Takoma Park makes an impact on regional politics

By Virginia Myers

Takoma Park is known for its activist population, but usually the image involves hyper-local issues: sidewalks, potholes and dog parks, solar panels vs. tree preservation, and whether the city’s nuclear-free or sanctuary city status is being violated.

The fact is, Takoma Parkers carry their political influence beyond the city’s borders. Three Takoma Park residents are running to represent District 20 in the Maryland House of Delegates in the primary election June 24. Three of the nine members of the Montgomery County Council are from Takoma Park, and two are running for re-election; another city resident will join them on the ballot for the first time.

Takoma Park resident Heather Mizeur is running for governor; resident Peter Franchot, state comptroller, is running for re-election; and resident Jamie Raskin is running for re-election as a state senator.

Governor

This year’s governor’s race is hard to miss, with a heated contest underway. Among the candidates is Takoma Park resident Heather Mizeur, who was a member of the City Council beginning in 2003, until she was elected to the House of Delegates in 2006.

Heather Mizeur advocates for progressive policies around children’s health care, reproductive rights for women, environmental safeguards and new technology jobs for Maryland. She is known as a strong advocate for same-sex marriage and championed marriage equality legislation in the state. Running with her is candidate for lieutenant governor Delman Coates.

Mizeur is running in the democratic primary against frontrunners Anthony Brown and Doug Gansler, as well as Ralph Jaffe, Charles Smith and Cindy Walsh. Republican primary candidates are David Craig, Ron George, Larry Hogan and Charles Lollar. Libertarian Shawn Quinn will be on the ballot in the general election. Each candidate is running with a lieutenant governor candidate partner.

State Comptroller

Peter Franchot, a long-time Takoma Park resident, was a state delegate for 20 years. Franchot is running in the democratic primary against Anthony Gwaltney and Todd Tasker.

Franchot is running on a platform of systemic change and is a strong supporter of the magic of accounting. He is also a strong proponent of the state’s economic growth, and is running on a platform of fiscal responsibility.

Kate Stewart Elected to Represent Ward 3

Takoma Park’s growing selection of restaurants now includes two new spots in two different neighborhoods and from two different cuisines. Sardi’s Pollo a la Brasas, at the Takoma-Langley Crossroads, is famous for the mouth-watering aroma of its rotisserie chicken, also known as Peruvian chicken. Everlasting Life has built its reputation on healthy, vegan soul food, from cheese-less mac and “cheese” to fried “chick-un.”

Pollo with the works

Sardi’s Pollo a la Brasas is a local chain with six locations: Beltsville, Frederick, Gathersburg, Capitol Heights and Manassas as well as Takoma Park. Rotisserie chicken aficionados know it as among the very best in the business, and there was a bit of buzz when it opened here, at 1139 University Blvd East, in January. The chicken is finger-licking juicy and tender, redolent with spice and slow-cooked for hours.

Although it is famous for a distinctly Latin American dish, Sardi’s was first established in 1980 by a Greek American family on 19th Street NW in Washington, D.C. The Beltsville store was redistributed to that advancing council left by the death of Kay Daniels-Cohen. Kate Stewart was elected by a margin of just eight votes.

Kate Stewart

Ward 3 residents came out in high numbers to vote in the April 8 special election to fill the vacancy on the City Council left by the death of Kay Daniels-Cohen. Kate Stewart was elected by a margin of just eight votes.

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) was implemented for only the second time in a Takoma Park election before the final result was reached. In the first round of counting, Jeffrey Noel-Noshbaum received 20 votes, Roger Schlegel had 315 votes; Kate Stewart had 323 votes; and there were two write-ins. Neither of the two vote leaders had a majority; an instant runoff was required.

In the second (final) round of counting, Noel-Noshbaum and “write-in” were eliminated. If one of the advancing candidates was the second choice on these ballots, the ballot was redistributed to that advancing candidate. After the redistribution, Kate Stewart had a majority of votes with 332 or 50.61 percent. Roger Schlegel had 324 votes or 49.39 percent.

Over the course of the election, which included two days of early voting, 660 voters cast ballots. That represents 27.9 percent of the registered electorate.
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 jessieclark@takomaparkmd.gov.

ORDINANCE 2014-21
Adopted April 7
Authorizing the Purchase of a Parking Pay Station
The ordinance authorizes the purchase of a parking pay station to be installed on the city-owned lot in Takoma Junction.

ORDINANCE 2014-24
Adopted April 21
Awarding a Contract for Design of Sligo Mill Overlook Playground and Colby Avenue Tot Lot
The ordinance awards a contract to Symbiosis, Inc. for design of the two playgrounds. The contract amount is $48,392.

RESOLUTION 2014-13
Adopted April 7
FY 2015 LIVING WAGE RATE ESTABLISHED
Each year on April 1, the city manager establishes the living wage rate, which shall be equal to the Montgomery County living wage rate established and published by Montgomery County pursuant to Section 11B-33A of the Montgomery County Code and any applicable regulations, as amended from time to time.

The current living wage rate is $13.35 per hour. Effective July 1, the living wage rate will be $14.15 through June 30, 2015.

NOTICE OF MAXIMUM TENANT FEES
Notice of Final Action - Administrative Regulations Regarding 1) Optional Fees for Tenants Residing in Rental Housing and the 2) Requirements for Transferring the Cost of Utilities to Tenants
The December 2013 edition of the Takoma Park Newsletter posted a notice informing readers of the city’s maximum rental housing tenant fees for optional services like wi-fi and having pets (See 6.16.060 of the Takoma Park Code). The fees have been updated, and the code now allows landlords to apply to the city to charge fees not included in the written regulation.

The notice also described requirements regarding transferring utility costs from landlord to tenant (See 6.16.100 of the Takoma Park Code), and the forms landlords may use to compute the average cost of the utility transfer. The notice was published in accordance with the requirements of the “Administrative Regulations Ordinance” (Authority: Chapter 2.12, Administrative Regulations, of the Takoma Park Code), so that residents would have the opportunity to comment on the proposal.

The proposed regulations have been available for inspection at the city clerk’s office.

Three comments were received by the office since the notice appeared. None resulted in any change being made to the regulations.

This notice is to inform residents that the final regulations will become effective on May 12, 2014.

TASA DE COSTO DE VIDA FUE ESTABLECIDO PARA EL AÑO FISCAL 2015
El 1 de abril de cada año, el administrador de la ciudad establece la tasa de costo de vida, el cual será equivalente a la tasa de costo de vida establecida por el Condado de Montgomery siguiendo la sección 11B-33A de el Código del Condado de Montgomery y cualquier regulación aplicable.

Actualmente, la tasa de costo de vida es $13.95 por hora. Efectivo el 1 de julio de 2014, la tasa de costo de vida será $14.15 hasta el 30 de junio de 2015.

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 more information or to apply. For questions, contact Jesse Carpenter, city clerk, at 301-891-7287 or jjessec@takomaparkmd.gov.

