

April
2015

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 54, No. 4 ■ takomaparkmd.gov



WHAT'S NEW?

Art Hop

Takoma Park's city-wide celebration of art
April 24-26
Details, page 15

Celebrating 125 years of Takoma Park

Saturday, April 18
Details, page 15

Trash/recycling collection

No changes this month



Spring is finally on its way to Takoma Park, and these showy blossoms are part of the celebration. Left, tulips on Maple Avenue warm to the sun. Below, witch hazel in the garden across the street from the Library.

photos by Selena Malott



Planting a playground

Residents try to balance gardens and swingsets in Pinecrest

By Rick Henry

Residents of the Pinecrest neighborhood, who have long advocated for a playground in Sligo Mill Overlook Park at the intersection of Sligo Mill Road and Orchard Avenue, are pushing back against proposed design plans for the site, saying they do not reflect the original proposal concepts that were shared or discussed in previous public meetings.

"When we met with the design teams, they presented a really cool idea of what the playground could be. What we got was the opposite of that," resident Mila Antova told a group of local residents who gath-

ered recently to review and discuss plans.

The proposal includes a creative climbing structure with a small slide and a Little Mermaid/Tinderbox-themed climbing/imagination structure, also with a slide. It does not include a swingset.

While grateful that their more than two-year effort to get a playground built has been approved, the residents say certain design elements being proposed to accommodate gardeners at the existing community garden (which currently occupies and would share the space) create both safety and aesthetic issues.

PLAYGROUND □ Page 9

Budget proposal includes two-cent increase

Revenues from state, county stagnant; some favorite projects still funded

With revenues from Montgomery County and the State of Maryland frozen and several other unavoidable circumstances straining city finances, Takoma Park may be raising taxes this year. The \$29.6 million budget proposal, which will be presented to City Council April 6, includes

a two-cent tax rate increase. If passed by City Council, the increase would be the first the city has implemented in 13 years.

Suzanne Ludlow, named acting city manager just as staff preparation for the

BUDGET PROPOSAL □ Page 8

Takoma Junction developer chosen

By Virginia Myers

After months of meetings, proposals and analysis, Takoma Park City Council voted unanimously March 23 to move forward with development at Takoma Junction, choosing the Neighborhood Development Company for the project. An April 13 City Council vote is expected to finalize the decision and authorize the city manager to sign a contract with NDC.

If finalized, the vote determines that the city will work with NDC toward a mutually agreeable development – not that the original NDC proposal will be actualized. In fact, several councilmembers said they favored NDC because the firm was especially flexible and willing to work with the community on changing the design to fit the city's needs.

NDC's current proposal is for a two-story complex of brick, glass and metal along Carroll Avenue, with 10 residential units designed to be live/work units that relate to corresponding retail space. A total of about 23,880 square feet of commercial space would include the TPSS Co-op (in a new building); Takoma Children's School (a preschool); the Ability Project (a community facility for developmentally disabled adults); Paint Branch Montessori School; four units of ground-floor retail; a shared tenant/community space for performances, meetings and classrooms; a community kitchen/galley; and

TAKOMA JUNCTION □ Page 9

Ludlow named city manager

Suzanne Ludlow, who has been acting city manager since Brian Kenner left the Takoma Park administration in January, will finally take over the post for herself and become Takoma Park's city manager. Ludlow, who has been deputy city manager since 2008, filled in when Barbara Matthews left in 2012, until Kenner was hired 10 months later. When he left to become Deputy Mayor for Planning and Eco-

CITY MANAGER □ Page 11

Mayor & Council
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– www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS – APRIL 6 TO MAY 4

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

City Council meeting, Monday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.*
City Council budget work session, Thursday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.

City Council meeting, Monday, April 13, 7 p.m.
City Council budget work session, Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.

City Council meeting, Monday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
City Council budget work session, Thursday, April 23, 7:30 p.m.

City Council meeting, Monday, April 27, 7 p.m.
City Council budget work session (tentative), Thursday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.

City Council meeting, Monday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.
Meetings take place in the TPCC auditorium, unless noted otherwise. *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

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, April 22, 7:15 p.m.
TPCC Rose Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Atrium Room

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Council conference room

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Council conference room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 16, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 23, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 28, 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/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.

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 Acting City Manager Suzanne Ludlow, at 301-891-7229 or suzannel@takomaparkmd.gov at least 48 hours in advance.

City Council Action

All actions take place in scheduled legislative meetings of the City Council. Only negative votes and abstentions/recusals are noted. Adopted legislation is available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov. For additional information, contact the city clerk at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov.

ORDINANCE 2015-11

Adopted March 9

Awarding a Contract for Landscape and Field Maintenance Services

Awards a contract to Level Green Landscape LLC for services for Ed Wilhelm and Lee Jordan fields. The contract is renewable for three additional one-year terms.

RESOLUTION 2015-11

Adopted Feb. 23

Commenting on the Draft Public Hearing Staff Report, R-14-01: Proposed Changes to WMATA Facilities at Takoma Metro Station; June 18, 2014

Submits detailed comment on the draft Public Hearing Staff Report, recognizes positive elements in the evolution of the proposed site design; and asks WMATA and developer EYA to make certain modifications to address the city's concerns.

RESOLUTION 2015-12

Adopted Feb. 23

Appointing Members to the Arts and Humanities Commission

Appoints Eric Gordon (Ward 2), Camilla Schaeffer (Ward 2), and Marilyn Sklar (Ward 3)

to the Commission.

RESOLUTION 2015-13

Adopted March 9

Appointing Members to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

Appoints Irvin P. Foster (Ward 1) and Michael H. Mullins (Ward 2).

CITY COUNCIL ACTION Page 3

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS FY 2016 PROPOSED BUDGET

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 7 P.M.

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 7 P.M.

TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER AUDITORIUM

The City Council will hold two public hearings on the proposed FY 2016 budget. The proposed budget will be presented on Monday, April 6. There will be a public hearing on Monday, April 13 at 7 p.m. A second public hearing will be held on Monday, April 27 at 7 p.m. All interested persons should attend and sign up to speak. Comments may also be sent to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. See information about the budget in this issue of the Takoma Park Newsletter beginning on page 1.

Notice of Proposed Administrative Regulations for Implementation and Enforcement of Takoma Park Code, Chapter 8.44 Filming and Photography

An Administrative Regulation is being proposed to implement Chapter 8.44 Filming and Photography. The regulation establishes a schedule of fees for permits and sets forth the procedures to appeal a permit denial.

Pursuant to the requirements of the "Administrative Regulations Ordinance" (Authority: Chapter 2.12 "Administrative Regulations," of the Takoma Park Code), notice of the city's intention to adopt an administrative regulation must be publically noted, allowing residents the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The proposed regulation is available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk. To obtain further information about the proposed regulation, contact Emily Cohen, management analyst, City Administration, 7500 Maple Ave, 301-891-7266, emilyc@takomaparkmd.gov. Written comments on the proposed regulation may be sent to the city clerk, 7500 Maple Ave. Takoma Park, Md. 20912, or e-mailed to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The deadline for receipt of public comments is May 8, 2015.

VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Consider visiting a meeting of one of the city boards, commissions and committees listed below to see if you are interested in serving. Meeting dates/times may be found on the city's calendar at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/calendar.

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. View information at www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc for complete information or to apply. For questions, contact Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

(vacancies): The commission serves in an official advisory role to the City Council on all matters related to the arts and humanities. The commission promotes, coordinates and strengthens public programs to further cultural development of the city. At least 2/3 of the members must be Takoma Park residents. The AHC generally meets quarterly. For information, contact Housing and Community Development director Sara Anne Daines at sarad@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7224.

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION (several vacancies)

The City Council has established a Commemoration Commission to document, maintain, and preserve past, present and future memorials, commemoratives and recognitions in the city; recommend to the City Council procedures and programs to honor and commemorate individuals, organizations and businesses that have made significant contributions to the social, cultural, historical, political, economic or civic life of the city as a whole or to a neighborhood/local area as well as programs for individuals to honor others; implement such programs within its scope and budget; and decide on recognitions

after opportunity for public review and comment. The commission will consist of five to nine members appointed to staggered three-year terms. Residency is required.

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

(vacancies): The committee advises the City Council on all environmental issues, including, but not limited to, stormwater management, greenhouse gas reduction, air quality, tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning and restoration, energy use, transportation, energy conservation and recycling. Additionally, the committee serves in partnership with the City Council and city staff to work together to achieve sustainability and other environmental certifications that may help the city meet and be recognized for its environmental goals. Residency is required.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

(two vacancies): The Emergency Preparedness Committee provides community input to and assists in the city's planning and preparations for emergency operations and seeks to further the preparedness of the community. The committee generally meets monthly on the

fourth Thursday.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

(vacancy): The Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee oversees implementation of and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act. Interested residents are encouraged to apply. Residency is required. www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc/nuclear-free-takoma-park-committee

RECREATION COMMITTEE (up to five vacancies)

The Recreation Committee advises the City Council on matters related to recreation programming and facilities. Residency is required.

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE (vacancies)

The Safe Roadways Committee advises the City Council on transportation-related issues including, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and safety, traffic issues and transit services and encourages Takoma Park residents to use alternatives to driving, including walking, bicycling and mass transit. Residency is required. www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc/safe-roadways-committee.

PERSONNEL APPEAL BOARD (vacancies)

The Personnel Appeal Board is authorized to hear certain employee grievance appeals.

Takoma resident brings solar electricity to India

By Kevin Adler

"We're so entitled here in America and in Takoma Park," says Joe Kselman, a local resident.

Many people in Takoma Park would agree. Although our lifestyles vary across the city, all of us live in an advanced economy with a high level of infrastructure, security and creature comforts.

"Unless you travel to the third world and see a baby sleeping next to a chicken on the ground of a hut, you don't really understand," says Kselman.

Like many others in Takoma Park, Kselman is taking his conviction to areas in which needs are greatest. In his case, it's to some of the poorest regions of India, where members of the lowest castes live without electricity, clean water and many other things we take for granted in the West.

"What I pay for Netflix can give a family a new lease on life in India. No one is poorer or more in need than the rural poor of India," he says.

For nearly three years, Kselman has been raising funds and making trips to India to install solar-electric panels in remote villages. It's an outgrowth of many factors that merged in his life – his interest in Buddhism; his marriage to Cristeen, a native of India; his work as a project manager at the University of Maryland's Energy Research Center; and living in a community of take-charge activists.

"I love living here. People want to have a positive impact on humanity," said Kselman, who moved to Takoma Park in 2007.

Kselman's journey began about three years ago when he visited India for the first time. "My interest in Buddhism was the start. The trip was amazing—India has no lack of problems, but it's a magical place," he said.

He traveled through the State of Bihar, which contains the Mohabodhi Temple, where the Buddha found enlightenment. In that region, he saw the village of Guaterine, a place of such poverty and isolation that residents are without any access to the electrical grid. Kerosene lamps provided the only source of light.

"I knew I could do something about it," he said, so when he returned to the States, he tapped into his electrical engineering skills and his contacts at the University of Maryland. A colleague, Shyam Mehrotra, devised the simple solar electric package that would provide reliable, cheap energy.



Photos courtesy Joe Kselman

The people of Kihare, an Indian village where solar electricity has made an enormous difference in people's lives.



One of the teachers at the village school, with her daughter, holds newly arrived solar equipment. Behind her are Joe and Cristeen Kselman.

By mid-2014, Kselman was ready.

"I bought a solar panel, a battery and a power inverter, and when I went back to India, I installed it at a school in Guaterine," he said. "It was simple, and it cost only about \$1,500."



A Kihare resident with one of the solar panels that will bring electricity to his home.

