity Building Initiative, providing needed technical assistance to residential tenants in organizing and maintaining tenant associations and in the purchase of rental facilities by registered tenant associations. Bids must be received by 3:30 p.m. Monday, April 14. Additional information may be found online at takomaparkmd.gov/bids-and-contracts or by contacting Linda Walker at 301.891.7222.

Village Rides connects seniors and volunteers

By Wolfgang J. Mergner and Marge Tolchin

About two years ago, seniors from several different neighborhoods in Takoma Park started meeting on a monthly basis to discuss the needs of the baby boomer (and older) residents in our community. They asked themselves and each other: What supports do seniors need to stay independent as long as possible? What kinds of everyday tasks get harder as we age?

The group identified transportation as a major problem.

For many Takoma Parkers, accomplishing everyday activities – doctor visits, shopping or social events – without being able to drive is close to impossible. There are Ride-On buses, but the stop may be a half-mile walk from home. After that walk and ride, a change of buses might be necessary to get to the destination. Carrying groceries and other packages on the way home is another difficult ordeal. Taxis and private car services can take a big bite out of a small fixed income.

In order to address the transportation issue as well as many others, various Takoma Park neighborhoods agreed to work together as a new organization called the Village of Takoma Park, and become part of what is now a national movement: neighbors working together to help each other.

The Village of Takoma Park is one of five Montgomery County Villages included in a grant written jointly by the Jewish Council for the Aging and The Senior Connection and funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation. These two organizations have agreed train and coordinate volunteer drivers in Takoma Park to assist those who need a ride.

For example: Let's say Bill and Susan are two residents who volunteer for Village Rides. The Village of Takoma Park interviews them and they agree to a background check and Motor Vehicle Driving check. Bill and Susan then receive instructions about providing transportation for their senior neighbors from the Jewish Council on Aging. Importantly, the grant provides additional liability insurance for Bill and Susan and all the other volunteers. The Jewish Council for the Aging makes the connection between drivers and senior riders. Requesters call the Village Rides office to schedule a ride. Rides are provided, as long as volunteer drivers are available. It's that simple.

There is one problem: the Village of Takoma Park needs volunteer drivers. The time commitment is up to the individual driver, be it once a day, once a week or once a month. Every hour of volunteer time will help a neighbor simply conduct the business of an active life.

Village Rides needs volunteer drivers

To learn more
contact Wolfgang Mergner
wolfgang.mergner@gmail.com

Popular running event tailored to diverse crowd

The Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K, now in its sixth year, has made it to the big leagues. Sanctioned by USA Track and Field, the event is now organized according to established competition rules for safety, timing and record keeping, and benefits from national recognition.

This year, the race extends the challenge to runners with strollers. To accommodate what has always been a striking mix of young runners and seasoned runners – in 2013, twelve 6-year-old runners completed the 5K – the race will also feature a staggered start for added safety.

Here is how it works:

8 a.m. Wave 1: 10-minute mile and faster

8:03 a.m. Wave 2: Over 10-minute mile and runners with strollers, in the back.

8:06 a.m. Wave 3: Walkers

The one-mile fun run and the ¼ mile youth run will follow at 9 a.m. and 9:15

a.m., respectively.

Throughout the registration process, random prize drawings will be held to raffle off gift cards and promotions from local businesses. The earlier you register, the greater your chances of winning.

Post-race activities include refreshments, demonstrations, sponsor information, giveaways and activities to learn best practices for staying safe while walking to school, which is the primary purpose of the race.

All five participating schools offer an afterschool run club for students to prepare for the race. Clubs range in size from 20 to 105 participants and meet from three to eight weeks before the race date. Students from Takoma Middle School have volunteered to help out at the elementary school level.

All race proceeds fund PTA programs at Piney Branch, Takoma Park, East Silver Spring and Rolling Terrace Elementary Schools and Takoma Park Middle School. Schools have used the funds to purchase equipment for indoor and outdoor recess, healthy snacks, after school



Sunday, May 4, 2014
8 a.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
www.TKPK5K.com

club scholarships and P.E. equipment.

Online registration is open until April 30 at www.tkpk5k.com. Registrants can also sign up at Packet Pick Up at City Sports Silver Spring on Saturday, May 3 from 2 – 6 p.m. or on race day starting at 7 a.m. Mail-in registration forms are available online and at the Community Center.

Nine indicted for gang-related crimes

Takoma Park connection prompts local police involvement

Nine individuals have been indicted by a federal grand jury in connection with La Mara Salvatrucha, or MS-13 gang crimes in the Montgomery County/Prince George's County area, including in Takoma Park.

The crimes they are accused of are heinous: planning and committing murders, attempted murders, assaults and robberies in Montgomery and Prince George's Counties; extorting high school students and brothel operators, tampering with witnesses and obstructing justice, among other crimes.