MAYOR’S OFFICE HOURS
Mayor Williams welcomes comments and suggestions. Community members are invited to meet with him during his office hours on Tuesdays:
2 – 5 p.m. by appointment
5 – 6 p.m. drop-in hours (check in at the information desk and let the receptionist know you are here to see the Mayor)
6 – 7 p.m. by appointment
The office hours may change on weeks when Monday is a holiday. For additional information or to make an appointment, contact Executive Assistant Peggy Washington at peggiew@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7220.
Takoma Park:

Bikes Welcome

Is there any doubt that bicycling is on the rise in America, with the nation’s capital leading the way on programs and infrastructure that make biking a safe, convenient and enjoyable everyday activity. In response to these regional trends, and with sustained leadership from Takoma Park residents and business owners, the city is working to become a more bike-friendly place to live, work, learn, play and do business. So what does a more bike friendly Takoma Park look like? In the last five years, the city has:

• Completed the Metropolitan Branch Trail segment in Takoma Park
• Installed dozens of bicycle (and scooter and skateboard) racks at local schools
• Installed bike route wayfinding signs on local streets, and a map on Sligo Creek Trail
• Coordinated the first Bike to Work Day and Bike to School Day events in Takoma Park, held annually
• Leveraged new state grant funding for additional bike route signs, pavement markings and bike lanes
• Strongly supported the Montgomery County expansion of Capital Bikeshare in Takoma Park, and key connections in D.C. at the Takoma and Fort Totten metro stations
• Developed the city’s first printed bike map
• Incorporated bike-oriented recreation programming, like a Bike-In Movie night, and bike workshops
• Re-instated the Safe Roadways Committee, with a focus on bicycling
• Incorporated best practice bicycle facilities into long-range plans for the New Hampshire Avenue multiway boulevard

Together, all of these projects and programs work to invite more residents, students, shoppers and workers in Takoma Park to travel by bike. But there is still much to do and several projects are in the works. To gather community input on progress so far and the direction of future improvements, city planning staff hosted a Bikeways Open House in March. Residents and area cyclists provided a wealth of comments and suggestions on topics ranging from artistic bike rack design to special signage for bikes and cars at tricky intersections.

With the warmer weather and longer days, expect to see more bikes on city streets and trails. Check out the red Capital Bikeshare brochure, inserted in this month’s Newsletter, with information on program details and a list of helpful safety tips. To encourage folks to try out the program and incorporate biking in their everyday activities, there’s a coupon code on the brochure for both daily and annual memberships.

Have questions, suggestions, or comments about bike routes and facilities in Takoma Park? Contact the city’s planning division at planning@takomaparkmd.gov.

Celebrate Bike Month with Local Activities and Events:

Bike to School Day – Wednesday, May 7
Last year, nearly 200 students participated in local Bike to School Day festivities. This year, parent volunteers are needed to help greet students at Takoma Park Middle School. To get involved, contact Lucy Neher, Takoma Park Safe Routes to School Coordinator, at lucy@takomaparkmd.gov.

Ride for Your Life” Bike Workshop – Tuesday, May 13
Curious about basic bike safety, maintenance (like fixing a flat tire), and the kinds of items to take on longer rides? The Takoma Park Recreation Department is hosting a free biking workshop for riders and commuters, called “Ride for Your Life.” This evening workshop is open to cyclists of all skill levels, ages 8 and up, at the Takoma Park Community Center. Bringing your own bicycle along is not required. To register, see: https://apm.activecommunities.com/takomaparkrecreation.

Bike to Work Day – Friday, May 16
If you’ve been telling yourself this will be the year you start commuting to work by bike, then why not start on Bike to Work Day? For the past several years, thousands of commuters in the greater D.C. region participate in this morning event that celebrates bicycling as a clean, fun and healthy way to get to work. Three Bike to Work Day pit stops will again be in Takoma Park: at the Gazebo in Old Takoma, on Sligo Creek Trail at New Hampshire Avenue, and at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Professional Building (7576 New Hampshire Ave.). All three locations have been a big hit with local riders as the event grows every year. Registration is free and participants receive a T-shirt, refreshments, and are entered into a raffle for a bicycle and other fun prizes. Register today at www.biketoworkmetrodc.com.
Annual Rent Increase Set at 1.6 percent

Effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Takoma Park’s Landlord Tenant law maintains the affordability of rental units in the community by limiting the number and amount of rent increases that may be charged for a specific rental unit. Generally, the rent may be increased only once in a given 12-month period and a two month written notice is required. Multi-family rental units and rental condominium units are additionally subject to Rent Stabilization whereby the rent increases are limited to the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index. Starting on July 1, 2014 and through June 30, 2015, the Rent Stabilization Allowance is 1.6 percent. Landlords required to comply with Takoma Park’s Rent Stabilization law cannot increase the rent on occupied units any higher than this allowance.

The following units may be exempt from Rent Stabilization upon application to the city. The exemption is not automatic and is subject to the approval of the City.

- Rental units leased to tenants under the Housing Choice Voucher Program;
- Any rental facility where the rents are regulated under contract by a governmental entity; and
- Newly constructed rental units for a period of five years after construction.

For more information about the requirements of Takoma Park’s Rent Stabilization law, please contact Jean Kerr at 301-691-7216 or jeank@takomaparkmd.gov.

Grant management needed

Takoma Park is seeking a qualified and experienced agency or entity to administer its Community Grants - Mini Grant Program, soliciting grant applications, reviewing and approving awards to eligible applicants, disbursing grant funds and monitoring grant recipients. The Mini Grant program is intended to provide funding for small, community-driven projects designed to create stronger, more connected neighborhoods, address community needs and foster community pride. A total of $10,000 has been budgeted and will be available for distribution to eligible grant recipients in FY15 (July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015). This amount does not include the costs of administering the grant program.

Bids must be received by 3:30 p.m. Monday, June 2, 2014. Additional information is available online at takomaparkmd.gov/bids-and-contracts.

Planners seek input on the Ethan Allen Gateway

City staff is encouraging residents to view the latest plans for the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Project at a meeting on Wednesday, May 21 from 6-8 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. The refined plans include modifications made to the concept design and additional details on proposed landscaping, sidewalks, lighting, bus stops and bike lanes. The meeting is an open house format, so residents can get up close and personal with the large-format plans, and share input and suggestions before the designs are finalized later this year.

Place: Takoma Park Community Center Hydrangea Room, 7500 Maple Ave.
Time: Wednesday, May 21, 6-8 p.m.
For project background and more information, see: www.thNewAve.com/development/projects/egag.

CITY Briefs

From page 4

Crossroads Farmers Market

The weekly farmer’s market at Takoma Langley Crossroads starts up again on Wednesday, June 4 at a new location. This year, the market will be held at the edge of the business district, just behind Expo Emart at 1021 University Blvd., on the corner of University and Anne Street. The selection of goods will still include fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs along with pupusas and other prepared food. Market hours will be 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and will run from June 4 through Nov. 19.

On Saturday, May 10 the Essex House Farmers Market at 7777 Maple Ave. will begin its season, opening every Saturday from 12 to 3 p.m. It is associated with the MarvaHarvest farmers markets.

The Takoma Park Farmers Market in Old Town will continue year-round, Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Laurel Avenue.