For the first time, the school had electric lights and a ceiling fan. Six months later, Kselman delivered two micro-computers, another inverter and a bigger battery.

Helping him on those initial projects was his wife Cristeen and Sunil Sharma, who Kselman met on his first visit to

India. A resident of New Delhi, Sharma reached out to Guaterine leaders in advance of the installation.

With the school electrified, the team set about their next project: putting solar panels on 75 homes in Guaterine.

"We put up an Indiegogo campaign for solar lanterns, and before I knew it, we had some funding," said Kselman. "Cristeen was helping with all the logistics in country, from finalizing the purchase of the 75 units from the vendor in Patna (the capital of Bihar) to making sure the distribution process in Guaterine was efficient and equitable."

When that project was done, a more ambitious plan was born. The Kihare Solar Village Project set its sights on purchasing and installing 5,000 rooftop solar units in the next three years, starting in Kihare, a village about 10 miles from Guaterine. An online campaign conducted in March aimed for \$10,000 for 175 units.

The organization recently attained 501c3 non-profit status and is seeking donations through social media, as well as applying for grants.

"We built a board of directors, and they're wonderful. About half are in the U.S. and half in India. Several members are very knowledgeable about battery technology and solar, far beyond me," Kselman said. Board members have obtained deals from solar providers such as batteries that will come with one-year guarantees and can be replaced for \$5.

"The idea is to keep it inexpensive and simple. Since these are independent power sources, there's no government red tape, and the systems are inexpensive to maintain. Our goal is for people in one village teaching people in another village about it," said Kselman.

The home solar units will support lighting and will enable people to charge their cell phones. "Even in the poorest areas, many people, maybe as many as half, have cell phones," he said. "It's a breakthrough technology. But people have to walk five or six kilometers and then pay to charge their phones. This will make it easier and free."

Reaching the Kihare Project's ultimate goal of 5,000 solar units will run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. But every donation counts, so Kselman plans to step up his campaign in Takoma Park this year. "I'll be at the Sunday Farmer's Market," he said. "I think the message that 'we need your help' will be heard."



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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Assistant: Sean Gossard
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takomaparkmd.gov or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912.

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.

COUNCIL ACTION

■ From page 2

RESOLUTION 2015-14

Adopted March 9

Appointing Members to the Commemoration Commission

Appoints the following members: voting members Daniel Jessop (Ward 6), Jessica Kessler (Ward 2), Richard O'Connor (Ward 1), Mitchell Tropin (Ward 1), and Jane Yamaykin (Ward 6) and representative members Gelynn Hurt (Arts and Humanities Commission), Diana Kohn (Historic Takoma), and Howard Kohn (Recreation Committee).

RESOLUTION 2015-15

Adopted March 9

Appointing or Reappointing Members to the Emergency Preparedness Committee

Appoints Rebecca Chestnutt (Ward 3) and reappoints Andy Kelemen (Ward 1) and Jennifer Kurtinitis (Ward 1).



BUILDING COMMUNITY

Takoma Radio granted permit

The way has officially been cleared for a new, hyper-local neighborhood radio station in Takoma Park: The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently awarded a construction permit to Historic Takoma Inc. (HTI) for Takoma Radio, and organizers have permission to go on the air as WOWD-LP, 94.3 FM. The FCC had already issued a permit for broadcasting in January.

The station will be "LP," or "low power," using 100 watts or less and reaching a two- to five-mile radius on the FM band; it requires no special equipment for listening, just a conventional radio.

WOWD-LP organizers expect to be broadcasting by the summer of 2016 with programming that will include music, stories, interviews, history, community events, festival coverage and other expressions of life in Takoma Park

and surrounding neighborhoods.

WOWD-LP will be located in a studio being created by Charlie Pilzer, a nationally-known audio expert and owner of the recording studio Airshow on Westmoreland Avenue. Funding for equipment, including portable recording gear, has come from a Takoma Foundation grant and from donations.

Organizers, led by Takoma Park resident Marika Partridge, hope to involve a wide array of people in station operation, including teens, elders and everyone in between.

To read more about the origins of Takoma Radio, see the October 2012 Takoma Park Newsletter (page 3, <http://bit.ly/1CJFyb3>) and the Takoma Voice <http://bit.ly/1Fm85Da> and for more up-to-date developments, go to www.takomaradio.org.



Tenants Rights Seminar

April 23, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave.

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Melted snow reveals signs of spring: Litter

It's a common sight: winter exits, spring enters, and litter, buried under snow and slush for months, emerges. This spring, Takoma Park's Anti-litter Initiative has a list of ways the city can partner with residents to clean it up. Banners urging residents to take care of their trash will be hung again at litter hot spots; the groovy TKPK car magnets will be distributed to residents who want to advertise their commitment to a clean Takoma; more spots will be adopted; several organized trash clean up events will take place; and a new social media tool will be launched.

One program, **Adopt-a-Spot**, has become the signature of the Anti-litter Initiative by engaging residents and businesses to help reduce the amount of litter on city streets. Adopt-a-Spot has proved to be effective tool for individuals, community groups and businesses to pitch in. The Young Activist Club, www.youngactivists.com, has adopted the area around the Community Center and Piney Branch Elementary School, and Old Takoma Ace Hardware, www.acehardware.com/stores/old-takoma-ace-hardware.html, is committed to keeping the public spaces in front and behind the store and the playground at Takoma Urban Park on Westmoreland Avenue free of litter. The store even has a beautification plan for the park.

Sister Eden, www.sistereden.com, was so disturbed by the amount of litter she noticed on her daily dog walks on Flower Avenue that she signed on to pick it up regularly. Adopted spots are marked with a small sign thanking the clean-up crew. This simple collaborative effort is expected to grow and in turn, so will the litter-free areas of Takoma Park.

Other people are plugging in to annual clean-up events around town (see box).

A newer approach is Takoma Park's participation in "Litterati," a global initiative designed to clean the planet one piece of litter at a time. Litterati challenges concerned citizens with smart phones and an Instagram account to take part. Here is how it works:

1. Find a piece of litter.
2. Photograph it with Instagram.
3. Hashtag photo with #LITTERATI #trashfreetkpk.

4. Throw away, recycle or compost the litter.

After signing up for a spring clean-up, volunteers can designate a photographer and record the data with Litterati. Visit litterati.org to see the digital landfill, the impact on a global map and collection statistics, and watch the number of pieces of litter in Takoma Park grow. Data collected through Litterati can inform the city of litter hotspots and trends – so there's no need to wait for an organized clean up, residents can start picking up litter whenever they see it.

Keeping meds for emergencies

To be sure you get the health care you need during emergencies such as accidents, weather disasters or health crises, consider these tips from the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee:

ICE: Post "in case of emergency" information in your cell phone—an emergency contact person and phone number. Also put a text list of your key medications in your cell phone so that paramedics can avoid medication complications. Give your ICE person the list of medications as well as numbers for your pharmacy and doctor(s), and tell ICE person where to find the medications in your home. Note that HIPPA, a federal regulation that restricts sharing medical information, forbids giving specific information about your con-

dition to the ICE person without your permission, but hospital personnel can use the information to contact your ICE contact if you cannot speak for yourself.

Extra Meds: Talk with your doctor to obtain an extra supply of medication if you are traveling, or get a second prescription and keep it at home until needed. Be sure to check your insurance coverage in case advance prescriptions are not covered.

Insurance: Provide insurance information to ICE. Include the name of your primary doctor. When traveling, be sure of what your insurance covers and find an alternative doctor. Note that emergency personnel will take you to the nearest facility, not your preferred one.

This chart can help keep you up to date and safe in an emergency. Paste it on top of your own four-column chart, fill out the information below the descriptions we've provided, and update the list every six months or earlier if information changes.

Name _____			
Date form filled out	ICE information: person name, #; primary doctor and #, pharmacy #/email; health conditions (e.g. diabetes, allergies).	-Medications and dosage; -Reason for medication (e.g. allergy meds) -location of medication at home	Insurance: contact #, policy #

Pitch In

There are numerous clean-up events scheduled in Takoma Park this spring. From the Young Activist Club to the students at Takoma Academy and Washington Adventist University, young people are hitting the streets and the streams to collect litter. These events already have enough volunteers, but here are some others where residents can lend a hand:

- Takoma Spring Clean Up, Old Takoma Business Association, www.mainstreettakoma.org. April 18, 10 a.m. - noon, meet at the clock tower
- Sweep the Creek, Friends of Sligo Creek, www.fosc.org, April 25, 9-11 a.m.; April 26, 1-3 p.m. Details on website.
- New Hampshire Avenue Clean Up, Takoma Langley Crossroads Authority, www.takomalangley.org. Four times a year, to volunteer call 301-445-7910.
- For events throughout the Potomac Watershed visit the 27th Annual Potomac River Watershed Clean up web page: www.fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/potomac-river-watershed-cleanup. Volunteers are needed throughout the area, March 20 through April 30.

THE ARTS



Footworks Percussive Dance Ensemble

Saturday, April 11, 3 p.m.

\$10 suggested donation

TP Community Center auditorium

This interactive event of live music and dance will showcase percussive dance styles from around the world, mixing clogging, stepping and tap with singing and comedy for a lively, 50-minute performance. Footworks was chosen by the Smithsonian Institution to represent American culture in Japan, and the National Endowment for the Arts awarded founding director Eileen Carson with a two-year choreography fellowship. Originally The Fiddle Puppet Dancers, Footworks has evolved its mix of cultural dance and folk-inspired music since 1979, and has operated under its new moniker since the mid-1990s.

When Carson founded the ensemble, her goal was to adapt traditional social dances with fresh choreography for the quartet, and to develop her talent for staging and producing theater shows. Musical director Mark Schatz, a former Nickel Creek bassist and current bassist for The Claire Lynch Band, became involved in the 1990s, and occasionally lends his banjo and clogging abilities to performances. "The group's techniques ought to be patented," wrote one Washington Post reviewer.

Radical Harmonies

Wednesday, April 8

7:30 p.m.

Free

TP Community Center auditorium

Radical Harmonies is a full-length documentary that chronicles the women's music cultural movement and its shift from "girls with guitars" to a cultural revolution. The film explores how the movement gave birth to an alternative industry, and explains how that industry changed the roles of women in music and altered musical culture forever.

With interviews, festival footage, and archival clips, the film relates a nuanced history of women creating art with a commitment to diversity and feminism. Women's music in the 1970s and '80s offered an alternative message from those communicated through mainstream music. In this pivotal era, many women musicians, producers, technicians and women-owned recording studios blossomed, and many struggled in the still male-dominated industry.

The film features commentary by early stars and music-industry pioneers such as Holly Near and Cris Williamson, and by current musicians such as the Indigo Girls and Ani DiFranco. While many films have remarked on aspects women's music, this documentary is the first to explore its full history and impact — from the recording to the dissemination of the first groundbreaking songs. Radical Harmonies illustrates how the women's music cultural movement changed the lives of countless women and the cultural landscape.

The film is 88 minutes long.



Akhmedova Ballet Academy

Saturday, April 25,

7:30 p.m.

\$10 suggested donation

TP Community Center auditorium

The Akhmedova Ballet Academy will present an evening of classical and contemporary works as well as character dances, all performed by its highly skilled Professional Training Program students. The Silver Spring-based Akhmedova Ballet Academy, founded by Russian-trained former Bolshoi Ballet principal Jacqueline Akhmedova, uses the Vaganova Method, fusing French Romantic style with the athleticism of Italian ballet technique. Akhmedova's students compete regularly in prestigious ballet competitions, including the Youth America Grand Prix and Prix de Lausanne, and alumni have gone on to such companies as American Ballet Theater and the San Francisco Ballet. To learn more, go to www.akhmedovaballet.org.



HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF DAY

SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015,

From 10am to 2pm

Location: Public Works Yard - 31 Oswego Avenue (enter from Oswego Side)
Free for Takoma Park Residents, \$10 fee for Non-Residents

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- aerosol cans containing hazardous products
- antifreeze and hydraulic fluids (5 gallon limit)
- batteries: lithium, lithium-ion, nickel-cadmium, car (lead acid)
- brake fluid
- charcoal containing flammable agents
- driveway sealant, tar
- gasoline, gas-oil mixes, kerosene
- herbicides, insecticides and pesticides
- fluorescent light tubes and ballasts
- thermostats and thermometers containing mercury
- oil based paints, paint thinners and solvents
- photographic chemicals

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- latex paint
- commercial, industrial or medical wastes
- compressed gas cylinders or radioactive materials



RECREATION

Registration is underway for summer camps.

A full listing of classes and programs is in the 2015 Summer Camp Guide, or visit us at www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.

Please visit the following websites if you are interested in registering for the following summer camps:

- Cheerleading/Step Camp and Dance Camp - www.marylandcheerchargers.org
- Enrichment STEM Camp - www.capitalscholars.org
- Girls Basketball Camp - www.racbasketball.com
- On Stage: Footlight and Spotlight - www.onstagetakoma.com
- Visual Arts Camps - www.katiedellkaufman.com



You can find a full listing of our classes and programs in the 2015 Spring/Summer City Guide or help us go green and visit us online www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.

TOTS

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Spanish for Tots

Ages 3 – 5

This class is composed of a mix of high-energy games, projects, music and movement, treasure hunts and other fun activities. Children will learn the Spanish vocabulary needed to express themselves and their needs through complete language immersion. There will be a \$10 materials fee due to the instructor on the first day of the class.

TP Community Center Lilac Room
Mondays, April 13 – May 18, 10 – 11 a.m.
TP residents \$85
Non-residents \$105

Zumbini

Ages newborn – 3

Zumbini is a music and movement class for children, newborn to 3 years, to attend with their music-loving caregiver. We combine original Zumba-style music with dancing, singing, instruments and scarves to create a fun and engaging 45-minute class. Each will receive a "Bini Bundle" which includes two copies of our class music and a beautifully illustrated storybook.

TP Community Center Azalea Room
Saturdays, April 4 – May 30, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.
TP residents \$110
Non-residents \$130

YOUTH

DRAMA AND THEATER

Dungeons and Dragons

REGISTRATION UNDERWAY FOR EXTENDED CARE IN 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Morning and Afternoon Addition and After the Bell, the Recreation Department's before- and after-school childcare programs at the Community Center on Maple Avenue and the Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue, provide staffed recreational activities for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. Included are drama, music, art, special guests, sports, study time and play time. Costs range from \$130 a month to \$260 a month, depending on residency and session. Programs begin Aug. 31. See takomaparkmd.gov/recreation for more information or to register.

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. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group "survive." TP Community Center auditorium
Thursdays, April 2 – April 30, 4 – 6 p.m.
No class April 9
TP residents \$45
Non-residents \$55

ART

MAKE/Shift Studio I - Art Inspirations

Ages 8 - 11

Elementary students create exciting 2- and 3-D projects in this afterschool class. Lessons include drawing, painting, collage, assemblage and mixed media – every class a different subject and medium. Children learn to express themselves and engage in visual problem solving while producing beautiful works using color, shape, line, texture and pattern. Contemporary and historical artists provide inspiration for this art program geared for third through sixth graders. TP Community Center art studio
Thursdays, April 23 – May 8, 3:45 – 5:30 p.m.
TP residents \$155
Non-residents \$175

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Flag Football League 2015

Ages 6 – 14

Takoma Park Recreation Department brings you the Takoma Park Flag Football League again for its third season. This is a non-competitive,

instructional, community league. The goal is to teach the fundamentals of flag football in a safe environment. There are three divisions 6-8 years old, 9-11 years old and 12-14 years old. Practice one day a week and games will be played on Saturdays. Registration is open. Practices have begun.

Ed Wilhelm Field
April 11 – May 16 (six weeks)
Saturdays 1 – 4 p.m.
TP residents \$40
Non-residents \$50

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. The student will gain physical fitness, mental and spiritual strength. There is a one-time, non-refundable fee of \$50 paid to the instructor at the first class for the uniform. TP Community Center dance studio
Saturdays, April 11 – June 13
Beginners 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
Advanced 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
TP residents \$129
Non-residents \$149

Taekwondo

Ages 5 and older

Taekwondo is composed of three parts as shown in the English spelling, though it is one word in Korean. "Tae" means "foot," "leg," or "to step on"; "Kwon" means "fist," or "fight"; and "Do" means the "way" or "discipline. There is a one-time, non-refundable, fee of \$50 paid to the instructor at the first class for the uniform. TP Community Center dance studio
Mondays, April 13 – June 29, 1 – 2 p.m.

TP residents \$125
Non-residents \$145

Tennis Skills

Ages 6 – 12

This is a mixed class for students with a variety of experience. For beginners we will introduce and develop basic groundstrokes, using red and orange balls on a shortened court. For the more advanced and quick learners, we will progress to green/yellow balls and full court, improving groundstroke consistency/accuracy and working on serves/volleys.

TP Middle School tennis courts
Sundays, March 29 – May 31

Beginner/Intermediate
Option 1: 1 – 2 p.m.
Option 2: 4 – 5 p.m.
TP residents \$100
Non-residents \$110

TRIPS

Tremendous Trips

Ages 5 – 12

Come spend a day or two, or three, with us between the end of the school year and the first day of camp. Each day offers a different experience. Participants will meet at the Takoma Park Community Center. Limited spaces are available.

TP Community Center Azalea Room
Tuesday – Friday, June 16 – 19,
8:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tuesday – Baltimore Aquarium
Wednesday – Gaithersburg Water Park
Thursday – Watkins Regional Park
Friday – Castle Laser Tag
TP residents \$40
Non-residents \$50

SPRING BREAK CAMPS

FEW SPACES LEFT IN THE FOLLOWING SPRING BREAK CAMPS:

YOUTH

Dribble, Pass and Shoot Basketball Camp

Ages 5 – 12

Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of camp. Campers will be provided with excellent coaching which allows each participant to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit the individual needs

of each participant. Before and after care available for an additional fee for youth camps. TP Recreation Center gymnasium
Monday-Friday, April 6 – 10, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
\$200

Cheerleading/Step Camp

Ages 6 – 12

Learn cheer and step routines and chants, and develop coordination, confidence and a positive team attitude. This camp will also help promote technical and artistic growth of the participant. All materials included. Before and after care available for an additional fee. To register, visit: www.marylandcheerchargers.org. TP Community Center auditorium
Monday-Friday, April 6 – 10, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
TP residents \$175
Non-residents \$195

TEENS

Teen Spring Break Camp – Career Week

Ages 13-17

Spring Break Career Week is quickly approaching. What are you going to do with all of this valuable spare time? Ever wonder what type of profession will fit your future? During Career Week, we've invited a few professionals to stop by to guide participants in exploring some of today's hottest careers. Participants will receive insider advice on the knowledge and skills needed for success. Spend the mornings with our career introductions and the afternoons attending our break away field trips. TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Monday – Friday, April 6 – 10, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
TP Resident \$100 per wk.
Non-resident \$120 per wk.

TEENS

CAMPS

Counselor In Training (CIT)
Ages 14 – 17

Sign up for a three-day training to become a certified CIT. During these trainings, teens will have an opportunity to develop leadership skills while becoming First Aid/CPR certified. During the summer, the CIT will support all planned program activities on site and off for a two week period. This program is the only way to volunteer this summer so don't miss out.

TP Community Center
Tuesday, May 5, and Thursday,
May 7, 4 – 6 p.m.
Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
TP residents \$25/day
Non-residents \$35/day

DRAMA/THEATER

Intro to Costume Design
Ages 13 – 17

Have you ever been to the theater and been taken by the costumes? Do you want to be a fashion designer? Or are you just interested in trying something creative and working with a team? In this four-part course we will cover the basic elements of design, costume rendering techniques and bring one of your very own costume design ideas to life. Come experience the costume design process from page to stage.

TP Community Center Lilac Room
Thursdays, April 16 – May 7, 5 – 6:30 p.m.
TP residents Free
Non-residents \$15

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Tennis Skills
Ages 13 and older

This is a mixed class for students with a variety of experience. For beginners we will introduce and develop basic groundstrokes, using red and orange balls on a shortened court. For the more advanced and quick learners, we will progress to green/yellow balls and full court, improving groundstroke consistency/accuracy and working on serves/volleys.

TP Middle School tennis courts
Sundays, March 29 – May 31

Beginner/Intermediate: 2 – 3 p.m.
Intermediate/Advanced: 3 – 4 p.m.
TP residents \$100
Non-residents \$110

ADULTS

ART

Ceramics Classes:
Ages 16 and older

TP Community Center art studio
Hand building: Mondays, April 6 – June 1,
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Wheel Throwing: Mondays, April 6 – June 1, or
Wednesdays, April 8 – June 3, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Sculpture: Fridays, April 10 – May 29,
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
TP residents \$85
Non-residents \$105

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Cardio-Intense Groove and Strength Training
Ages 16 and older

Fly into big, fast, easy moves to a consistent beat. This class is always intense, with movements that will max you out. Working out has never felt this good. Workout includes strength training with resistance tools and Pilates based core work. Participants should bring own mat.
TP Community Center dance studio
Fridays, April 3 – May 22, 7 – 8:15 p.m.
TP residents \$64
Non-residents \$74

Pilates
Ages 16 and older

This fun and invigorating workout teaches controlled movements utilizing the body's "core": abdomen, back and hips. Pilates improves core control, coordination, standing alignment and balance with mat exercises. Pilates is the perfect mind and body exercise for anyone who wants to tone, streamline and

Ready for work: summer employment program trains young Takoma Parkers

The City of Takoma Park is proud to announce the second year of the Summer Youth Employment program (SYEP). SYEP is an eight-week employment and job skill development program sponsored by Takoma Park and involving partnerships with local for-profit and non-profit organizations. This year the program will run from June 22 through Aug. 14.

SYEP focuses on learn and earn opportunities, life skills and work skills for teens and young adults, aiming to increase teen and young adult employment and educational opportunity. Participants ages 16-21 are screened so that the program engages young people who are already enthusiastic about working; the city also provides pre-work soft

skills training in basic skills such as reliability, effective communication with adults and professional presentation.

SYEP gives participants real world job experience and helps prepare them for future careers and/or secondary education. Last year staff could already see its benefits: Participants were connected to the labor force; community members earned needed income, and in turn, supported local economies; and businesses and non-profit organizations gave back to their community by hiring a teen or young adult.

Research has shown that summer employment programs in general help teens and young adults build new and valuable skills. One study found that nearly 75 percent of summer job hold-

ers improved their work readiness skills, and another showed they were less likely than their peers to engage in risky behaviors, including drug and alcohol use and violence.

If you have an interest in positively affecting the lives of the young people in Takoma Park by providing meaningful employment, contact Gregory Clark at 301-891-7290 or gregoryc@takomaparkmd.gov. If you are a teen or young adult who wants to learn more about this opportunity or participate, plan on attending the free interest workshop on Wednesday, May 6 at the Takoma Park Community Center. Contact Hazel Hodgson at hazelh@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7290 to RSVP to attend the workshop.

realign their body.