One of the facets of the case was handled by a member of Takoma Park's Criminal Investigations Division, and the department's Special Assignment Team (SAT) and patrol division assisted with the investigation over the course of two years.

The defendants charged are: Jorge Enrique Moreno-Aguilar, aka "Flaco" and "Castigato," age 20, of District Heights, Md.; Juan Alberto Ortiz-Orellana, aka "Chele" and "Furia," age 25, of District Heights; Melvin Marquez-Sanchez, aka "Demente," age 19, formerly of New York; Carlos Beltran-Flores, aka "Joker," age 22, of Hyattsville, Md.; Francisco Hernandez, aka "Chicle," age 20, of Silver Spring, Md.; Wilmer Argueta, a/a "Chengo" and "Happy," age 21, of Hyattsville; Eric Antonio Mejia-Ramos, aka "Flaco," age 20, of Hyattsville; Minor Perez-Chach, aka "Minor Chach-Perez," "Little Bad" and "Bryant Sacarias, age 23, of Hyattsville; and Miguel Angel Manjivar, aka "Garra" and "Masflow," age 21, of

Hyattsville.

The indictment was returned on March 7. All of the defendants are in custody.

"Our investigation revealed that MS-13 is an enterprise that participates in criminal acts, such as murder, attempted murder, violent assaults, witness intimidation and retaliation, and extortion," said Homeland Security Investigations (ICE) Baltimore Special Agent William Winter, one of many law enforcement agents involved in the case. "HSI special agents will continue to work with our local, state and federal law enforcement partners to

in the head. On February 23, 2013, defendant Perez-Chach and another MS-13 member murdered a person believed to be a former MS-13 member who had testified in federal court against several MS-13 members in a prior federal racketeering prosecution in Maryland, attacking him with a knife and machete.

From January 2011 to December 2012, Manjivar, Hernandez, Beltran-Flores, Mejia-Ramos and other MS-13 members are alleged to have planned and/or participated in the attempted murder of four individuals believed to be affiliated with rival gangs including the 18th Street

"MS-13 participates in murder, violent assaults, witness intimidation and retaliation and extortion."

— William Winter

target MS-13 members and other transnational criminal street gangs that are a rising public safety threat in our communities."

MS-13 is an international gang composed primarily of immigrants or descendants from El Salvador. Branches or "cliques" of MS-13, one of the largest street gangs in the United States, operate throughout Prince George's County and Montgomery County, Maryland.

The 12-count indictment alleges the following murders: On Jan. 10, 2011, defendant Manjivar and several other MS-13 members repeatedly stabbed two individuals believed to be affiliated with the rival 18th Street Gang, killing one and attempting to kill the other. On Aug. 28, 2012, defendant Mejia-Ramos and others murdered a woman believed to be a rival gang member, by shooting her

Gang, Adelphi Crew, Latin Kings and Lewisdale Crew. One of these victims was targeted for murder to prevent him from testifying at trial in the Circuit Court for Prince George's County against defendant Argueta.

Additionally, the indictment alleges that Hernandez, Beltran-Flores, Argueta and other MS-13 members threatened to kill a fellow gang member unless he paid them a weekly or bi-weekly "rent" or "tax," which gang members collected from the victim from at least March to November, 2011. Five others are alleged to have been assaulted, including one victim who was stabbed with a butterfly knife.

An indictment is not a finding of guilt. An individual charged by indictment is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at some later criminal proceedings.

Security activities include drug take-back, VIN etching

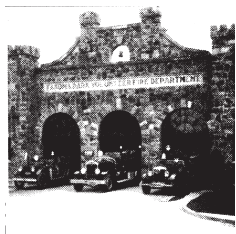
The Takoma Park Police Department will offer a drug take-back program, anti-theft vehicle etching, an auto security program and other security information at an event on Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Community Center.



The day is designated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. Police will collect expired, unused and unwanted prescription drugs, no questions asked. The campaign is designed to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding households of potentially dangerous medications. Residents can bring unwanted prescriptions to collection boxes in the first floor police lobby of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Prescription, over-the-counter and pet medications will be accepted.

At the same time, police will be etching identifying information onto vehicles. This Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) program involves permanently inscribing a number onto the glass panes of a vehicle. These etchings have proven to be vehicle-theft deterrents, as criminals tend to avoid vehicles that have been etched; it is harder for "chop shops" to make profit off of VIN-etched vehicles. Participants can also enroll in Takoma Park's Watch Your Car program on this day. The program uses identifying decals affixed to residents' vehicles, so that police can then recognize the vehicles, check their records, and determine whether unauthorized drivers are operating them.

In addition to the prescription take-back, VIN and Watch Your Car services, Saturday will also feature safety/emergency information from the Emergency Preparedness Committee and a coat drive for the needy. Bring gently used coats to the first floor police lobby of the Community Center. For more information, contact Catherine Plevy at 301-891-7142 or cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov.