Two new parks call for resident input

Designs for two parks in Takoma Park are about to launch, and the design firm, Symbiont, Inc., wants to include resident input as it begins creating plans. The parks are Colby Avenue Park at the corner of Cherry and Colby avenues about two blocks from Sligo Creek Park; and Sligo Mill Community Overlook Park at Sligo Mill Road and Orchard Avenue. The Colby Avenue Park currently features benches, grills, picnic tables and a playground, which may be repurposed in some way. Sligo Mill has a community garden and open grassy area – the goal is to add a playground to the space.

City Council has budgeted about $50,000 for the design. Residents are encouraged to attend the planning meetings as follows: for Colby Avenue, Tuesday, May 13 at 7 p.m. at a location to be determined; for Sligo Mill, Wednesday, May 14, 7 p.m., at 6411 Orchard Ave.

For more information, contact Emily Cohen at EmilyC@takomaparkmd.gov.

Parking pay station coming to Takoma Junction

City Council recently authorized the purchase of a parking pay station at the city-owned parking lot at Takoma Junction, the corner of West Highway and Carroll Avenue. Currently unregulated, the lot will now restrict vehicles to parking for no more than two hours, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., except on Sundays and holidays. Parking fees will be at the established city-wide rate of 75 cents per hour, and will be payable with cash or credit card.

City staff considered installing meters or pay-by-phone options but the pay station was less expensive and more flexible. It will cost approximately $12,000 to purchase and install, and $4,000 a year to operate, and it can be moved should the city develop the lot for something other than parking. It will be installed within the next few months.

City officials point out the improvements to the lot over the last few years: there is now just one entrance and exit, and lines have been restriped to create more spaces and delivery areas for the adjacent Takoma Park Silver Spring Food Coop.
Loosen up with Washington Improv

**Theater Performance**

Washington Improv Theater
Friday, May 30, 8 p.m. -- Performance
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Suggested $10 donation

**Saturday, May 31, 3-5 p.m. -- Intro to Improv Workshop**
Takoma Park Community Center Lilac Room
Free

After successful performances in Takoma Park last year, Washington Improv Theater (WIT) is back this month for a one-two punch: a performance and workshop. With improvisational theater, most or all of what is performed is created on the spot, in the moment it is performed. The dialogue, the action, the story and the characters are created collaboratively by the players as the improvisation unfolds.

“People like improv because it’s so exciting and spontaneous. The performers are making everything up on the spot, so each show will only be seen once. That creates a special bond between the performers and the audience,” explains WIT director Mark Challenger.

For those inspired by the performance there will be a free intro to improv workshop the next day. Through fun improv games the class will explore the concept of “saying yes.”

**Dance Along the Silk Road**

Saturday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Free

Transport yourself to the Central Asia with rare dances from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran and beyond. The award-winning Silk Road Dance Company will be performing at the Community Center as part of the We Are Takoma series this month. Its memorable choreography, lavish costumes and compelling music make its members true ambassadors for the music and culture of Central Asia.

Founded by choreographer and professor Dr. Laurel Victoria Gray in 1995, the Silk Road Dance Company has earned deep respect from the members of the communities represented by the company’s repertoire and was the first American dance ensemble invited to perform in Samarkand, Uzbekistan at the UNESCO-sponsored Sharq Taronalari International Festival; it was also the subject of a special show on Uzbek television. Its performers have been featured at events for the embassies of Egypt, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkey and Russia, and they are frequently engaged by numerous cultural organizations in the local Turkish, Iranian and Arab communities for festivals and celebrations.

Gray views her work as an opportunity to expose American audiences to the exotic, esoteric side of Islamic culture. “As one familiar with the culture and history of both East and West, I feel it is imperative to use art to build a bridge of understanding between Americans and the Islamic world,” she says. “Instead of falling prey to the false notion of a ‘clash of civilizations,’ we need to remember that East and West have interacted for millennia, often crossing cultures with positive results.”

**Theatre Musick**

Saturday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Suggested $10 donation

This month mezzo-soprano Barbara Hollinshead and lutenist Howard Bass will present music drawn from the plays of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Late 16th and early 17th century England was a time when music, poetry and drama flourished as never before, or perhaps, since. Between 1597 and 1620, 30 books of lute songs by 20 composers were published, and hundreds of pieces for solo lute were written and preserved in manuscripts.

Hollinshead and Bass have performed recently at the Italian Embassy, the National Gallery of Art and at the Washington Early Music Festival. Hollinshead, a member of Artetek, specializes in baroque and early music and is a much-sought-after soloist for oratorios and chamber music. Bass, a member of Trio Sefardi, has performed and recorded as a soloist, accompanist and ensemble member throughout the U.S.

**Bringing It Home**

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

Hemp - it’s just not for hippies anymore. It is used in everything from salad dressing to auto parts to building materials. American consumers purchase over $450 million in industrial hemp products annually, but it cannot be legally grown in the United States.

The documentary Bringing It Home explores the question of why a crop with so many widespread benefits cannot be farmed domestically. The film explores hemp's history and its current use, and talks to both opponents and proponents of the industrial hemp farming legalization effort. This film was workshopped at Docs In Progress' Peer Pitch program in 2011 and has since been completed and screened at dozens of film festivals and community screenings around the world. Following the 52-minute film, Docs In Progress Executive Director Erica Ginsberg will facilitate a question and answer session with filmmaker Linda Booker about the issues the film raises, and about the making of the film.

**Urban Menagerie Gallery opening**

Thursday, May 8
7-9 p.m.
Galleries at the Takoma Park Community Center
Free

Exhibit runs through July 6

The May Takoma Park Galleries exhibit features urban-themed artwork, including paintings of buildings and architecture and photographs of colorful graffiti.

Featuring artists Sardar Aziz (large scale acrylic and oil paintings), Mei Mei Chang (paper installation), Sara Anne Daines (graffiti photographs), Katie Helms (art books), and Keith Kozloff (photography).
New Jobs Program Launched for Local Youth

This summer, the Recreation Department is bringing together young people and the business community through a new Youth Summer Employment Program. Designed to engage young people and keep them moving in a positive direction toward productive adult lives, it is also meant to connect businesses and residents in a unique and mutually beneficial way.

Calling it an "adventure" as well as a "true learning experience," the Recreation Department is piloting the program this summer with a limited number of part-time jobs for participants aged 16 to 21.

Among the local for-profit and non-profit businesses that have expressed interest in participating are the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op, Park Silver Spring Co-op, Richardson School of Music, Washington Adventist University and the Crossroads Community Food Network. The six-week program, which will run from July 7 through August 15, will give young people real-world job experience, and help them build resumes for future career and college preparation.

Here are the details: Interested participants must RSVP and attend an Interest Workshop on May 8 from 7-9 p.m. at the Community Center. General information and deadlines will be discussed at this meeting. Teens are encouraged to bring one adult with them. Candidates will be interviewed by the local businesses and go through an extensive three-day employment boot camp prior to starting work in July. Employers will be responsible for training and supervising them once they are on the job, and will work together to offer training and customer service.