TP Recreation Center
Wednesdays, April 1 – May 6, 6 – 7 p.m.
\$60/6 weeks

Soca Motion Fitness
Ages 16 and older

Are you ready to party yourself into shape? That's exactly what the Soca Motion Fitness program is all about. It's an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Caribbean-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness-party that's moving people toward joy and health. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

TP Recreation Center
Wednesdays and Saturdays, April 1 – April 25
Wednesdays, 6 – 6:55 p.m.
Saturdays, 9:15 – 10:10 a.m.
\$40 for 4 weeks
Drop-in \$10

Sunlight Qi Gong
Ages 16 and older

Sunlight Qi Gong is a powerful, beautiful series of movements designed to increase the practitioner's connection to the vitality, warmth, heart, energy and joy of the sun. As spring wakens flowers and beckons us outdoors, Sunlight Qi Gong helps us access our vital "Qi" energy within ourselves and in nature, balancing the Yin of winter with the bright, active Yang energy of spring. No experience needed.

TP Community Center dance studio
Wednesdays, April 1 – May 27, 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.
TP residents \$95
Non-residents \$105
Drop in \$15

Yoga Classes
Ages 16 and older

Iyengar for Beginners: Tuesdays, April 7 – June 30, 6 – 7:15 p.m.
Iyengar for Intermediate: Tuesdays, April 7 – June 30, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
Nidra Meditation and Relaxation: Mondays
April 13 – May 4, 7:30 – 8:45 p.m.
For full class descriptions and prices, please visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation

FOREVER YOUNG: 55 PLUS

DROP IN

Blood Pressure Screening and/or Bingo
Ages 55 and older

Adventist Healthcare will be doing a free monthly blood pressure screening. After, try your luck and win a prize.
TP Community Center senior room
Thursday, April 23
Screening from 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
and Bingo from noon – 2 p.m.
Free

Mental Workout
Ages 55 and older

Exercising your brain is an important part of healthy living. Table games promote cognitive health. Let's start with Scrabble, and sprinkle in a few brainteasers. Looking for players, new and experienced.
TP Community Center senior room
Wednesday, April 8, noon – 1 p.m.
Free

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

The AARP Driver Safety Program
Ages 55 and older

Refresher course for older drivers. Some insurance companies offer auto premium discounts to drivers who take this course. Register at www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation or in person at the TP Community Center or Takoma Park Recreation Center during business hours. For more information, call 301-891-7280.

TP Community Center Hydrangea Room
Monday, April 20, noon – 4:30 p.m.
\$15 AARP Members/\$20 Non-Members

The Life and Works of Georgia O'Keeffe
Ages 55 and older

Lifelong Learning Institute/Montgomery College class about artist Georgia O'Keeffe, including information about her background and training, the artistic climate of her time, the influence of New Mexico on her work and the significance of her husband Alfred Stieglitz in her life. Course #LL1695. Three weeks.
TP Community Center auditorium
Thursdays, April 16 – 30, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Tuition waiver applies
Ages 60 and older: \$65
Ages 55-59: \$120
For more information and registration assistance, call 240-567-5188.

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Cardio Groove
Ages 55 and older

High energy and easy to follow music beats designed for aerobics. Start with a warm-up, followed by fast-paced, low impact aerobics that get the heart pumping and feet moving quickly, then a cool down and stretch. Instructor: Nancy Nickell. Registration is required. For more information, call 301-891-7280.
TP Community Center dance studio
Thursdays, April 2 – June 4, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Free

Equipment Orientation Fitness Room
Ages 55 and older

Rochelle Coleman, certified fitness instructor, presents a one-time, 2-day orientation for using the fitness equipment. Registration is required. For more information, call 301-891-7280.

TP Recreation Center fitness room
Thursdays, April 2 and 16, noon – 1 p.m.
Free

TRIPS

Takoma Park 125 Anniversary Tour with Diana Kohn
Ages 55 and older

Narrated bus tour traces the evolution of Takoma Park from 1890 to today, includes landmarks, a walkthrough of the Cady Lee (time permitting) and stories about our diverse neighborhoods. Bring spending money for lunch at a local restaurant. Rain or shine. For more info, call 301-891-7280 or email paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.
TP Community Center Recreation office
Tuesday, April 14, 8:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Free, registration is required

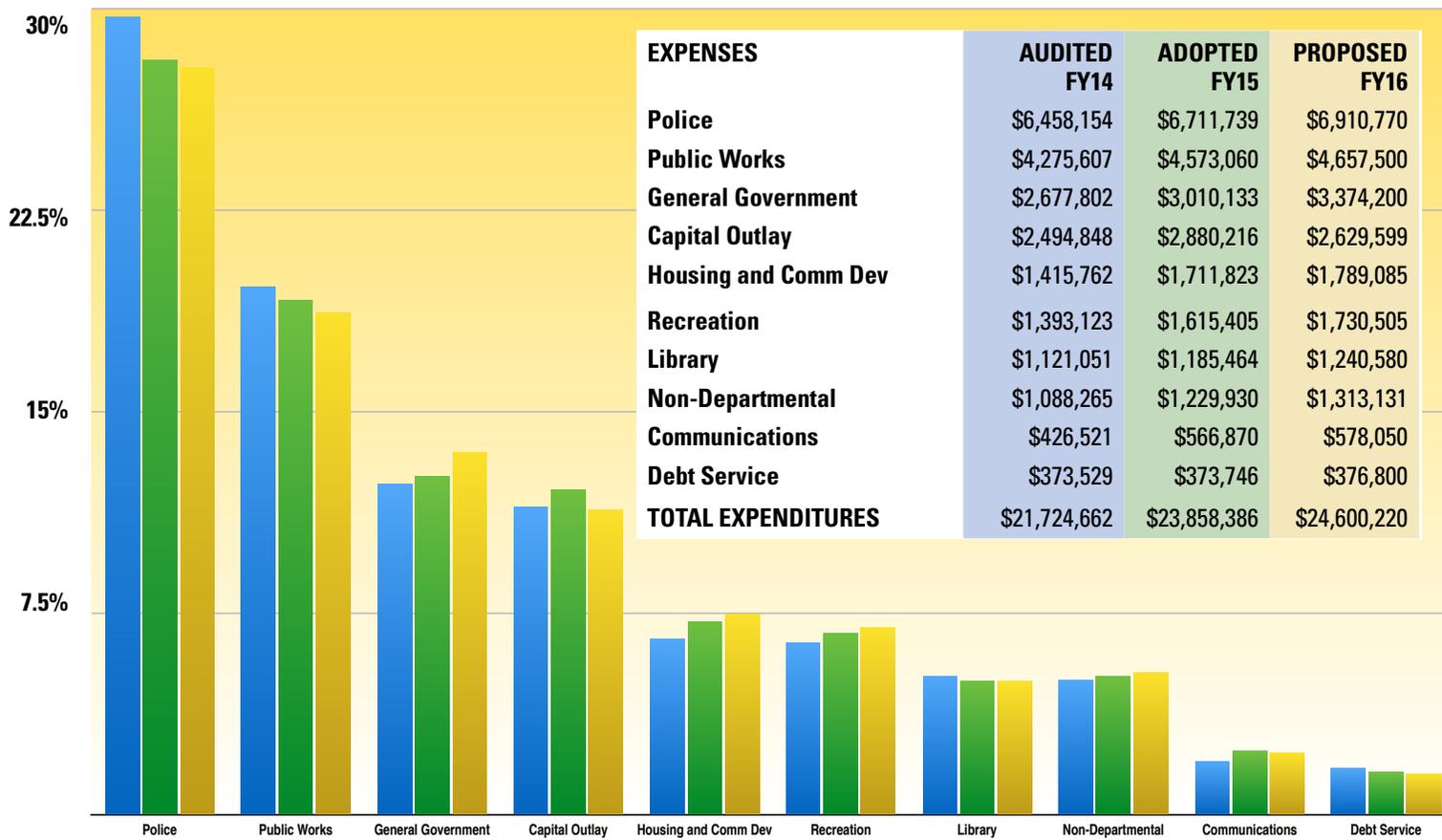
Leesburg Flower and Garden Festival, Virginia
Ages 55 and older

Lush landscapes and gorgeous gardens in historic Leesburg, Va. plus a street festival of plants, flowers, garden products, family fun activities and entertainment. More than 100 vendors with landscape designs, garden supplies, flowers, herbs and much more. Bring your lunch or spending money for lunch and shopping on your own. Wear comfortable shoes for lots of walking. Rain or shine. Registration is required. For more information contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.
TP Community Center Recreation office
Saturday, April 18, 8:45 a.m. – 5 p.m.
\$3 per person festival admission, no cost for transportation. Times may be adjusted, check the trip itinerary supplied to registered participants for each trip for details.

DAR Museum Tour/Quilt Exhibit, Washington, D.C.
Ages 55 and older

"Eye on Elegance: Early Quilts of Maryland and Virginia" introduces visitors to a little known history of early American quilts and their makers from 1790 to 1860. Docent-led tour of regional or American interiors from the 17th to early 20th century, then time in the quilts exhibit. Bring your lunch or spending money for lunch on your own at Union Station. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Rain or shine. 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, April 22, 8:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.
\$3 per person admission. No cost for transportation. Times may be adjusted, check the trip itinerary supplied to registered participants for each trip for details.

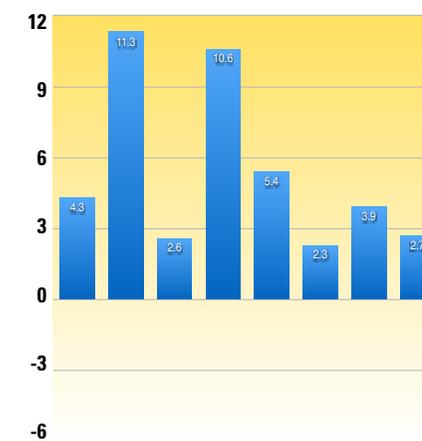
Takoma Park Budget: General Fund Expenses - FY '14 through FY '16



Takoma Park Budget: General Fund Revenues

REVENUES	AUDITED FY14
Taxes and utility fees	\$11,300,000
Intergovernmental	\$2,600,000
Charges for services	\$2,300,000
Fines and forfeitures	\$500,000
Licenses and permits	\$300,000
Miscellaneous	\$200,000
Use of money and property	\$200,000
TOTAL REVENUES	\$17,500,000

Takoma Park Budget: Real Property Tax



BUDGET PROPOSAL

■ From page 1

budget began three months ago, says she and City Council have been anticipating a tight budget for some time. Here's why: Municipal tax duplication funds from Montgomery Council are stalled at an amount close to what they were in 2008. The three-year property tax assessment cycle is reflecting low property values, which deflates the amount of tax collected. And staff compensation has been lagging for several years; Ludlow wants to bring salaries up to market level, with raises phased in over three years.

Despite these limitations, Ludlow notes that her budget proposal for fiscal year 2016 still includes funds for a number of programs residents have requested, including a dog park, improvements at the library and a number of sustainability initiatives.

Taxes could rise

Ludlow's proposal is to increase the real property tax rate from 57 cents (per \$100 of assessed property value) to 59 cents, for total revenue of \$11.47 million. While this would be the first time since 2002 that the actual rate has increased, city property tax revenue has increased most years because the city's net assessable base usually increases each year.

The budget for the general fund (which pays for most city operations, including police, public works, library, etc.), is proposed to increase 3.1 percent.

What will a two cent increase cost a Takoma Park home owner? A property assessed at \$300,000 would have a \$60 increase over the course of a year, a \$500,000 property would have a \$100 increase and a \$700,000 property would

“Besides the city’s commitment to paying a fair salary to staff, setting a fair wage scale is essential for attracting and keeping the excellent employees the city wants.”

— Suzanne Ludlow

have a \$120 increase. Some property owners are eligible for credits that can reduce the amount of property tax owed. And, of course, property taxes include county and state taxes which could increase or decrease. County Executive Isiah Leggett is not proposing to raise the county's property tax rate for FY16.