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Feb. 28, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 109 fire-related incidents in

2014. The department addressed or assisted with 453 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 562. Totals for 2013 were 105 and 474, representing a decrease of 17 incidents.

During the month of February 2014, the Takoma Park Volunteers put in a total of 1,031.5 hours of standby time at the station, compared to 934 in February 2013. Grand totals as of February 2014 are 2,370 hours, compared to 2,121.5 hours in 2013, a decrease of 248.5 hours.

Maryland fire deaths update

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of Mar. 17, 2014,

16 people have died in fires, as compared to 25 in 2013.

Spring cleaning for fire safety

When spring arrives it will be the time to rake your yard and plant some flowers. It will also be the time to rid your home of potential fire hazards. Check your basement, attic, closets and other storage areas, remove old newspapers, paints and flammable liquids, solvents, oily clothes, wood scraps, magazine stock piles, boxes, clothes, wrappings and other menaces. And probe the yard, too, for old tires, piles of overage wood, brush and dead grass and other unwanted rubbish.



IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Takoma Park Police Dispatcher
301-270-1100

Montgomery County Crisis Center
(24 hrs/7days a week)
240-777-4000

Montgomery County Government Information
240-777-1311

THE ARTS

we are takoma

The events on this page, unless otherwise noted, are part of the We Are Takoma series sponsored by the City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Commission and take place at the Takoma Park Community Center. For more information and a complete schedule of events, see www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

Uprooted Dance innovates outside the stage

Saturday, April 19
7:30 p.m.
Suggested \$10 donation

After stops at the Atlas Theater on H Street in D.C. and at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, Uprooted Dance is coming to the Takoma Park Community Center to perform.



Founded by Keira Hart-Mendoza, the company explores performance and dance settings apart from the proscenium stage—in fact, the opening performance will occur in the atrium of the Community Center, not in the auditorium. That's not surprising for a group that began its first creative season outside at a barn in Madison County, Va. on a cold December night in 2007.

Uprooted's work can best be described as a visual feast of color, shape and design. The company will perform along with Taiko drummer Mark H. Rooney, to present a modern dance piece which explores the rules of board games.

Bawdy concert dishes dirty ditties

Saturday, April 12
7:30 p.m.
Suggested \$15 donation

The Bawdy Crew is back for a raucous romp through centuries of dirty ditties. These master balladeers will be performing naughty songs that have come down from medieval brothels, pubs, tall ships, British music halls, the army, the schoolyard and wherever such songs are sung.

The audience is invited to sing along on some lusty choruses, or just listen and enjoy. The Bawdy Crew features Miss Regina Dentata (aka Jennifer Cutting), Miss Lucy Snatch (aka Riki Schneyer), Cornelius "Connie" Lingus (aka Steve Winick) and Long John Skivee (aka Craig Williams). This wildly popular group has been performing together for five years and almost every show has sold out.

Pirate and Renaissance Faire garb welcome. Regular street clothes are fine, too.

Warning: Adults only. Do not attend if offended by sexually explicit material. Concert will contain profanity.



Beau Soir Ensemble combines flute, harp and violin

Thursday, April 24
7:30 p.m.
Suggested \$10 donation

The Beau Soir Ensemble is a flute, viola and harp trio dedicated to the performance of standard and contemporary

repertoire spanning a variety of genres. Founded in 2007 as a flute and harp ensemble, the group added a violist in 2011 to include more contemporary and diverse repertoire.

Recent performances include the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage, the Walters Museum in Baltimore and Dumbarton House. They are also regularly featured performers for the Harman Center for the Arts Wednesday at Noon Series in Washington, D.C.



American History through Film

American Artifacts
Tuesday, April 8
7:30 p.m.
Free

Rosenwald Schools
Tuesday, April 29
7:15 p.m.
Free

Two film events this month that feature noteworthy stories from American history will be presented by local icons from the film scene.

On Tuesday, April 8 Mike Mashon, head of the Moving Image Section of the Library of Congress, and C-SPAN's Richard Hall present some of the earliest films in the Library of Congress collection, dating back to Thomas Edison's camera tests

Belgian guitarist kicks off U.S. tour in Takoma Park

Wednesday, April 16
7:30 p.m.
Suggested \$10 donation

Having only toured the U.S. once in 2006, Ignatz returns in April for a seven-city tour of the mid-Atlantic states, with his first stop at the Takoma Park Community Center. Ignatz is the stage name for Belgian guitarist Bram Devens, an ode to the vicious mouse in the early 20th century comic strip Krazy Kat.

Ignatz's most recent music features a lo-fi sensibility and pure analog guitar. Reverb laden, down-n-out, and raw as a Charlie Patton fretboard, the guitar meanders through each song accompanied by Ignatz' vocals, in English.