To register for the Interest Workshop or learn more about the Youth Employment Program and how you can participate as either a business or a worker, contact Hazel Hodgson, 301-891-7290 or hazelh@takomapark.md.gov.

YOUTH

MARTIAL ARTS

Kung Fu
Ages 4 - 16
This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise to help students learn self-defense, strengthen hand-eye coordination and improve physical fitness, mental and spiritual strength. A one-time, non-refundable $50 fee is due to the instructor at the first class for uniform.
TP Community Center Dance Studio
Saturdays, June 7 – Aug. 16
Beginners 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.
Advanced 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
TP residents $129
Non-residents $149

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Girls Lacrosse Clinic
Ages 8 – 11
Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports in the area and this popular program is great for anyone who wants to learn the sport. The clinic will emphasize skill development in shooting, passing, catching and field alignments. The five-week clinic will also cover basic rules and interpretations of the game. Lacrosse sticks will be provided. No experience is required.
Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)
Wednesdays, May 14 - June 11
3:45 - 4:45 p.m.
Resident $25
Non-resident $35

T-Ball League 2014
Kindergarten-first 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. No experience is necessary as all skill levels are welcome. Participants must bring their own baseball glove. All teams will be formed by the Recreation Department. Volunteer coaches are a key element of this program’s success. Games are played on Saturday mornings.
Belle Ziegler Park, or Ed Wilhelm or Lee Jordan fields
Saturdays, June 7 – July 26, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
TP Residents $55
Non-residents $65

Youth Tennis Clinic
Ages 10 – 13
This clinic offers youth the opportunity to learn and nurture their tennis skills. Structured tennis instruction is an excellent vehicle for building character, developing discipline and promoting physical fitness.
TP Community Center Middle School Tennis Courts (7811 Piney Branch Road)
Tuesdays, 4:45 – 5:45 p.m.
May 6 – June 3
Residents $25
Non-Residents $35

TRIPS

Tremendous Trips
Ages 5 – 12
Spend a day or two with us between the end of the school year and the first day of camp. Each day offers a different experience. Before and after care are not available. Trips are subject to change.
Monday, June 16 - National Zoo
Tuesday, June 17 - Spy Museum
Wednesday, June 18 - Gelitersburg Water Park
Thursday, June 19 - Watkins Park
Friday, June 20 - Natural History Museum
TP Community Center Azalea Room
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
TP residents $40/trip
Non-resident $50/trip

ADULTS

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

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, June 2 – June 30, 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 60-70 minute class includes easy-to-follow, fun, aerobic dance routines, weights for muscle strength and stretching exercises. You will hit a home run with 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

Ladies' Boot Camp I
Ages 16 and older
A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour. Eight weeks.
TP Recreation Center Gymnasium
Tuesdays and Thursdays, May 6 – 29,
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
$45/4 weeks

FOREVER YOUNG: 55 PLUS

DROP IN

Bingo
Ages 55 and older
Try your luck. Win a prize.
Thursday, May 22, Noon - 2 p.m.
TP Community Center Senior Room
Free

Blood Pressure Screening
Ages 55 and older
Free monthly blood pressure screening with Adventist Healthcare
TP Community Center Senior Room
Thursday, May 22, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Free
RECREATION
From page 6
Meet Frank J. Pietrucha, Supercommunicator
Adults, age 18 and older
In our increasingly complicated and data-driven world, many new developments are so complex that communicating technical content to the lay person has become a critical skill. In his book, "Supercommunicator: Explaining the Complicated So Anyone Can Understand," Frank J. Pietrucha translates complex ideas to deliver content with meaning. Pietrucha will present an entertaining and informative session to share his communication techniques. A signed book will be given away to a lucky winner. For more information, contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

Free
TP Community Center Auditorium
Tuesday, May 13, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Free
program manager, 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

TP Community Center Computer Lab
Wednesdays, May 21 – June 25, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

$10

SPORT/FITNESS/HEALTH

Cardio Groove
Ages 55 and older
Get in the Groove – join in these fun new classes with our energetic instructor Nancy Nickell. Choose the day that fits in your schedule so you can keep moving and grooving to the happy beat. High energy and easy to follow. Start with a warm-up, followed by fast-paced, low impact aerobics that get the heart pumping and feet moving quickly, then a well-earned cool down and stretch. Moves follow the beat of music designed for aerobics. In-person pre-registration is required. Mail-in registration available.

On Stage: Footlight Camp
Ages 5 – 7
Get on the stage and get to work acting, singing and dancing! We’ll start each day with physical, vocal, imagination and focus building warm-ups. We’ll perform story based theater and work on at least two musical numbers from a Broadway show.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Monday - Friday
July 14 - 18
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
TP resident $230
Non-resident $260

On Stage: Spotlight Camp
Ages 8 – 10
Get on the stage and get to work acting, singing and dancing! We’ll start each day with physical, vocal, imagination and focus building warm-ups. We’ll perform scene work and work on at least three musical numbers from a Broadway show.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Monday - Friday
July 7 - July 11
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
TP resident $295
Non-resident $335

Science Explorers Camp
Ages 6 – 9
Here is your chance to become a forensic scientist, analyzing the evidence to solve crimes. Join us as we take on daily CSI challenges, with games, outdoor play, experiments, impression evidence and fingerprinting.
TP Community Center Lilac Room
Session 1: Monday - Friday, July 21 - July 25
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
TP resident $160
Non-resident $180

Rookee Sports Camp (**UPDATED**)
Ages 3 – 5
The Rookee Sports Camps are being moved from the Takoma Park Recreation Center to the Takoma Park Recreation Center located at 7315 New Hampshire Ave. The affected camp weeks are June 23 - 27, June 30 - July 3, and July 21 - 25.
Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
Monday - Friday
Session 1: June 23 – 27
Session 2: June 30 – July 3
Session 3: July 21 - July 25
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
TP resident $80
Non-resident $90

Learn to use the internet, a word processing program and email. You need a Takoma Park Library card to access the computers, and take this course. Limit six participants. Instructors: Nickell. Choose the day that fits in your schedule.
TP Community Center Computer Lab
Wednesdays, May 21 – June 25, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

$10

For more information, contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

TP Community Center Dance Room
Thursdays, May 1 – June 5, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. or
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Saturdays, May 3 – June 7, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Free

TRIPS
Art Museum of the Americas, Washington, D.C.
In 1976 the AMA opened in the historic 1912 building designed by noted architect Paul Cret, to exhibit an extensive collection of contemporary Latin American and Caribbean art created by established and emerging artists. Bring spending money for a special luncheon at a local restaurant. Rain or shine! In-person advance registration is required. For more information, contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

TP Community Center Recreation Office
Wednesday, May 21, 8:45 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Free

Times may be adjusted, check trip itinerary at registration

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY!
For a full listing and most current camp information, Please visit us online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation and click on our Camp Guide.