The timing of the three-year property tax assessment cycle is working against Takoma Park this year. Properties were assessed in 2014 when property values were relatively low, still impacted by the recession and federal sequestration – thus revenue for fiscal years 2014 through 2016, based on those values is correspondingly low. These figures are compounded by the fact that all properties in Takoma Park are assessed at once. Also, to accommodate residents who were struggling during the dip in the national economy, the city lowered the tax rate in fiscal year 2014, and maintained it with no increase in 2015.

Information received from the State Department of Assessment and Taxation in February showed that the city would need to raise the tax one half cent for FY16 just to garner the same amount of property tax revenue expected to be received in FY15, because the tax base — i.e. property values — had declined slightly.

The good news is that property values are on the rise in Takoma Park, but the increase won't be reflected in the city's net assessable base until FY17. By then, Ludlow projects the assessable base could rise as much as 10 percent, and may continue to increase at that rate for an additional year or two. But for FY16, she says, property values are stuck at recession levels.

Staff Compensation

The city is also concerned about taking care of its staff. In 2010, Takoma Park was forced to freeze wages and lay off staff due to large cuts in state and county payments. Since that time, standard step increases were suspended and wage increases were very modest.

By 2014, a staff compensation and classification study conducted by an outside firm confirmed what managers suspected – some staff were significantly underpaid

and almost all staff are somewhat underpaid. At this point, explains Ludlow, it would be too expensive to bring all staff up to an appropriate pay level all in one year. So she is proposing that staff who were being paid more than 14 percent below market level receive a partial increase in FY15 so that their salary is only 7 percent lower than it should be for FY17. Staff will get raised half-way to what they should be paid in FY17 during the FY16 year, with the remaining increase scheduled to take place in FY17. Total cost of bringing staff salaries up to market level is about \$2 million, over three years.

“Besides the city’s commitment to paying a fair salary to staff, setting a fair wage scale is essential for attracting and keeping the excellent employees the city wants,” says Ludlow. She adds that several key positions were hard to fill at current salary levels, and former city manager Brian Kenner had to raise promised compensation just to attract qualified applicants.

Infrastructure and Facility Improvements

The City remains committed to annual infrastructure maintenance and a long-range plan for infrastructure and facility

For details on the budget, go to takomaparkmd.gov.

Tell us what you think

Budget Public Hearings

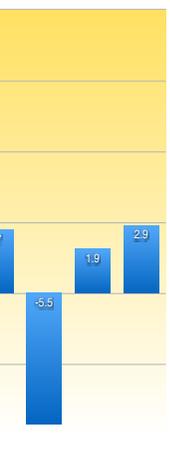
April 13 and April 27, 7:30 p.m.

TP Community Center auditorium

Fund Revenues - FY '14 through FY '16

ADDED FY14	% of Total	ADOPTED FY15	% of Total	PROPOSED FY16	% of Total
\$4,582,032	67.03%	\$14,379,654	66.66%	\$15,097,568	67.50%
\$5,608,108	25.78%	\$5,779,272	26.79%	\$5,746,852	25.69%
\$1,149,875	5.29%	\$1,064,730	4.94%	\$1,171,655	5.24%
\$252,499	1.16%	\$190,500	0.88%	\$215,500	0.96%
\$81,745	0.38%	\$75,854	0.35%	\$56,604	0.25%
\$54,639	0.25%	\$58,000	0.27%	\$63,000	0.28%
\$26,134	0.12%	\$25,000	0.12%	\$15,000	0.07%
1,755,032		\$21,573,010		\$22,366,179	

Property Tax Levies - FY '06 through FY '16 (Tax Rate per \$100)



FISCAL YEAR	PROPERTY TAX TOTAL	% CHANGE	TAX RATE
2006	\$7,747,197	4.3	0.63
2007	\$8,730,162	11.3	0.63
2008	\$8,959,820	2.6	0.61
2009	\$10,025,305	10.6	0.605
2010	\$10,595,358	5.4	0.58
2011	\$10,839,223	2.3	0.58
2012	\$11,218,982	3.9	0.58
2013	\$11,533,580	2.7	0.58
2014	\$10,937,327	-5.5	0.57
2015	\$11,144,083	1.9	0.57
2016 (proposed)	\$11,468,531	2.9	0.59

improvements. Road, sidewalk, stormwater and facility improvements are scheduled in FY16.

Major capital improvements include continued work on the Flower Avenue Green Street project, improvements at the New Hampshire/Ethan Allen intersection, and detailed design and engineering work for renovation of the Library. Two park projects will be underway: Sligo Mill Overlook Park and a dog park on city-owned land near the Darwin Avenue parking lot.

Planning for future improvements in the Police Department, at the Public Works complex and of the Heffner Community Center are on a multi-year schedule, with some planning work regarding the Police Department scheduled for FY16. Renovation of the Library could begin as early as FY17.

Funds for infrastructure and facility improvements come from an annual amount budgeted in the Public Works department and from large grants the city has received. Large construction projects can be funded by borrowing money through bonds. If the city decides to proceed with renovation of the Library, bonding would be recommended to fund the project in FY17.

Services

There are two new positions proposed: one in sanitation, to handle food waste collection that is now being brought in house rather than contracted out, as is the current arrangement; and the other for a position in the city manager's office to assist with development issues. There is also an unassigned fund balance of \$3 million, the minimum needed for cash flow throughout the year.

Some city services have been expanded in the last two years despite the tight bud-

gets. Among the most notable are those concerning sustainability: A full-time sustainability manager was hired and has already put in place new systems and goals to reduce the city's carbon footprint.

Many things that the community and staff asked for could not be accommodated. The city's Lifelong Takoma program manager will remain part time, despite a strong demand for the program, and the proposal includes no money for a new staff position to help education efforts related to the city's laws regarding lawn chemicals, polystyrene use and trees. Many area nonprofit associations requested funding outside of the city's grant process for worthy efforts, but funds for these are not included in the proposed budget either.

The Budget Process and Role of Council

Former City Manager Brian Kenner instituted a process of early council involvement in the budget last year: Council discussed the city's Strategic Plan, set goals for the budget and consulted with staff, department by department, as they prepared the initial proposal. This process was followed again this year, and as it worked through the numbers, council's top priority became staff compensation increases, even if a tax increase were needed. The council remains committed to funding these sorts of on-going expenses from tax revenue, while one-time expenses, such as capital projects, can be funded from sources such as grants.

Although there has been considerable discussion of the budget already, two public hearings, on April 13 and April 27, will further inform the process, along with a several budget work sessions scheduled in April and May. Final council adoption of the budget will be in May.

TAKOMA JUNCTION

■ From page 1

an urban farm with space on the rooftop for a greenhouse. The back lot facing Columbia Avenue would remain wooded.

There would be a total of 39 parking spaces including 33 below grade. The building would be gold LEED certified, with a high level of recycled content building materials, energy efficiency systems, green/vegetated roofs and rainwater runoff control. The Capital Bike Share spaces would remain in place and car sharing spaces would be added.

Outside, the plaza space in front of the co-op would be retained, and green roof terraces would serve the daycare, school and tenants.

Housing units would be priced at average income level.

NDC estimates it will take about 44 months to build the Junction project, including an initial nine months of pre-development, a total of 18 months of municipal approvals, 14 months of construction and four months of tenant build-out and occupancy.

All of that said, councilmembers, in discussing their choice, indicated that many of these elements are still on the table. There was talk about whether or not a preschool is a good use for the project, given the traffic it could generate, and whether residen-

tial units will work there in the end. Several councilmembers also said they were swayed by the intended inclusion of community input, and noted that the process has only just begun.

"As much time as we've spent on this we're going to have longer than that before we even see a shovel get into the ground," said Fred Schultz, who represents Ward 6. "We need our whole community to work on this project," said Kate Stewart, from Ward 3.

NDC was one of seven developers who originally offered proposals for the Junction. City Council narrowed the field to four. One developer, Community Three, withdrew from consideration in February, and Council eliminated the Ability Project when they narrowed the field to two. The remaining bidder, Keystar-Eco Housing, was the only one left with NDC at the time the Council voted.

Terms of the contract with NDC are expected to include required meetings with the community and the co-op to refine the design and ensure that co-op expansion and operational needs are met – both priorities among City Council members. NDC will also be required to conduct a traffic study. Concerns over traffic congestion at the Junction have long been an issue, and must involve the State Highway Administration, which, councilmembers point out, is moving forward with at least one crosswalk on Carroll Avenue.

PLAYGROUND

■ From page 1

The proposed plans would relocate eight of the existing garden plots within the park, compromising open green space at the top of the hill between Sligo Mill Road and Fifth Avenue at the intersection of Orchard Avenue and creating potential safety concerns.

"The footprint of the garden would expand, which was not our intent at all," said Roger Schlegel, a member of the Pinecrest Community Association Board, who has also maintained a plot at the garden since it opened in 2009. "We are asking for the county and the city to continue to work with the design team so that the green space can be maintained."

According to Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite, that is exactly what the city plans to do. Braithwaite, along with Acting City Manager Suzanne Ludlow and Ward 3 Councilmember Kate Stewart met with the concerned residents on March 4. She is planning to meet with Montgomery Park and Planning officials, who own and have authority over any changes to the space. The city is overseeing and paying for the cost of the design and construction there through its Program Open Space allocation. The city's share is 25 percent of the cost, with 75 percent coming from state funds allocated through the Department of Natural Resources.

One of the main sticking points for residents and challenges for designers is the relocation of the eight existing garden plots.

"The Pinecrest residents we spoke with would like the space allocated to the garden reduced to provide sufficient space for a playground," said Braithwaite. "However, the site has a few constraints in that it is sloped and the full area cannot be utilized for garden or playground."

Many of the gardeners are reluctant to see the numbers reduced. They point out the benefits to having a community garden and cite the sweat and soil equity they have put

into the garden and their plots.

"It was just a few years ago that we were out there digging up cables and other junk that was buried in the soil," said Rani Parker, the community garden's master gardener and technical consultant. "It is hard to move a plot once you've worked it."

Still, she recognizes the need for compromise and the value of the project. "The vast majority of the gardeners support the playground project," she said. "At the end of the day you have to co-exist."

Pinecrest playground advocates point out that the gardeners lease, but don't own, any of the plots, and that many of them do not live in the neighborhood, though many, including several who support the playground redesign, do. They also maintain that demographic changes in the neighborhood have altered the dynamic and increased the imperative for a playground with maximum green space.

"Since 2009 (when the garden opened) there have been a lot more young kids and families move in to the neighborhood and they need a place to play," said Schlegel, who has identified other spots in the neighborhood where the eight plots could be located. "Gardening can happen in a variety of locations, but kids need to be near their houses," he said.

For her part, Councilmember Stewart believes a solution can be found that will satisfy all parties.

"I believe we can all come together- residents, city staff, designer, and park and planning- and figure out a playground and green space that will benefit the community," she said. "This is a challenging site and the fact that the land is owned by the county, which has to sign off on the design of the playground, also adds complexity."

"The head of public works is gathering information from MC Park and Planning and once we have that information we plan to bring together members of the community to discuss a way forward."

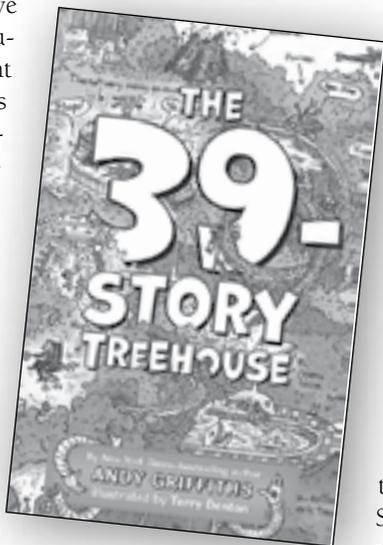


Colby Sharp, right, promised his Michigan elementary school students he would get a Mohawk if they read a certain number of books by author Andy Griffiths, right. He kept his promise!