The event will open with several films by avant-garde director Maya Deren. Known as the "Mother of the Trance Film," Deren made a handful of black and white movies, mostly silent, during the 1940s and early 1950s. Ignatz and guests will accompany the films, including *Meshes of the Afternoon* (1943) and *At Land* (1944). A panel discussion and Q & A will follow, then Ignatz will perform a solo set of his original music.

in 1891 and progressing through Birth of a Nation.

And on Tuesday, April 29, local filmmaker Aviva Kempner will screen her documentary-in-progress about Julius Rosenwald's crusade to build black schools in the 1910s through 1930s, including one in Takoma Park. The film is presented by Historic Takoma. Prior to the screening will be a performance by the Takoma Park Community Band (see page 15) featuring songs by African American composers. *Note: This event was originally scheduled in February but was canceled due to snow.*

Vocalist Lisa Moscatiello presents blues, jazz and more

Saturday, April 6
7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
Suggested \$10 donation

Though Lisa Moscatiello is most often categorized as a folk vocalist (she regularly performs with OCEAN orchestra) she is known for her versatility and range, has appeared on



stage singing the music of Scottish fiddler Johnny Cunningham in a production by the avant-garde theatre group Mabou Mines, and is featured on recordings by the Washington, D.C.-area electronica band, Arthur Loves Plastic. Her performance at the Community Center will feature a mix of Celtic, blues, jazz and even a little opera. She will be accompanied by Chris Noyes.

Takoma Park Community Band celebrates 40 years of fellowship



By Rick Henry

When the members of the Takoma Park Community Band perform at the group's 40th Anniversary Concert on Saturday, April 26 at 1:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, the focus, as it always is, will be on harmony.

There may be a sour note or two, but that's OK, current members say. What is more important than technical proficiency, and what has sustained the band for all of these years, is the harmony between the members – young and old, professionals and students, seasoned musicians and newcomers. That's because the group, unlike most community bands, does not require members to audition or to possess a certain skill level. Rather, it is a band where people can "learn on the job," according to band president Ryle Bell.

That has been the case since the group was formed 40 years ago by Crofton L. M. (Roy) Corbin, a trumpet player originally from Barbados in the West Indies who moved to Maryland after attending the Royal College of Music in England. In the early 1970s, Corbin became involved in a music program designed to support both Takoma Park Elementary School and Montgomery Blair High School students. That led to the formation of an adult band.

One of Corbin's Blair students, French horn player Roy Holzle, was one of the first to sign up for the newly formed community band. Forty years later, he is still a member, and credits the band for providing him with both a musical education and a social outlet.

"If it hadn't been for the band I wouldn't still be playing the French horn, but it's



Conductor Gerald Younger, top, leads rehearsal one Monday night last month. Clarinetists include, from left, Robert Palian, Joseph Gaffney and Tara O'Dowd.

Photos by Virginia Myers

been a regular thing every Monday night [the band's practice night] for the last 40 years," Holzle says, adding that the social aspect of playing and interacting with other members has been an equally important reason he has continued to participate.

Soon after Corbin established the band, the Takoma Park City Council passed an ordinance to adopt it as the official band of the city, and it was renamed the Takoma Park Municipal Band. At a later date, in order to reflect the band's involvement in the community and the city, the name was changed to the Takoma Park Community Band. Since its formation, the city has allowed the band to practice for free every Monday night at the Hefner Center, a commitment members say is instrumental in helping sustain the band's longevity and success.

The band's mission, to connect musicians of all ages and abilities and provide

free music to the Takoma Park community, hasn't changed since.

"We take musicians from anywhere and any skill level," Bell said. "This band is great for people who are just learning or played back when they were young or in college."

People like Phil Friend, of Takoma Park, who joined the band six years ago. After receiving saxophone lessons from his wife as a birthday present, Friend practiced at home and then worked up the courage to join the band.

"The first half-year was very difficult, daunting and almost embarrassing," he said. "But everyone was so nice and encouraging, that there was no question that I would stay on."

He is glad he did.

"Once I joined the band, there was a huge improvement in my musicianship. I wasn't going to get any better playing by myself," he said. "There is something

Takoma Park Community Band 40th Anniversary Concert

Saturday, April 26, 1:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

about playing with other musicians that makes you perform better."

Irwin Duetscher, at 90 the band's oldest member, agrees.

Deutscher, a clarinetist, learned to play his instrument after he retired and moved to D.C. In 1986, he and several friends were playing together and decided to join the Takoma band. He has been a continuous member ever since and says he plans to continue playing with the band, "as long as my fingers work and my mouth can blow."

Thirty-year-old Shannon Skowronski, the youngest member of the band, came to the band under similar circumstances. She had played the oboe for many years, but set it aside as she pursued a Master's degree. When she moved to the area from Michigan, she picked up the instrument again, and when she searched for community bands, the Takoma group came up.

"What was attractive about it was that there was no audition," she said, noting that there are often only one or two oboes in a band, making it difficult to earn a spot through a competitive process.