Some of our Specialty Camps include:

Super Sports Camp (**UPDATED**)  
Ages 6 – 12
The Super Sports Camps are being moved from the Takoma Park Community Center to the Takoma Park Recreation Center located at 7315 New Hampshire Ave. The affected camp weeks are July 14 - 18 and August 4 – 8. Before care (7 - 9 a.m.) and aftercare (4 - 6 p.m.) will also be held at the new location.
Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
Ages 6 - 9
Monday - Friday
July 14 – 18
Ages 10 - 12
Monday - Friday
August 4 – 8
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
TP resident $160
Non-resident $180

Super Sports Camp (**UPDATED**)  
Ages 6 – 12
The Super Sports Camps are being moved from the Takoma Park Community Center to the Takoma Park Recreation Center located at 7315 New Hampshire Ave. The affected camp weeks are July 14 - 18 and August 4 – 8. Before care (7 - 9 a.m.) and aftercare (4 - 6 p.m.) will also be held at the new location.
Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
Ages 6 - 9
Monday - Friday
July 14 – 18
Ages 10 - 12
Monday - Friday
August 4 – 8
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
TP resident $160
Non-resident $180

Non-resident $260

TP Community Center Auditorium
Monday - Friday
July 14 - 18
9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
TP resident $230
Non-resident $260

TP Community Center Auditorium
Monday - Friday
July 7 - July 11
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
TP resident $295
Non-resident $335

Some of our Specialty Camps include:

Super Sports Camp (**UPDATED**)  
Ages 6 – 12
The Super Sports Camps are being moved from the Takoma Park Community Center to the Takoma Park Recreation Center located at 7315 New Hampshire Ave. The affected camp weeks are July 14 - 18 and August 4 – 8. Before care (7 - 9 a.m.) and aftercare (4 - 6 p.m.) will also be held at the new location.
Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
Ages 6 - 9
Monday - Friday
July 14 – 18
Ages 10 - 12
Monday - Friday
August 4 – 8
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
TP resident $160
Non-resident $180

Rookee Sports Camp (**UPDATED**)  
Ages 3 – 5
The Rookee Sports Camps are being moved from the Takoma Park Community Center to the Takoma Park Recreation Center located at 7315 New Hampshire Ave. The affected camp weeks are June 23 - 27, June 30 - July 3, and July 21 - 25.
Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
Monday - Friday
Session 1: June 23 – 27
Session 2: June 30 – July 3
Session 3: July 21 - July 25
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
TP resident $80
Non-resident $90

Celebrate Takoma Festival
This family festival will celebrate the cultural diversity of Takoma Park and its residents. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and spend the afternoon with your neighbors. All vendors and entertainers are local to the Takoma Park area. Nominal fees for food and vendor stands.

Sunday, May 18
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Takoma – Piney Branch Neighborhood Park (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)
Event held rain or shine
For more information call 301-891-7290 or visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/celebrate-takoma.

Looking for more information?
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.
Hatke will demonstrate drawing "Zita the Spacegirl" trilogy.

American Capitalism
Sundays through May 11, 12:30 p.m.
Discussion for those taking the free online class offered by Cornell University through edX. Registration encouraged at tinyurl.com/tplmcaps.

Warhol
Sundays, beginning April 27, 2 p.m.
Discussion for those taking the free online class focused on artist Andy Warhol. Registration encouraged at tinyurl.com/tplwarhol.

Bedtime Stories
Tuesday, May 6, 7 p.m.
Come in pjs! Great for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

The Iliad
Wednesday, May 7, 7:30 p.m.
Concluding discussions of this classic TP Community Center Hydrangea Room

“The Llama, Llama” Author Anna Dewdney
Thursday, May 8, 7 p.m.
The author of these popular picture books talks about her work. Registration encouraged at tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

Author/Artist Maira Kalman
Saturday, May 10, 1 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium

Caldecott Club: A Family Book Club
Monday, May 12, 7 p.m.
Celebrate Children’s Book Week by reading some classic picture books with us. Bring your own Caldecott Medal favorite to share! Lemonade and cookies served. No registration needed.

Comics Jam
Tuesday, May 13, 4 p.m.
Join comics guru Dave Burbank at our monthly comics book club. No registration required.

Friends of the Library Book Sale (see article)
Saturday, May 17, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Library Lawn
Petites Chansons/French Circle Time
Saturday, May 17, 10:30 a.m.
Have fun singing and rhyming in French with Madame Marie. Registration highly encouraged so participants can be updated with upcoming program dates.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 20, 7:45 p.m.
“Zita the Spacegirl” Author Ben Hatke
Wednesday, May 21, 7 p.m.
Hatke will demonstrate drawing.

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LIBRARY

Reaching for diversity through literature

By Karen MacPherson

It’s a troubling fact: the wonderful diversity of our multicultural society isn’t reflected in books for children and teens. According to the latest statistics gathered by the Cooperative Children’s Book Center (CCBC) at the University of Wisconsin, of 3,200 children’s books published in 2013, just a fraction were either by, or about, people of color. In just one example, of those 3,200 books, only 93 had “significant” African or African-American content, and only 67 were by African-American authors and/or illustrators.

The lack of multicultural books for children is, unfortunately, a stubbornly persistent problem. The issue broke into the national consciousness back in 1965 when Nancy Larrick, a former president of the American Library Association, sparked a heated debate when she wrote in the Saturday Review about the “all-white world of children’s books.”

“Things remain much the same today, and there are varying theories as to why that is the case. K.T. Horning, the respected children’s literature expert who heads the Operative Children’s Book Center (CCBC) at the University of Maryland, also argues that, despite the recent flurry of articles in the mainstream media about the issue, “the public outcry for more multicultural books has so far been more of a public whimper. My hope is that with the rise of the Common Core Standards Curriculum we’re going to see more and more people asking for materials starring and written by diverse people.”

Although it’s been a perennial issue, the lack of multicultural children’s books recently became national news once more when African-American author Walter Dean Myers and his son Christopher Myers, both award-winners, published a pair of provocative essays in The New York Times.

Walter Dean Myers, who just finished a two-year term as the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature (a post created by the Library of Congress), wrote: “Books transmit values…. What is the message when some children are not represented in those books?”

Christopher Myers was even stronger in his essay, which was titled: “The Apartheid of Children’s Literature.” He wrote bluntly that “the business of children’s literature enjoys ever more success, sparking multiple

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LIBRARY BRIEFS

All things LEGO

We’re starting a LEGO Club at the library! Our first program will take place on Sunday, June 1 from 1:30-3 p.m. and is best for ages 5-12. Kids are welcome to work on projects in a theme and enjoy free play. Registration is encouraged at tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents. Please DON’T bring your own LEGO! We’ll have plenty for everyone.

Thank you to a generous donation from the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, we’re also looking for interested teens who would like to earn Student Service Learning hours by helping out at our LEGO programs, which will take place every month or so.

Why a LEGO Club? Building with LEGO improves children’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and storytelling skills. We will work on themes such as bridges, vehicles, water, cityscapes and more. And don’t forget to check out our new collection of books on LEGO!

Three authors, three dates

Join us in May at three great author events, which are offered as part of our partnership with Politics and Prose Book Store. Each event will conclude with the authors signing their books, which will be on sale at the programs, courtesy of Politics and Prose. But all of the programs are free, and no purchase is required to attend.