Spring author events explore humor, science and courage

Spring is here, and we've got a new crop of kids' authors coming to spotlight their just-published books for young readers. The authors include nationally-known humorist **Dave Barry**, Newbery Honor author **Gail Carson Levine**, and best-selling Australian novelist **Andy Griffiths**. Politics and Prose Bookstore will sell copies of the authors' books at the programs, but the events are free and no purchase is required to attend.

Things kick off on Thursday, April 9 at 7:30 p.m. with graphic novelists **Nadja Spiegelman** and **Sergio Garcia Sanchez**, who teamed up on "Lost in NYC: A Subway Adventure." The book tells the story



of a boy named Pablo who gets separated from his schoolmates on a class trip and has to figure out how to navigate the New York City subway system. In a starred review, Kirkus Reviews noted that the book is "required reading for anyone, tourist or resident, mystified by or anxious about using arguably the greatest public-transportation system on the planet." At our event, Spiegelman, who wrote the story, and Sanchez, who did the art, will talk about

collaborating on the book, which is being simultaneously published in Spanish as "Perdidos en NYC."

AUTHOR EVENTS □ Page 11

Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park 2015

By Merrill Leffler

April's on the horizon — and soon, along with crocuses and daffodils breaking through the cold ground, new poetry posters will once more brighten Carroll Avenue, from the Junction to Old Town, the city parks, the Library, and the Community Center.

Spring for Poetry posters first appeared on the streets of Takoma Park in 2007 and have continued to sprout anew each year, thanks to Professor Andrea Adams's second-year design students at Montgom-

ery College and the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, which initiated the project and supports it financially. Each year, a committee of poets selects poems — then Professor Adams's students take over, each designing two posters. The poetry selection committee this year: Sydney March, Michael LeBlanc, Hailey Leithausen, Ann Slayton and Merrill Leffler.

To see poster poems from past years, visit the Friends website. They're all there! The 2015 poems will be posted with their locations on the website by late April.

CALENDAR

Circle Time

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

Spanish Circle Time

Beginning April 9
Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m.
Led by Señora Geiza

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Saturday, April 4, 10:30 a.m.
Join Madame Marie for songs and rhymes in French in this monthly program for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Journalist David Corn

Tuesday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.
Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.
All welcome. (See article)

Friends of the Library "Big Book" Group

Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Continuing discussion of "Anna Karenina"
All welcome.

Graphic Novelists Nadja Spiegelman and Sergio Garcia Sanchez

Thursday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.
Spiegelman and Sanchez present their new graphic novel for kids, "Lost in NYC: A Subway Adventure."

LEGO Club

Sunday, April 12, 1:30-3 p.m.
For ages 3-10, registration required.

Caldecott Club: A Family Book Club

Monday, April 13, 7 p.m.
Come read with us as we spotlight some great picture books.
Lemonade and cookies served. No registration.

Comics Jam

Tuesday, April 14, 4 p.m.
Join comics guru Dave Burbank at our monthly comics book club.

Sunday Crafts

Sunday, April 19, 2-3 p.m.
Theme: Spring!
All ages.

Meet kids' author Andy Griffiths

Monday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
Griffiths will read from his new novel, "The 39-Story Treehouse."

Friends of the Library "Big Book" Group

Wednesday, April 22, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Continuing discussion of "Anna Karenina"
All welcome.

Dungeons and Dragons

Sunday, April 26, 2-4 p.m.
Kids ages 8 and up and their grown-ups are invited to come play with D&D master Dave Burbank.
Space limited, registration required.

Newbery Honor Author Gail Carson Levine

Monday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.
Levine will talk about her newest book, "Stolen Magic."

Favorite Poem Evening

Tuesday, April 28, 7:30 p.m.
See article

Graphic Novelist Jay Hosler

Thursday, April 30, 7:30 p.m.
Hosler, a biology professor at Juniata College, reads from his new science-themed graphic novel, "Last of the Sandwalkers."

Looking ahead....

- LEGO Club, Sunday, May 3, for ages 3-10. Registration required.
- Caldecott Club, Monday, May 4, 7 p.m.
- Bedtime Stories and a Craft, Tuesday, May 5, 7 p.m.
- Author/humorist Dave Barry presents his new kids' novel, "The Worst Class Trip Ever," Monday, May 6, 7:30 p.m., TP Community Center auditorium.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Journalist David Corn to speak

Please Join us on Tuesday April 7 at 7:30 p.m. for a special program sponsored by the Friends of the Library, featuring guest speaker David Corn.

Takoma Park resident David Corn is a political journalist and author and the chief of the Washington bureau for Mother Jones. He has been Washington editor for The Nation and appeared regularly on MSNBC, National Public Radio and BloggingHeads.tv. In 2012 he won the George Polk Award for Journalism for reporting the "47 percent" remarks that Mitt Romney made to donors during the 2012 presidential campaign.

Corn is the author of numerous reviews and articles, as well as several books — most recently: "Showdown: The Inside Story of How Obama Fought Back Against Boehner, Cantor, and the Tea Party," published in 2012.

Popular favorite poem evening returns

The Favorite Poem Evening, sponsored jointly by the Takoma Park Maryland Library and the Friends of the Library, is now in its 15th year.

Last year's event drew a record number of readers and poetry enthusiasts. This year's celebration of poems will be held in the Library on Tuesday, April 28, at 7:30 p.m. and will be hosted by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler.

If you would like to participate, choose a poem you have read and admired by a published poet other than you or your friends. Poems written in languages other than English are welcome, if they are accompanied by an English translation. There are plenty of ideas for possible choices in the Library's poetry collections.

Send the name and author of the poem you have chosen and your own name and generic occupation for inclusion in a printed program to Ellen Robbins at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, or by e-mail to ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov. The deadline for submission is Tuesday, April 21. Originally conceived as a national event by poet laureate Robert Pinsky, the Favorite Poem Evening in Takoma Park has been a lovely, warm and community-building event for the past dozen years. All ages are welcome. Please attend and bring your friends and neighbors! Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

Community Center dedicated to Mayor Sammie Abbott

Sammie Abbott is synonymous with Takoma Park's well-deserved activist reputation. And now, even those who are new in town will know about his legacy: The city is dedicating The Takoma Park Community Center / Sam Abbott Citizens' Center to his memory, with a ceremony there at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14. The event will describe Abbott's dedication to Takoma Park and the monumental difference he made in the course of its history, and will include not just family members and speakers who knew Abbott well, but also poetry from Takoma Park Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler, and a musical tribute from singer-songwriter Jesse Palidofsky with "The Ballad of Sammie Abbott." The public – that body for which Abbott worked so hard – is of course invited to attend.

Sammie Abbott was mayor of Takoma Park 1980 to 1985, but a lifelong activist, for unions, in the anti-war movement, and toward equality for the marginalized. Locally he was first known for leading the fight to block the 10-lane North Central



Sammie Abbott

Freeway from bulldozing its way through the center of Takoma Park, and many credit him for the survival of the town as we know it today. He also led the way to

the city's strong tenant rights policies, its sanctuary city status for Central American refugees, its declaration as a nuclear free zone, the development of the Takoma Park Folk Festival and even the initial versions of this Newsletter.

Abbott brought international issues to city hall, saying, "If we can't make it happen in Takoma Park, there's no hope for the nation." A resolution passed by the Takoma Park City Council in 1991, just after his death, credited him with helping to "forge the spirit of participatory democracy by which we, today, proudly define our city." The resolution also established the addition of "Sam Abbott Citizens' Center" to the community center name.

A bronze plaque will be unveiled during the ceremony. It calls Abbott a "legendary activist and world citizen who helped transform Takoma Park into a city known throughout the nation for its commitment to participatory democracy, justice, peace, and the environment," and lists his many accomplishments, including the Freeway victory, leveraging Highway Trust Funds

to build the Metro system and saving Takoma Park Junior High School and hundreds of Victorian era homes slated for demolition. Abbott also helped found Earth Day, institute rent stabilization and install Takoma Park's first speed bumps and 4-way stops to slow traffic.

His imprint is everywhere, from the revitalization of Takoma Old Town to the unification of Takoma Park into one county, Montgomery. And he believed deeply in equality and justice. The quote engraved on the plaque makes this clear: "I hate injustice...I took the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution seriously. I took it seriously that all men are created equal."

The dedication event is sponsored by the City of Takoma Park with support from an ad hoc citizens committee including Saul Schneiderman, Holly Syrrakos, Jim Tru, and Dave Prosten, who designed the plaque, as well as the Sam Abbott Living Legacy Project of Historic Takoma.

AUTHOR EVENTS

■ From page 10

Humor will take center stage on Monday, April 20, 7:30 p.m. when **Andy Griffiths**, a popular Australian kids' author, reads from "The 39-Story Treehouse," the latest—and third – book in his "Treehouse" series. With a hybrid format of words and pictures that resembles the "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" books, the "Treehouse" series tells the story of a young author and illustrator (Griffiths and illustrator Terry Denton) who find great inspiration in their amazing treehouse. Readers will enjoy marveling at the treehouse, which has a bowling alley, shark tank and library, among many other rooms. But it's the slapstick – and often gross – humor that will keep readers laughing as they turn the pages.

Then, on Monday, April 27, at 7:30 p.m., Newbery Honor author **Gail Carson Levine** will discuss "Stolen Magic," a book for ages 8-12 that is a sequel to "The Tale of Two Castles." Levine won a 1998 Newbery Honor for "Ella Enchanted," and she's known both for her strong girl protagonists and her ability to create believable fantasy worlds. "Stolen Magic" details the second adventure of Meenore, a dragon detective, and her assistant Elodie; here they are called upon to recover a stolen magic statue that will unleash the power of a deadly volcano if it isn't found in three days.

Graphic novelist — and entomologist — **Jay Hosler** will talk about his new book, "Last of the Sandwalkers" on Thursday, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. Hosler, who teaches at Juniata College in



Jay Hosler



Pennsylvania, loves to connect readers to science through graphic novels, as he proved in "Evolution: The Story of Life on Earth." In "Last of the Sandwalkers," Hosler spotlights the adventures of a group of beetle-scientists who leave their theocratic country in search of knowledge and face all kinds of unexpected dangers. As Hosler details the beetles' journey, he weaves in all kinds of facts about bugs, flora, fauna and other elements of the natural world. As Kirkus Reviews wrote, "Hosler's sincere excitement in both the pursuit of knowledge and the power of comics makes these bugs eminently memorable."

Dave Barry is best known for his nationally-syndicated humor columns. But Barry also has written a number of

children's books, and will talk about his newest one, "The Worst Class Trip Ever," on Wednesday, May 6, at 7:30 p.m., in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium. In the book, Barry tells the story of several eighth graders who go on a school trip to Washington, D.C., and find themselves both in trouble with their teachers and in danger from some mysterious men who may just be targeting the President. Publishers Weekly called the book "hilarious," adding: "Pulitzer-winner Barry has the comic sensibility of a middle-school class clown. Expect to have lots of trouble keeping this one on the shelf."

On Wednesday, May 13, at 7 p.m. author **Michelle Knudsen** and illustrator **Matt Phelan** will read and discuss their new picture book for kids ages 3-7. Titled "Marilyn's Monster," the book tells the story of a little girl who grows impatient at being the only kid without a monster and goes off in search of one to call her own." Booklist magazine said of "Marilyn's Monster" that "little ones feeling lonely or worried about making friends will be empowered by Marilyn's determined, take-charge attitude," while Kirkus Reviews called the book "A surprising spin on monsters with nicely effective artwork—and heart."