As the Takoma Band's sole oboist, she said she enjoys not only the supportive atmosphere fostered by other members, but the band's varied repertoire, which ranges

CALENDAR

Circle Time

Every Tuesday.

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

Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday

10:30 a.m. with Señora Geiza

American Capitalism

Sundays at 12:30 p.m. through May 11

Computer Room B

Discussion for those taking the free online class offered by Cornell University through edX. Edward E. Baptist, co-teacher of this on-line course, may participate in the discussion at some future date- either by Skype or in person.

Registration encouraged at tinyurl.com/tpamcap

"Boys Camp" Author Event

Saturday April 5, 2 p.m.

We'll do a craft and author Kitson Jazynka will sign books

Graphic Novelist Danica Novgorodoff

Monday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.

Novgorodoff will discuss her new book, "The Undertaking of Lily Chen"

Best for teens and adults

Comics Jam

Tuesday, April 8, 4 p.m.

Comics guru Dave Burbank runs our monthly comics book club

No registration required

Kids Poetry Fun

Tuesday, April 8, 7 p.m.

Led by local poets Rosanne Singer and Liz Rees

Best for ages 5 up; registration encouraged

Friends Reading Group

Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.

Our book is "The Good Lord Bird" by James McBride.

TP Community Center; all welcome

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Saturday, April 12, 10:30 a.m.

Singing and rhyming in French with Madame Marie

Registration highly encouraged so participants can get programming updates

Pirates and Mermaids: Crafts and Stories

Saturday, April 12, 2 p.m.

Dress up as a pirate or mermaid if you want!

Ages 4 and up; registration encouraged

The Iliad

Tuesdays, April 16 and May 7

Discussions continue; all are welcome

TP Community Center

Friends Annual Meeting

New date, Wednesday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.

With Armando Trull

All welcome

Favorite Poem Evening

Tuesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome (See article, page 15)

Warhol

Beginning Sunday, April 27, 2 p.m.

Discussion for those taking the free online course

Computer Room B

Craft Workshop

Sunday, April 27 16, 2 p.m.

Make flower crowns and Mother's Day crafts

Ages 8 up

Author/Illustrator Maira Kalman

Saturday, May 10, 1 p.m.

Kalman will discuss her new kids' book, "Thomas Jefferson: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Everything" and her illustrations for a new adult book, "Food Rules," written by Michael Pollan

Book signing will follow

LIBRARY



Library integrates books and computers

By Patti Mallin

Ever wonder why the city's public computer center is part of the Takoma Park Library? On a typical day, here's what happens.

A patron comes to the circulation desk, requests today's Washington Post, and makes himself at home in a comfy chair to read the paper. Another comes to the Senior Room, settles in at a computer station and checks the weather, the headlines, and searches for more details about that story on NPR this morning.

A recent immigrant checks out a TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) study guide from the library, comes to Room A and learns how to find additional study guides and even sample tests online through the Library's web site. There, he or she could also connect to the Mango language learning program which native English speakers can also use to learn, or practice, a number of other languages. That same person may return another day for help downloading and completing immigration or travel documents from the State Department.



Unemployed patrons who used to rely on job listings in the paper, now spend time scouring career web sites, Craigslist, and employment listings on company sites, often with the help of Computer Center staff. Most job applications now must be completed and submitted online, even when the job itself does not require computer skills, so staff are often called upon to assist with the process. It is cause for celebration, albeit at library-appropriate noise levels, when one of the "regulars" pops his

or her head in the computer center office to say we haven't seen them for a few days because they did in fact get that job.

Wave after wave of students come into the library as schools let out – first the high schoolers, then the Takoma Park Middle School kids, and finally the Piney Branch and Takoma Elementary students. They head to the children's room to read graphic novels or the next book in that YA series they love, look for books full of ideas for science projects, or grab a table with their friends to get a start on their math homework. Others pair up with a buddy in Computer Room A to play games, locate and print copyright-free photos for that science project from the library's Image Quest subscription, or type up an essay or report. And that math homework? If it leads to the conclusion that more practice is in order, Math Smart on the library web site is there for students through eighth grade. Whether staffing the desk in the library or staffing the computer center, one might be asked a grammar question, a research question or "Does this sound right to you?"

After work, patrons may run into the

BOOKS AND COMPUTERS □ Page 15



Circle Time regulars Cherry Hunsaker-Clark and son Xavier, 4, take some time out for stories at the library.

Photo by Selena Malott

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Gear up

Camp local! Gear up for summer fun at the Takoma Park Maryland Library with a special event on Saturday, April 5 at 2 p.m., featuring Kitson Jazynka, author of "Nate's Story," the second book in Takoma Park's own "Boys Camp" book series. Jazynka will read from her book and take questions from the audience; boys and girls will create their own mini camp, complete with map, free mini-compass or treat, and even a new camp song. Copies of "Nate's Story" and "Zack's Story," the first books in the series, will be available for sale, courtesy of Politics and Prose Bookstore. The local founders of the "Boys Camp" series, Ann Hendrix-Jenkins and Valerie Tripp, will be on

hand to help. Our mini-camp getaway is free and open to the public, and no purchase is required to attend.