At our first event, Thursday, May 8, at 7 p.m., Anna Dewdney, picture book author/illustrator of the best-selling "Llama, Llama" books, will read her new book, "Nelly Gnu and Daddy Too." She will also demonstrate her drawing techniques.

On Saturday, May 10 at 11 a.m., national-acclaimed author/illustrator Walter Dean Myers will discuss his latest picture book biography for kids, “Thomas Jefferson: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Everything.”

Kalman will also take questions about her books for teens, such as the award-winning “Why We Broke Up,” and for adults, including "And the Pursuit of Happiness," a book created from her 12-part New York Times blog. NOTE: the Kalman program, which is perfect for kids, teens and adults, will take place in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.

Finally, on Wednesday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m., graphic novelist Ben Hatke will discuss "The Return of Zita the Spacegirt," the final book in his award-winning "Zita the Spacegirl" trilogy. As part of the program, Hatke also will demonstrate his drawing techniques for the series, which is great for readers ages 7-12.

Children’s Book Week

Come celebrate the start of Children’s Book Week with us on Monday, May 12 at 7 p.m. for a special edition of our Caldecott Club. At our program, we’ll look at some of our favorite Caldecott Medal-winning books; you’re encouraged to bring your favorite for us to read aloud! Lemonade and cookies will be served. No registration is required for the program, which is great for all ages.

Friends Book Sale Planned for May

The Friends of the Library will its semi-
DIVERSITY
From page 8
movie franchises and crossover readership, even the representations of young people of color are harder and harder to find.”

Christopher Myers raises another related issue: most of the multicultural books that are published for children are historical in nature or culturally specific. Books featuring kids of color in general fiction or in genres like mysteries or fantasies remain rare. For example, while the Newbery and Caldecott Medals get the most attention each year, the American Library Association (ALA) also sponsors a number of other awards, including some for children’s and teen books and/or about people of color. These include the Coretta Scott King Awards for African-American authors and illustrators, the Pura Belpre Awards for Latino authors and illustrators, and the literature awards given by the Asian Pacific American Librarians Association.

In addition, theALA sponsors the American Indian Youth Literature Awards, which are given every two years. Then there are the ALA’s Stonewall Book Awards, highlighting books focused on the gay, bisexual, lesbian and transgender experience.

At our library, we try to order as many of these award winners as possible. Some of the new multicultural books we have just purchased include: “How I Became a Ghost” by Tim Tingle (a 2014 American Indian Youth Literature Award winner); “F.S. Be Eleven” by Rita Williams-Garcia (winner of the 2014 Coretta Scott King Author Award); and “Nino Wrestles the World,” a picture book written and illustrated by Yuyi Morales, winner of the 2014 Pura Belpre Illustrator Award.

In addition, we search out well-reviewed books by and/or about people of color. Among our newest teen books, for example, are “Live or Die” by Matt de la Pena, and “Darius and Twig” by Walter Dean Myers. We also try to ensure that we have as much diversity as possible in our non-fiction collection, especially in the biography section.

The goal is to offer patrons the best selection of fictional books featuring people of color as we can find. Examples of such series in our library are the “Zapato Power” books by Jacqueline Jules, the “Sassy” books by Shan Draaper, and the “Alvin Ho” books by Lenore Look.

LIBRARY BRIEFS
From page 8
annual book sale on Saturday, May 17 from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. on the library lawn. A major source of income for the Friends, the book sales offer fiction and nonfiction for adults and children of all ages at bargain prices. All proceeds go to the library in the form of gifts – and have been used to provide Spanish and French Circle Time, original art and story for Summer Quest, crafts and special performances and workshops, as well as refreshments for special events.

Volunteers are needed to work at the sale in two hour shifts beginning at 8 a.m. High school students may earn service learning hours. To volunteer, contact Ellen Robbins at ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov.

We will accept donations of used books that are in good condition and of general interest at the library during open hours through May 13. Larger donations must be made by appointment. We cannot accept books at the sale.

Thomas Pynchon Chosen by Friends Reading Group
On Wednesday, May 21, the Friends of the Library Reading Group will discuss “The Crying of Lot 49” by the acclaimed novelist Thomas Pynchon.

Published in 1966, it tells the story of Oedipa Maas, who is made the executor of the estate of her late boyfriend, Pierce Inverarity. “As she diligently carries out her duties, Oedipa is enmeshed in what would appear to be a worldwide conspiracy, meets some extremely interesting characters, and attains a not inconceivable amount of self-knowledge” (publishers’ note).

“I read it on the train without stopping, reminding myself to breathe,” wrote nybooks.com reviewer. “That night, on the return trip, I read it again…since then I’ve read it 20 or 30 times. It is still one of my favorite fairy clothes!”

Enjoy fairy crafts and fairy snacks! Wear your favorite fairy clothes! Register encouraged at tinyurl.com/telephonevents

REGIONAL POLITICS
From page 1
years before he became comptroller in 2007. He calls himself an independent fiscal watchdog for taxpayers and is known for opposing slot machines based on their effects on the economy and quality of life.

Chappell is running unopposed in the primary. He will face Republican Wil- liam Campbell, of Howard County, in the primary; Campbell is also running unop- posed in the primary.

Takoma Park is in District 20, which is represented by one senator and three delegates. Senator Jamie Raskin, who has held his office since 2007, is running un- opposed in the primary.

The House of Delegates election is more lively, with ten candidates running for three seats. One will be vacant since Delegate Heather Mizeur entered the governor’s race. A second seat is open because Del- egate Tom Hucker is running for Mont- gomery County Council. The third seat is held by long-time incumbent Sheila Hux- son, and she is running for re-election.

One of the candidates for these posi- tions are democrats, and are competing in the primary. The tenth, Dan Robinson, is running for the Green Party. There are no gubernatorial candidates for these positions.

Candidates for the House of Delegates, District 20, include the following Takoma Park residents:

D’Juan Hopewell, who has experience working with the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Human Rights Campaign and as Maryland Advo- cacy Manager of Share our Strength. His four primary issues are building a local, green economy, the war on carbon emissions, expanding health care by ending the war on drugs, and school renovation and construction.

David Moon, who was born in Takoma Park, is known as the editor of Maryland Justice, an activist, progressive political blog, and program director for Demand Progress. His priorities are advocating for the middle class, pushing for women’s pay equity, educating corporate influence in elections, reducing school class size, addressing climate change and ending the war on drugs.

Dan Robinson, a 28-year resident of Takoma Park, was a two-term City Coun- cil member here and is known among long-time residents as a co-founder of the Takoma Voice newspaper. He is running for the Green Party, and will be on the ballot during the primary election, Nov. 4. His priorities are developing smart government, creating a more innovative economy, and ensuring local empower- ment.

Other candidates for the seat who do not live in Takoma Park are Justin W. Chappell, William Jawando, Jonathan Shurberg, Will Smith, Darian Unger, George Young, all from Silver Spring. Each has a web site with more information about their background and policies.

Montgomery County Council
The County Council is divided into five districts, with a councilmember assigned to each. In addition, there are four at-large seats, three of which are currently filled by Takoma Park residents Marc Elrich, George Leventhal and Hans Reimer.