Finally, on Monday, May 18, at 7:30 p.m., graphic novelist **Jorge Aguirre** presents "Dragons Beware!," a sequel to his popular "Giants Beware!" for kids ages 7-12. As in the first book, the main protagonist of "Dragons Beware!" is a fearless, red-headed girl named Claudette, who is determined to become a warrior like her father. In her newest adventure, Claudette vows to defeat the evil Grombach – with some help from her brother Gaston and best friend, Princess Marie. In writing of "Dragons Beware!," Kirkus Reviews noted that "this rowdy adventure is sure to be a crowd pleaser."

CITY MANAGER

■ From page 1

conomic Development in Washington, D.C., she again stepped into the breach.

Ludlow began her work in Takoma Park as assistant director for Housing and Community Development special projects in 1993. She held various positions in the city over the next several years, and became community and government liaison in 2001, a position she held until 2008. She has been deputy city manager since 2008.

An important player in the management of a number of issues, Ludlow has been involved in the city's input regarding the Washington Adventist Hospital move, and she helped manage the recession-prompted down-sizing of city staff. She has played a part in Purple Line planning, and led the way for the renovation of the Community Center auditorium.

Ludlow will oversee a city staff of 220, including such diverse departments as public works, police, library, recreation and communication services. She will continue to lead budget planning and labor relations as well.

Mayor Bruce Williams, who has worked with Ludlow for many years, says her experience allows her to hit the ground running. "She knows many of the players at all levels, and hits the ground running in leading our excellent staff as they help us grapple with the many issues that we face."

In addition to working for the city, Ludlow has close personal connections to the community as well. Her now-college-age son, Langston Taylor, attended public schools here; her mother, Anne Ludlow, lives in Takoma Park's Victory Towers; and Suzanne lives with her husband, Vince Taylor, in the Long Branch neighborhood.

Ludlow's salary is set at \$172,000 with a 2 percent match to deferred compensation (up to \$3,440).



Suzanne Ludlow



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Feb. 28, 2015, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 102 fire-related incidents in 2015. The department addressed or assisted with 483 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 585. Totals for 2014 were 109 and 453, representing an increase of 23 incidents.

During the month of February 2015, the Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 1,527 hours of stand-by time at the station, compared to 1,031.5 in February 2014. Grand totals as of February 2015 are 3,009.5 hours, compared to 2,370 hours in 2014, an increase of 639.5 hours.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of March 16, 2015, 17 people have died in fires, the same number recorded in 2014.

Two important safety tips

Protect yourself and your family with carbon monoxide detectors in the home

For maximum protection, a detector should be installed on every level of the home.

Never use your range or oven to help heat your home and never use a charcoal grill or hibachi in your home or garage.

Never keep a generator or car running in a garage. Even if the garage doors are open, normal circulation will not provide enough fresh air to reliably prevent a dangerous build-up of carbon monoxide.

How to check your carbon monoxide detector

Just like checking your smoke alarm, a carbon monoxide detector should be checked monthly and if it is battery operated or battery back-up, change the batteries twice a year.

Your address numbers

Make sure your house address numbers are visible from the street. Addresses that are hidden, unreadable or have missing numbers may delay emergency responders from getting to you as quickly as possible. It's the law: One existing homes, the numbers should be 3-1/2 inches high and if you replace existing numbers they must be at least 5 inches high. Next time you are out front of your house, take a look. And also don't forget your parents' home.



Ready to babysit

The following girls and boys completed the popular Babysitting Training Course on March 16. From left, front row Rafael Perez, Isabel Anderson, Abby Brier, Sophia Kim. Second row, Brennan Moore, Allison Garcia-Pineda, Sydney Greenberger, Maya Hofstetter, Bridget Griffith. Back row, instructor Tina Willey, Elias Bell, Joe Victoria, Johnny Flack, Elayna Davis-Mercer, assistant Ashlee Willey. Not pictured: Jim Jarboe, Capt. Rusty Willey and FF/EMT Adam Bearne TPVFD, and from Takoma Park Police Dept. Cpl Cyndy Canrad and Off Derek Fields.

City arborist commits to invasive removal, notes decline in tree removal

When it comes to tree preservation, Takoma Park is making a concerted effort this year to walk the walk as well as talk the talk. "This year more energy was spent trying to bring city-owned property in line with the invasive control part of the [tree] ordinance," city arborist Todd Bolton stated in his annual report to the City Council in February. He hopes that the effort will strengthen the city's ability to enforce the control of invasive plants on private property, by setting a good example of plant stewardship.

Invasive plants such as English ivy, kudzu, multiflora rose and others can damage individual trees and the overall health of wooded areas, strangling and competing with native plants that die out as a result. Native plants are more conducive to the overall ecological health of green spaces, and promote a healthy tree canopy as well.

Takoma Park has already tackled invasives in Circle Woods and other locations around the city. Methods have varied from manual removal to broad range herbicide. A triage process is used to determine the appropriate method, says Bolton. In Circle Woods, spot applications of herbicide and manual removal were attempted for two years, without success. The third year, a broad spectrum mix of herbicides was used to bring what Bolton calls "a semblance of order to the invasives jungle," which included "five-leaf akebia growing over multiflora roses, mixed with English ivy and Japanese honey suckle competing with garlic mustard and oriental bitter-sweet."

After battling these aggressive species,

the city planted about 400 native shrubs and trees to restart a native plant habitat. During the last four years spot herbicide application has helped control the invasives and allowed native vegetation population to increase. The local sources of invasive seeds are still a problem and this patch of "native" forest will always need active management to retain its ecological value for wildlife, Bolton says.

The city has also been working on removing English ivy and other climbing vines from city-owned trees around town. English ivy will cause tree death or failure if left to climb unrestricted. Trees "self-engineer" to hold themselves up, Bolton explains, but are unaware of the weight of ivy. Depending on its height, which can reach 4 feet, ivy can weigh several tons but in rain and ice storms the added water weight can break or uproot trees. City code prohibits allowing the growth of "other vines or vegetation that may damage trees, native vegetation, or structures. Allowing vines to reach the limbs of trees is a violation."

Residents can address invasives on their own property by learning more about native plants, and focusing on weeding out unwelcome species.

Bolton also reported that the number of tree removals from private property has dipped significantly in the last few years. In 2014, a total of 180 trees were removed; in 2013, that number was 222 and in 2012, it was 282. Bolton is still researching why the city lost fewer trees in the last year, and speculated that an ease in drought conditions might have played a part.

DECLINE IN TREE REMOVALS

Removals	2014	2013	2012	2011
Applied for	228	282	338	
Denial (# trees)	11	17	20	84
Permits issued (# of trees)	49	72	81	53
Waivers (# of trees)	123	126	175	179
Undesirable species (# of trees)	8	24	26	25
Total private removals	180	222	282	261

Mayors support freedom to marry

Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams joined 225 other mayors in signing a friend-of-the-court brief urging the Supreme Court to end marriage discrimination nationwide March 6. The brief, initiated by Mayors for Freedom to Marry, includes mayors from small towns as well as the nation's largest cities, the U.S.

Conference of Mayors, the International Municipal Lawyers Association and the National League of Cities. "My husband and I know how special it was to get married after so many years together, when it became possible to do so in Maryland," said Williams. "We want couples in every state to enjoy that right."

Takoma Park celebrates 125th anniversary

2015 marks the 125th anniversary of Takoma Park as a municipality, and the city will celebrate with a series of events throughout the year to mark the milestone. It begins with a presentation Saturday, April 18.

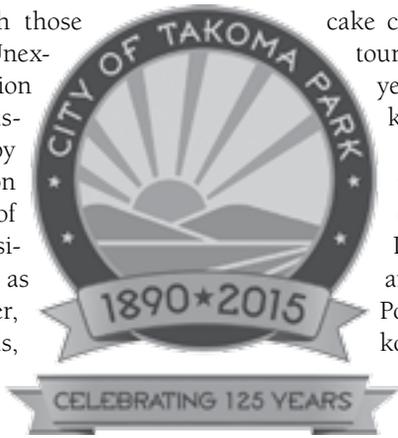
In 1890, six years after B.F. Gilbert first subdivided lots in Takoma Park, 400 residents lived in homes clustered around the train stop. A newly-formed citizens association joined with Gilbert to successfully push for a larger train station, to build the first school and church, and to organize the first Fourth of July celebration. Serious improvements, however, like roads, sidewalks and a water system, would require state and county funding. To that end, the citizens association petitioned the Maryland Assembly for official status as an incorporated town (a move Gilbert opposed).

On April 3, the state assembly passed legislation creating the Town of Takoma Park, Md. The boundaries set forth were

remarkably aligned with those we recognize today. Unexpectedly, the legislation excluded land in the District of Columbia, thereby creating the legal division between the two sides of Gilbert's suburb. Residents continued to act as one community, however, lobbying for new schools, fostering retail establishment and organizing joint celebrations. Thus, modern-day collaborations like the Old Takoma Business Association (OTBA) or shared opinions on the Metro development are nothing new.

Community celebration

The 2015 months-long celebration of this history kicks off on Saturday, April 18 with a reception at the Takoma Park Community Center honoring past and present mayors and council members, a



cake cutting and an illustrated tour through the last 125 years, from Historic Takoma.

Throughout the spring and summer, a series of events such as Earth Day, Art Hop, the House and Garden Tour, Takoma Porch music, Celebrate Takoma, the Azalea Awards, Jazz Fest and Independence Day offer a sampler of the activities that have defined Takoma

Park over the decades. This year they will be infused with new meaning, as organizers reflect on the history that allowed each to become a reflection of a 125-year-old community.

Another, more specific highlight will be a special one-time community party and supper and anniversary celebration on Saturday, June 20 on Maple Avenue and

featuring music and food.

Meanwhile, the following events will celebrate Takoma Park all season long:

April 19	Earth Day
April 22	Favorite Poem Evening
April 22-24	Art Hop
	Sweep the Creek
May 1	Morris Dancers May Day Dance at dawn
May 3	5K Challenge Race (Safe Routes to School)
	House and Garden Tour
Saturday, May 16	Takoma Porch music fest
	Library Book Sale
Sunday, May 17	Celebrate Takoma
	Takoma Foundation Azalea Awards
Sunday, June 4	Thunderbolts Baseball opening day
Saturday, June 13	Adult Play Day
Sunday, June 14	Takoma Jazz Fest
Saturday, June 20	Takoma Park Community Supper
Saturday, July 4	Independence Day parade, concert and fireworks

Energy upgrades funded through newly available grants

The City of Takoma Park has been awarded a new \$178,000 grant from the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) as part of its 2015 EmPOWERing Clean Energy Communities Low-to-Moderate Income Grant Program. This grant will enable the city to provide more than 25 complete home energy efficiency makeovers for low to moderate income Takoma Park residents.

Each qualifying home can receive up to \$8,000 in energy efficiency improvements from the grant. Combined with Pepco's \$3,800 in energy efficiency rebates already available to residents, home owners will be eligible for up to \$11,800 in work that improves the energy efficiency and comfort of their homes. Complete home energy efficiency makeovers include new

insulation, air sealing to eliminate drafts, heating and cooling equipment, some appliance replacement and more. These improvements will help residents save energy, lower utility bills and help create a more comfortable, durable, healthy home.

All homeowners receiving home energy makeovers through this new grant program will be Medium Green Certified, helping their neighborhoods in Takoma Park's new Neighborhood Energy Challenge, and helping move the city forward in its effort to win the Georgetown University Energy Prize through reduced energy use.