Illustrate it

On Saturday, May 10 at 1 p.m., acclaimed author/illustrator Maira Kalman will discuss her new kids' book, "Thomas Jefferson: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Everything" and the illustrations she's created for the recently-updated version of "Food Rules," written by Michael Pollan. Kalman's illustrations have graced the cover of the New Yorker magazine, and she wrote two popular, illustrated blogs for the New York Times. Kalman also has written numerous books for kids, teens and adults. Kalman's most recent books will be for sale at the May 10 event, courtesy of Politics and Prose Bookstore. But our event, which will take place in the Community Center Auditori-

um, is free and open to the public, and no purchase is required to attend. Registration encouraged; to register, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents or call us at 301-891-7259.

Opposites attract

Has the cold winter got you thinking about the hot summer? Have the dark mornings made you yearn for longer days of light? Our world is full of opposites, and poets Elizabeth Rees and Rosanne Singer will offer a poetry workshop with movement, writing and art about opposites on Tuesday, April 8, at 7 p.m. We'll hear poems about the beauty of fast and slow, young and old, to inspire us, and then we'll try our own opposites to celebrate in words and art. Our program is great for kids ages 5 and up. Come join us for this hands-on celebration of National Poetry Month.

Poetry pops up on the city's streets and in the library

By Merrill Leffler

Spring is upon us and so too is Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park, the city's unique poetry walk: large colorful posters of poems (13 x 19 inches) framed and planted along Carroll Avenue, locations on New Hampshire Avenue, in city parks, and at the library and Community Center. Since 2007, new posters have been blossoming each April, thanks to an ongoing collaboration between the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library and Montgomery College's School of Art and Design.

Conceived by the Friends of the Takoma Park Library, Spring for Poetry became a reality because Montgomery College professor Andrea Adams saw the project as a real-world opportunity for her second-year design students. In these last eight years, her students have designed and produced nearly 120 posters that we've had out on the street between April and October.

A committee of poets makes each year's poetry selection which has included poems from the United States, Central and South America, Great Britain, Europe, Asia and Africa. Some poems will be familiar – from 19th century poets such as



Spring for Poetry posters will begin appearing this month all over town, including at the Takoma Langley Crossroads.

William Blake, William Wordsworth, Emily Dickinson and Walt Whitman to 20th century poets like Robert Frost, Langston Hughes, Elizabeth Bishop and e.e. cummings, and many contemporary poets like the late Frank O'Hara and Lucille Clifton, as well as Charles Simic and Billy Collins. You can find them all with PDFs of the posters on the Friends website: www.ftpml.org/poetry/PoemsByAuthor.htm.

[ftpml.org/poetry/PoemsByAuthor.htm](http://www.ftpml.org/poetry/PoemsByAuthor.htm).

You can also see a video of the process by City TV. It begins with selecting poems, presenting the project to Montgomery College students, and it includes striking interviews with students and Professor Adams, at <http://bit.ly/1dA9oEt> (go to the 12-minute mark).

At the Friends web site, www.ftpml.org.

org, let the Friends know what you think about Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park. Are there posters you find especially appealing? Are there poems you'd like the committee to consider next year?

And there's more: organizers will be reading this year's poems at the Takoma Park Farmer's Market on Earth Day, **April 27 from 11 a.m. to noon**. Visitors are welcome to read a poem or two, themselves.

Also, on **Tuesday April 8**, the Takoma Park Library will hold a **special poetry workshop** for kids, led by local poets Rosanne Singer and Liz Rees. This workshop is best for kids 5 and up – registration is encouraged.

And, finally, the Library's **Favorite Poem Evening** is an opportunity to read your own favorites, on **Tuesday, April 22**. Choose a published poem that is one of your favorites. Send its title and author along with your name and generic occupation, for inclusion in a printed program, to Ellen Robbins at the library ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov by April 18. Whether you read or not – please attend and bring your friends and neighbors. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library, and all are welcome.

40 YEARS OF BAND

■ From page 13

from classical to jazz and swing to pop tunes and marches.

A particular highlight for her is the concerts the band performs in conjunction with Black History Month. "We do a lot of traditional jazz and blues songs at those, which is very unique for a community band," she said.

In addition to its Black History Month shows, the band plays several shows at senior and community centers during the holiday season and participates annually at many city functions, including the Halloween parade, the House and Garden Tour, Takoma Park Play Days and the city's Independence Day parade and fireworks show, a tradition that goes back to the group's original days.

There have also been a few prestigious gigs over the years, Holzle said, recalling a performance at the State Department for the Ambassador of Guyana and a garden party at the British Embassy for the



Trumpet players, left to right, Alvon Lewis, Charles Hines, Jr. and Matt Vross rehearse with the rest of the band for several upcoming shows.