Takoma Park lies within District 5, currently represented by Cherri Branson.

There are 11 candidates for the at-large seats. Among them are the three incumbents from Takoma Park, and one Takoma Park green party candidate who will not appear on the ballot until the pri- mary.

Marc Elrich was elected ten times to the Takoma Park City Council, and moved on the County Council, where he is complet- ing his second term. As a former school teacher, he frequently advocates for edu- cation policy, as well as affordable hous- ing, smart development, transportation and environment.

George Leventhal has been a Takoma Park resident since 1985, and a council- member for nearly three terms. He advo- cates for health care reform, environment and transportation.

Hans Reimer has been on the council since 2010. He prioritizes public educa- tion, a healthy tax base, great jobs, high quality affordable child care, environmen- tal protection, public transportation and development near transportation hubs.

Other at-large candidates who do not live in Takoma Park are democrats Beth Daly, Nancy Fleseven and Vivian Mal- loy, and republicans Robert Dyer, Chris Fiotes, Jr., Adol Owen-Williams and Shelly Skolnick; and green party candi- date Tim Willard.

In District 5, there are five candidates including one from Takoma Park, Terrill North.

Terrill North is known in Takoma Park for founding Making a New United People (MANUP), a mentorship program for lo- cal at-risk youth. He is also active in or- ganizations promoting green policies and equity in education.

Also running in District 5 is former 17- year Takoma Park resident Chris Barclay, who recently moved to Silver Spring. He has been a County School Board mem- ber for seven years and active in the local community as well.

Other District 5 candidates are Evan Glass, Tom Hucker and Jeffrey Tham.

Other races include county executive, school board, attorney general, judges and more. For additional information, in- cluding candidates’ web sites and where and when to vote, see www.elections. state.md.us/elections 2014.

Takoma Park News Page 9
Protect bikes, outdoor gear from theft

Summer is here and your bikes and outdoor property may be vulnerable. These tips will help you protect your property:

• When you are at home, keep your bike secure and locked at all times.
• When you are out, always lock your bike, even if you are only leaving it for a few minutes.
• Avoid parking your bike in isolated or dimly-lit places. Always park your bike in a well-lit, well-populated area when possible. Thieves are less likely to commit a theft where they can be easily seen.
• Get a good bike lock. The hardened steel D shaped locks are recommended as the minimum standard.

The theft of garden ornaments, furniture, yard tools and planters is another concern, yard tools and planters is another concern. Consider marking and photographing your property with your postal-mail address, marking, take a photograph anyway to help when the worst happens and they are stolen.

• Secure garden furniture by using an anchoring device and other devices to secure garden furniture by using an anchoring device and other devices to markings visible where possible.

Ways park your bike

May 2014

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The Firehouse Report

By Jim Jarboe

As of March 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 160 fire-related incidents in 2014. The department addressed or assisted with 689 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 849. Totals for 2013 were 155 and 706, representing a decrease of 12 incidents.

During the month of March 2014, the Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 1,247.5 hours of standby time at the station, compared to 1,034 in March 2013. Grand totals as of March 2014 are 3,617.5 hours, compared to 3,155.5 hours in 2013, an increase of 462 hours.

Maryland fire deaths update

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of April 21, 2014, 24 people have died in fires, as compared to 34 in 2013.

Fire safety for senior citizens

Did you know that people over the age of 65 are twice as likely to die or be injured in a fire as the population at large? By age 75 that risk increases to three times and by age 85, four times. Those are scary numbers, but you don’t have to become another statistic.

Just follow these important fire safety tips.

Smoke alarms

• A working smoke alarm can more than double your chances of surviving a fire.
• Be sure to have a smoke alarm on every level of your home and in all sleeping areas.
• Make sure everyone in your home is awakened by the sound of the smoke alarm. If someone is hearing impaired, invest in an alarm that uses flashing lights or some other visual aid.
• Test your smoke alarms once a month. If this is difficult for you, ask a neighbor or family member to assist you.
• Change your smoke alarm batteries twice a year. A good rule of thumb to follow: change your clocks, change your smoke alarm batteries.

Fire escape planning

• If you are still using the same escape route you used when the kids still lived at home, it’s time for a new one!
• Sit down with all household members and discuss your escape plan.
• Plan at least two ways out of each room of your home, especially the bedrooms.
• Consider any limitations you may have that would keep you from implementing your plan.
• If any family member will need assistance, remember to plan accordingly.
• Make sure that your exits are wheelchair or walker accessible, if necessary.
• Put your plan to the test and practice it.

What to do if there is a fire

A home fire is an experience no one would like to have. But if one does happen to you, preparation can help you survive:

• When the smoke alarm sounds, get out of bed and stay low to the floor.
• Feel the door. If it is cool, open it slowly and get to the nearest exit. If the door is warm or hot, follow your alternate escape route.
• Do not stop to collect valuables or pets. Most pets will find their own way out.
• If you are unable to leave your room, call the fire department and be sure to tell the dispatcher that you are trapped. Then you can try to seal the door with wet towels, duct tape, etc.
• When you get out, stay out! Go to the nearest neighbor’s house.

Five officers promoted, two in training

Several officers have been promoted within the Takoma Park Police Department this spring. On March 5, Chief Alan Goldberg announced the following:

Cpl. Charles Hoetzl and Cpl. Jerome Erwin were both promoted to Sergeant. Pfc. Joseph Butler, Ptc. Matthew Barber and Ptc. David Quante were all promoted to Corporal.

The Takoma Park Police Department currently has two cadets in training at the Montgomery County Police Training Academy; they are expected to graduate in September 2014. Two new dispatchers have also been hired: Yohanna Molina and Daniel-Bushman. Both are currently training in their positions.

Important telephone numbers:

Takoma Park Police Dispatcher
301-270-1100

Montgomery County Crisis Center
(24 hrs/7 days a week)
240-777-4000
Keeping mosquitoes at bay this summer

Summer is fast approaching, which means mosquito season is upon us. In addition to being a nuisance, mosquitoes spread West Nile virus, so controlling them is important for health as well as comfort.

What can you do to decrease the number of mosquitoes and protect your outdoor living space?

Reduce potential breeding grounds! Mosquitoes need standing or slow moving water to lay their eggs. In residential areas, standing water can accumulate in any receptacle or surface that can collect water. Water standing just a few days can produce an entire crop of mosquitoes, which can enter homes through unscreened windows or doors, or broken screens.

- Eliminate any standing water that collects on your property.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots, or similar water-holding containers or insert small holes in the bottom so they drain.
- Remove all discarded tires or other trash from your property.
- Make sure roof gutters drain properly. Clean clogged gutters in the spring and fall.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor saunas and hot tubs. If not in use, empty and cover.
- Drain water from furniture, grill or tal covers.
- Change the water in bird baths at least every three or four days.
- Turn over plastic wading pools, watering cans and wheelbarrows when not in use.
- Rake and remove leaves and remove English ivy from the ground.
- Check for and fix any leaks in outdoor watering equipment.
- Keep the water in any ponds or fountains clean and moving, and consider adding fish (gambusia).
- Repair or replace all screens in your home that have tears or holes.
- Remind or help neighbors to eliminate mosquito-breeding sites on their properties.

Avoid Pesticides

Mosquitoes are annoying, and it may be tempting to spring for a service that sprays your yard with chemicals to kill mosquitoes. Keep in mind that in addition to being expensive, these services provide only temporary relief and will require additional treatment every couple weeks. Unfortunately, these chemical sprays (typically organophosphates and pyrethroids) are neurotoxins and kill beneficial insects, such as bees and butterflies. The chemicals can be toxic to humans and animals and must be handled with special care. If you absolutely must use pesticides, only use an EPA-registered product and carefully follow label instructions.

When it comes to mosquitoes, the best approach is preventing their proliferation in the first place. If we all do our part to reduce breeding grounds in our yards, then everyone can enjoy the great outdoors.

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 craigslist@takomapark.md. 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

Stewart cent of the registered voters in the ward, there are 2,366 registered voters there, including those who used same-day registration to vote in this election.

City administrators and others who followed voting policy were interested to see how the new city charter change, which allows younger voters into the polls, might affect the election. They report that 14 voters were 16 or 17 years old.

Twenty-three residents took advantage of the opportunity to register and vote on the same day. Of these, seven were non-U.S. citizen voters.

Two days of early voting were conducted at the Community Center prior to election day. On April 6, 157 ballots were cast. On April 7, 93 residents voted. Election day voting took place at the Takoma Park Fire Station on Carroll Avenue. A total of 398 voters cast ballots that day.

Stewart was welcomed to the City Council with a reception on April 21, and began work immediately after at the meeting that followed. She is a 20-year resident of Takoma Park, and in her candidate profile for this newsletter, said her priorities are revitalizing Takoma Junction, building a sustainable future and ensuring a safe and welcoming community. She supports the Community Kitchen, small business opportunities, affordable housing and programs for seniors who want to stay in the community as they age.

New eateries

The first suburban location, run by two cousins, each named Philip. “The Phils” continue to run the business, drawing on their deep experience in the food industry – Philip G. Sardelis learned from his father, Sardi’s founder Mike Sardelis, who managed such landmark establishments as Duke Zeiberts, San Souci and La Maison Blanche in D.C. Philip E. Sardelis runs Sardi’s $1.2 million catering operation; after starting it in his home kitchen he has catered such memorable events as The People’s Inaugural Ball for President Obama.

For Takoma Park, the menu is simple: grab a quarter, half, or whole bird and then choose sides like fried yuca, black or pinto beans, and sweet plantains.

Speech-laden sauces, served on the side, are the not-so-secret ingredient that make Sardi’s so distinctive, and so hard to resist for its loyal customers. The menu also offers a wide range of other specialties from ceviche to souvlaki, charbroiled steak and vegetarian options like mixed vegetables and salad.

Sardi’s Pelle a La Brasa

1159 University Blvd. East, 301-755-5777
Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m. – 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.
www.sardischicken.com

Soulfully vegan

Just over the D.C. line in Takoma, D.C. Everlasting Life has taken over the former Cedar Crossings Tavern. The bar is still a popular watering hole (with a full bar including local craft brews on tap), but the menu is dramatically different: all vegan, and grounded in a taste for soul food.

Everlasting Life has two locations – the other is in Capitol Heights – and was originally located on Georgia Avenue near Howard University (a location that has since changed hands). The Takoma location, steps from the Metro station at 341 Cedar St NW, opened in February.

As the name indicates, the focus is on health, and the restaurant celebrates a nutritious, plant-based diet. But it pairs that community with an emphasis on a D.C. tradition: home-cooked soul food. Think collards, macaroni and cheese, fried fish, fried chicken and barbeque – but minus any animal products. By using soy products and other meat substitutes and creative cookery, the chefs at Everlasting Life have developed a loyal following among vegans who still crave comfort food.

“The goal is to be able to extend or expand the existing restaurant landscape a bit to include a southern restaurant as well as at the same time something that is compassionate,” says founder and owner Baruch “Doctor Baruch” Ben Yehuda, who started his business 19 years ago in his garage and has since developed a following.

“We are concerned about the planet, we are concerned about the inhabitants of the planet.”

That said, Ben Yehuda’s approach is hardly radical. “As a restaurateur, I just want to make vegan food taste good.” He plans to open another vegan eatery about a block away some time in May.

Everlasting Life

341 Cedar Street NW, 202-882-9999
Monday-Wednesday, 12-10 p.m., Thursday-Saturday, 12-11 p.m.
Do you have an item for the city calendar?

Let us know if you have a non-profit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we’ll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the June issue May 26, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning June 6.

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, May 5, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Fun and games for kids
See www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation

Teen Night
Second and fourth Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Games and activities just for teens
See www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation

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

Crossroads Farmers Market
Wednesdays, 11 a.m. -3 p.m. beginning June 4
New location: Behind Expo Emart at 1201 University Blvd.
Locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs plus pupusas and other prepared food

The Essex House Saturday Farmers Market
Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. beginning May 10
7777 Maple Ave.
Locally and sustainably grown fruits and veggies

Food Truck Fridays
Fridays, 5 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Ave.
Trhov, 222 Carroll Street, NW
Various food vendors

Nuclear Savage: The Secret Islands of Project 4.1
Friday, May 2, 7-9 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Award-winning documentary and shocking expose about atomic bomb testing in the Marshall Islands, followed by commentary by Robert Alvarez, Takoma Park resident and Institute for Policy Studies senior scholar. Co-presented by TP Nuclear-Free Committee and Beyond Nuclear
Free

Screening of “Lunch Hour”
Saturday, May 3, 6:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Lunch Hour examines America’s national school lunch program, which exposes children to unhealthy, but culturally acceptable foods at a young age
Free

Takoma Park Jazz Festival
The 19th Annual Takoma JazzFest, Celebrating Jazzy Women, will fill the streets of Old Town on Sunday, June 8 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The festival includes two stages and 12 performances, plus street food and some 70 craft vendors. Among the musicians is headliner and up and coming trumpeter/vocalist/composer Brianna Skonberg.

For more information, see www.tpqjazzfest.org.

www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

Dance Along the Silk Road
Saturday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.
Rare and exquisite dances from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Iran and beyond, with memorable choreography, lavish costumes and compelling music
TP Community Center Auditorium
Free
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

Mid-Atlantic Song Contest Winners Showcase
Saturday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.
Seekers Church, 276 Carroll Street NW
Composer/musician blends Celtic and Appalachian music on guitar, cittern and mandolin
Institute of Musical Traditions $15 advance, $18 door plus $2 administrative fee, discounts for SAW members and students www.imtfolk.org

Washington Improv Theater – Performance
Friday, May 30, 8 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Audience suggestions inspire comedic performances created on the spot
Suggested $10 donation
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

The Grapevine – Storytelling Series
Thursday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Lilac Room
Find out what the improv lark is all about and learn about the joy of saying yes!
Free
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

Seniors
Art Museum of the Americas
Wednesday, May 1, 8:45 a.m.-3 p.m.
 tpjazzfest.org

For adults ages 55 and older
See page 7 for details