Photo by Virginia Myers

queen's birthday, complete with strawberries, Devonshire cream and champagne.

While the 40th anniversary show may not live up to those lofty standards, it does represent a historic milestone and gives local residents a chance to show their appreciation for a unique institution that Friend points out has given much to the

community over 40 years.

"Takoma Park has a strong musical legacy, particularly when it comes to styles like folk music," he said. "But the community band has added a lot to the musical narrative as well. The Takoma Park music scene is more than just fiddles and guitars."

BOOKS AND COMPUTERS

■ From page 14

library to pick up a tax form, or stop in Room A to print out this year's return that they completed online from home. Families planning vacations select travel books from the library's collection and then research fares and reserve lodging via the public computers. Upon their return they might come to us to learn about editing and then uploading their photos to Facebook.

Just as library staff help patrons navigate

the stacks and catalog or find just the right book, computer center staff coach patrons on setting up free email accounts, using free online tools like Google drive and translator, and learning how to tell if a web site or email is indeed too good to be true. One library staffer may be the go-to person for recommendations on mysteries and another for the latest, greatest audiobook for that upcoming road trip. In the computer center one might find someone to answer that SmartPhone question or suggest ways to decide on the right laptop.

In the same way the library provides different spaces for different needs, so does

the Computer Center. When patrons 55 years old and up want to check on their stocks, catch up on email, dabble in some online community organizing, order a book or a train ticket or play games online, they head to the four work stations in the Senior Room. Any adult patron looking for a quiet place to focus on their computer work is welcome in Room B. Kids, joint projects or phone calls? Room A.

In this world of expanding knowledge and information and entertainment needs, the library expands right through the double doors into the public computing center.

SPRING EVENTS

■ From page 1

Historic Takoma, includes a range of architecturally significant homes and beautiful gardens, including some with creative renovations and additions.

This year's tour is designed to reflect the evolution of Takoma Park from the 1880s through post-World War II. It also highlights some familiar characters who played prominent roles in the heritage of the area: B.Y. Morrison of azalea fame grew up on this street, Sam Abbott raised his family here while organizing the anti-freeway fight and Frances Phipps restored several houses along this street in addition to the Cady Lee Mansion, just around the corner. The collection of woodcarvings in Lew Morris' yard are the work of Jim Calder and also reflect the spirit of Holly Avenue.

Visitors may ride the free Art Hop trolley to the start of the House and Garden Tour, at the Cady Lee Mansion, 7064 Eastern Ave. NW (at the corner of Eastern and Piney Branch) to purchase admission tickets (\$20) and pick up tour maps. Advance tickets (\$18) go on sale beginning April 1 at designated shops around Old Takoma and online. For more information, see www.historictakoma.org or call 301-270-2831.

Earlier on Sunday, the Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K sets off beginning at 8 a.m. The annual event helps fund programs that focus on pedestrian and bike safety. For more information, see page 4 or go to www.tkpk5k.com.

A free Art Hop Trolley will connect each of the three events as well as sites on the Art Hop. It will be available both days.

APRIL '14

Do you have an item for the city calendar?

Let us know if you have a non-profit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the May issue is April 21 and the newsletter will be distributed beginning May 2.

To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov. "TP Community Center" is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park or Takoma, D.C. unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC MEETINGS / OF NOTE

City Council

Monday, April 7, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, April 9, 7:30 p.m., election results
Thursday, April 10, 7:30 p.m., budget work session
Monday, April 14, the City Council will not meet
Thursday, April 17, 7:30 p.m., budget work session
Monday, April 21, 7:30 p.m., swearing in of new Ward 3 city councilmember
Thursday, April 24, 7:30 p.m., tentative budget work session, Azalea Room
Monday, April 28, 7 p.m.
Monday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium (except for April 24)
For agendas, see takomaparkmd.gov

Public Hearings, FY 2015 Budget

Monday, April 7, 7 p.m., with city manager's budget presentation
Monday, April 28, 7 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

Prescription Take-Back Day and VIN property registration

Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Takoma Park Police Department
TP Community center
See page 11 for details

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

First Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families
www.educaresupportservices.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Kid's Night Out

First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Fun and games for kids
See page 6 for details

Teen Night

Second and fourth Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Games and activities just for teens
See page 7 for details

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Every Sunday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Year-round
Laurel and Carroll avenues in Old Town
Locally grown produce, baked goods, meats, cheeses

Sweep the Creek

Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6
Community clean-up of Sligo Creek
See web site for times and specific locations
Fosc.org

Annual Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19, 11 a.m.
Ed Wilhelm Field
See page 6 for details

Screening of "Lunch Hour"

Saturday, May 3 6:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Examines America's national school lunch program, which exposes children to unhealthy, but culturally acceptable foods
Free

Takoma Park 5K Challenge

Sunday, May 4, 7 a.m.
TP Community Center
Takoma Park's 6th annual Safe Routes to School 5K

Danza Latina begins in Long Branch

Last fall the Long Branch Business League's Salsa Night, part of the Discover Long Branch! series of events, was a huge hit: amateurs and experts alike tried a little salsa, a little rumba, and by all accounts, had a lot of fun.

The event was so successful that El Golfo restaurant is extending the concept with a weekly dance session, Danza Latina, every Friday night. Beginning April 25, Danza Latina will open up the dance floor at El Golfo for Latin dance, including rumba, merengue and bachata.

Angela Ingram or Barbara Bernstein of Dance in Time Productions will offer lessons for beginners and more advanced dancers from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., followed by an open dance floor. Entry is \$10 (includes lessons), but opening night on Friday, April 25, is free.

El Golfo is located at 8739 Flower Ave. in Silver Spring. The restaurant also hosts the Greater U Street Jazz Collective on Wednesday nights;

and an open mic blues session some Tuesdays.



Friday Night Danza Latina

Friday, April 25
Lessons: 8:30 – 9:30 p.m., followed by dancing until closing
El Golfo Restaurant, 8739 Flower Ave., Silver Spring
\$10 (free on opening night, April 25)
See DiscoverLongBranch.com (and go to events).

Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW
Harmonies spanning traditional Bluegrass to full on Gregorian organum
\$15 at the door
<http://imtfolk.org/>

Tomáš Kubínek: Certified Lunatic and Master of the Impossible

Saturday, April 12, 7 p.m.
Cultural Arts Center – Montgomery College
Takoma Park Campus
7995 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring
A collision of theatre and music hall, this exuberant one-man show is equal parts comic brilliance, virtuosic vaudeville and irresistible charm
\$15-25 in advance; \$30 door
www.montgomerycollege.edu/cac

Bram Devens as Ignatz

Wednesday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
The first night of Devens' American tour, music accompanied by black and white silent films by the avant garde Maya Deren
Suggested \$10 donation
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

MAKE A DIFFERENCE – PLANT A TREE

Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Replace the Canopy

The season is right to plant trees, and in Takoma Park that means residents can help replenish the aging tree canopy in the city. The city offers added incentive by paying \$100 towards the cost of the first tree purchased (unless it is a replacement tree required as part of a Tree Removal Permit). That means residents can add a \$195 tree to their yards for just \$95 plus 6 percent sales tax, a total of \$100.70. Add a second tree and the bill is still only \$307.40, planted and guaranteed for one year.

Established discounts still apply as well, through the city's annual bulk buy tree sale.

As a purchasing agent with Arbor Landscapers, the city is making five species available at wholesale prices. Red oak, willow oak, sweet gum, black gum and American linden—all native shade trees that usually retail for about \$350—are available to residents at \$195, installed.

Sale dates run through May 9.

Order Form

Please include check, including tax, written to the City of Takoma Park and be sure to draw a map of the property and locations for installation (see order form). Submit to Todd Bolton, Takoma Park Department of Public Works, 31 Oswego Ave., Silver Spring, Md., 20910 by close of business May 9.

Someone will be in touch regarding installation dates.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

____ Red Oak (2") ____ \$195 Willow Oak (2") \$195 ____ Sweet Gum (2") \$195 ____ Black Gum (2") \$195 ____
American Linden (2") \$195

+ 6% sales tax Total _____

Please include a map of property/tree installation locations.

Third Thursday Poetry

Thursday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Featuring Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler with Grace Cavalieri and Ethelbert Miller
Free
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

Uprooted Dance

Saturday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Uprooted Dance and Taiko drummer Mark H. Rooney use modern dance to explore the rules of board games
Free
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

Beau Soir Ensemble

Thursday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
Flute, harp and violin repertoire from the Baroque period to the present day
Suggested \$10 donation
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

Rosenwald Schools

Tuesday, April 29, 7:15 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Film exploring Julius Rosenwald's crusade to build black schools in the 1910s – 1930s, including one in Takoma Park
Free

The Grapevine – Storytelling Series

Celebrate the timeless art of the bards with stories of all kinds.
Thursday, May 1, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Suggested \$10 donation
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

Memories Gallery Exhibit

Through May 2
Galleries at the Takoma Park Community Center
Featuring work by Keren Coxe, Drucilla Litz, Denny Arant and Richard Spector
Free
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

Art Hop

Saturday and Sunday, May 3 – 4
Old Takoma
The work of more than 60 visual artists will be installed in the shops, restaurants and galleries of Old Takoma.
Free
See page 1 for details

SENIORS

Amish Market, Old Country Buffet, Laurel, Md.

Friday, April 11, 8:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Recreation Department trip
See page 7 for details

Riversdale House Museum Tour

Friday, April 25, 8:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Recreation Department trip
See page 7 for details