The new energy upgrade grants are being offered in conjunction with the city's existing Exterior Home Repair Program. Homeowners interested in applying for a

home energy makeover, for Exterior Home Repairs, or both, will only need to fill out one application which will be available in April. Priority will be given to homeowners who are elderly or disabled, and to families with children. Participation is limited to income-eligible homeowners as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development (HUD). Current income limits published in March 2015 for the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and identified by household size can be found in the adjoining table.

Since 2009, MEA's EmPOWERing program has financed energy efficiency projects that benefit low- to moderate-income Marylanders. Grants are awarded competitively within the applicant pool for each respective county. The energy

measures installed through this program to date are estimated to be saving Maryland residents more than \$3.35 million in avoided electricity and natural gas costs annually.

Grant Eligibility

HOUSEHOLD	MAXIMUM INCOME
1	\$45,900
2	\$52,440
3	\$58,980
4	\$65,520
5	\$70,800
6	\$76,020
7	\$81,300
8	\$86,520

Councilmembers commit to green certification for their homes

City Councilmembers Kate Stewart and Tim Male have publicly declared their intent to get their homes Green Home Certified, leading the way in Takoma Park's new Neighborhood Energy Challenge and setting off a bit of competition between their wards.

Stewart, in Ward 3, is aiming for Dark Green Certification, the most difficult to achieve. "Dark Green Certification requires a significant commitment to saving energy," says Gina Mathias, the city's sustainability manager. "I'm happy Councilmember Stewart is so enthusiastically embracing this challenge." Other certifications are light green and medium green, and each involves completing a list of energy-efficient measures.

After an initial meeting with the Mathias, Stewart's first step will be to schedule a comprehensive home energy audit with an approved contractor through Pepco's Home Performance with Energy Star program. Energy audits typically cost \$400-500, but through Pepco's program residents can get an energy audit for just \$100. During the audit, a certified professional will inspect insulation levels, test combustion appliances for efficiency and safety,



An energy efficiency expert checks for opportunities to conserve.

use a blower-door test to determine the overall air-tightness of Stewart's home, and scan the interior of the home with an infrared camera to find hidden air leaks and areas where more insulation is needed. This process will result

in a prioritized action list Stewart can use to make energy efficiency improvements to reduce energy use, and earn her green home certification.

"My family and I are very excited to take the Energy Challenge," says Stewart, who has invited City TV to film and broadcast the energy audit. "Last year we did the free Quick Home Energy Check-up offered by PEPCO and also started composting. We are ready to take it up a notch."

Councilmember Tim Male is also leading the way, in Ward 2, and has also committed to getting green home certified after a comprehensive home energy audit. He's invited several members of his neighborhood to watch and participate in the process, and hopes the observations will result in more residents getting green home certified.

Mathias challenged City Council members to see which of them could rally the most participation (by percentage) in their ward for the Neighborhood Energy Challenge. Stewart and Male are off to a great start, but there is a long way to go, and it's still anyone's game.

Takoma Foundation managing Takoma Park grant program

Each year the City of Takoma Park distributes about \$10,000 through small grants to community organizations that serve local residents. This year, the money will still go out – but for the first time the Takoma Foundation will be handling grant applications and selection.

Already well-known for its own grants program, the 12-year-old Foundation was chosen last fall to review city grant applicants and select which to fund. Since the mission, requirements and applications processes are similar, the Foundation will be awarding the city grants as part of its regular spring grant cycle. **Deadline for this year's applications is April 10**, and application information is available at www.takomafoundation.org. The City Council will have oversight of the process.

"I think we at the Foundation have learned about the needs of various communities that make up our larger Takoma Park community, so I hope we can make the city's grants process even more effective," said Scott Ward, Foundation president. "We want to make the process easy for applicants and to get funding into these wonderful groups as quickly as possible."

The idea of assigning the grant-making process to an independent panel originated with former City Manager Brian Kenner, and he praised the Foundation for being willing to assume that role. "The Foundation board members have a good record of finding and selecting worthy



Photo courtesy of Gandhi Brigade

The Takoma Foundation has helped fund many community driven groups including these young people from the Gandhi Brigade, an organization that helps youth use media and art toward empowerment and the common good.

causes in every part of town," he said at the time that the Foundation was selected.

In addition to the city's program, the Takoma Foundation distributes its own grants twice a year. "The two grants programs are similar, as they are both designed to serve community needs with small amounts of funding that can jumpstart innovative projects," said Foundation Grants Committee Co-Chair Maureen Feely-Kohl. "Working together with the city, we'll be able to increase the reach and impact of both grant programs."

Last year's Takoma Foundation grants

supported such projects as a weeklong summer camp for recent African Immigrants to help them assimilate to life in the United States through art, an "edible schoolyard" at Rolling Terrace Elementary School, and emergency help for Takoma Park residents facing eviction or utility cutoffs, or needing prescription assistance. Past city grants have funded projects such the ReCYCLE public art project, the community garden Takoma Overlook apartments, and the food pantry run by EduCare.

Individual grants in both programs

can be modest, less than \$2,500, but they have a huge impact, say beneficiaries.

"They have a significant impact for an organization like ours," said Sandra Moore, Takoma Park Volunteer Coordinator of Free Minds Book Club, which received a Foundation grant last year. The group empowers incarcerated youth through book clubs, writing workshops and mentoring, and provides post-incarceration support through internship programs.

"Our Takoma Foundation grant allowed us to host an evening called 'Write Night,' where recently released young people read their work and share their stories with a warm and receptive audience," Moore said. "It's a real community-building activity that touches a broad spectrum of Takoma Park, from high school students at Blair to seniors at Victory Towers. These people wouldn't be in the same room for very many other reasons."

The city's small grants program is distinct from the large grants program, which will still be overseen by city staff members. The larger program distributes about \$150,000 each year for long-term, bigger projects. A third program, Montgomery County's Community Development Block Grants, distributes funds for projects that target low- and moderate-income families; these typically involve housing, employment, crime prevention, childcare, health care, drug abuse prevention, education, mental health, welfare and/or recreation.

CROSSROADS'14

A YEAR IN REVIEW

NPR Covered our market in their story, "How 'Double Bucks' For Food Stamps Conquered Capitol Hill"

350+ varieties of produce sold
Traveled 52 miles on average

2,028 families and individuals received Fresh Checks

\$60,000 Dollars in Fresh Checks redeemed

23 Participants in Microenterprise Training Program

Amount by which cash and credit/debit sales increased at market **296%**

3 Rainy days at market

1 Hot pepper consumed by staff

4,434+ pupusas consumed

Customers and vendors from around the world

Volunteer hours performed **880+**

355 5th graders received Healthy Eating education

The Crossroads Farmers Market will start up again in June, every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Anne Street and University Boulevard. Meanwhile, here are some results from last year's efforts. And if you can't wait to get to the market, the Old Town Farmer's Market is year-round, every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Laurel Avenue.

Earth Day celebration: green solutions plus fun and games

The Old Takoma Business Association and the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op are celebrating all things green for Earth Day, April 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the city parking lot beside the co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave. Among the attractions: a green solutions fair; family activities from Takoma Plays, Audubon Naturalist Society, Little Loft and more; live music; a "Trashy Art" contest; and local food trucks. Organizers promise a selection of information from a mix of locally-based and

nationally-recognized solutions leaders, plus demonstrations and opportunities to learn from environmentally-focused nonprofits and businesses.

For details on how to enter the Trashy Art contest, see www.mainstreettakoma.org/featured-events/earth-day-takoma-park.

Sponsors of the event include James Hardie Building Materials, Zipcar, Takoma Park Farmers Market, The Compost Crew, Old Takoma Ace Hardware and Community Forklift.



5K Run, 5K Walk, 1 Mile Fun Run, 1/4 Mile Youth Run

Sunday, May 3, 2015, 8:00 a.m.

Takoma Park Community Center • www.TKPK5K.com

Proceeds benefit
East Silver Spring ES • Piney Branch ES
Rolling Terrace ES • Takoma Park ES
Takoma Park Middle School

Safe Grow act restricts pesticides

Beginning in January of this year, Takoma Park's Safe Grow law restricts residents and homeowners from applying restricted pesticides for lawn care purposes. Beginning July 1, 2015, each prohibited application of a restricted pesticide is a violation: a Class D municipal infraction for the initial offense and a Class B municipal infraction for any subsequent offense. Commercial application of lawn care pesticide is also prohibited, and violators will be fined \$100 for a single offense and \$400 for each additional offenses.



includes those identified as carcinogenic or likely to be carcinogenic to humans by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Class 9 pesticides by the Canadian Ministry of the Environment; and Class 1 Endocrine Disruptors by the European Commission. The city also maintains a list of minimum risk pesticides and other alternatives that may be used for cosmetic lawn care. The minimum risk pesticide list is available at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow/educational-materials

What are the exceptions to the pesticide ban?

A restricted pesticide may be applied to protect against an imminent threat to human health and safety and to control noxious growths, noxious weeds and invasive species. A waiver of the law may be provided if the applicant proves that he or she has exhausted all reasonable alternatives. A waiver request shall be submitted and approved before a restricted pesticide is applied. Persons granted a waiver must post a written notice readable and visible from the public right of way at the point closest to the area of application. The notice shall remain in place for at least two days following application.

The waiver request form can be downloaded from www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow. For more information and for tips about managing your lawn without toxic pesticides, see the web site, or call 301-891-7633.

If pesticides are used – they are permitted to protect against an imminent threat to human health and safety and to control noxious or invasive species – the law requires that a notice be posted on the property where they are applied. The notice can be downloaded at www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow and must be posted in a location visible to the public right of way closest to the area of application. The notice must remain in place for two days after application.

From Jan. 1, 2015, through June 30, 2015, a warning will be issued to any applicator who fails to post the notice. After July 1, 2015, failure to post and maintain the written notice is a violation and the applicator will be issued a Class G municipal infraction.

What are restricted pesticides?

The list of restricted pesticides is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow/list-of-restricted-pesticides and

Art Hop hosts a weekend in Takoma Park

Art Hop has become a spring tradition in Takoma Park, a weekend when paintings, photographs, textile arts and crafts pop up all around the shops in Old Takoma and Takoma, D.C. This year's "Hop" will be the city's seventh annual celebration, and takes place Friday night through Sunday, April 24-26.



The event pairs more than 70 artists, working in a variety of media, with the independent shops and restaurants where they hang their work, and will kick off with an opening night artists' reception Friday night at Takoma Central, 235 Carroll Street NW. The evening will include music from jazz bassist and vocalist Nicole Saphos plus food and beverages from local businesses.

The entire weekend will feature live music, dance and movement performances including a fire show by Dance Afire on Saturday at 7:30 pm. and an Art Car parade Sunday at 10 a.m., featuring art cars from the D.C. and Baltimore areas.

"This is such a fun event and a great way to get to know Takoma and all that it has to offer," Old Takoma Business Association executive director Laura Barclay said. "We are very excited to be hosting so many talented artists in our local businesses again this year."

A free public trolley will circle through Takoma to help visitors explore all weekend, with stops at the Takoma Metro and the farmers market on Sunday.

Art Hop is presented by the Old Takoma Business Association. For more information, a list of artists and a map of exhibits, see www.mainstreettakoma.org.

Free Finished Compost

To encourage organic lawn care the city is giving out free compost to all Food Waste Collection participants. Each participant can receive up to five buckets of free compost. Please stop by the Public Works office during our regular office hours to receive your share. The office is open Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lawn Care Calendar

March	Remove winter debris, test soils, dethatch if thatch is greater than ½ inch, overseed thin areas, apply corn gluten after snow melt for germinating weeds.
April	If you haven't already, dethatch and overseed, aerate lawns coming off chemicals, lime soils if needed for pH adjustment.
May	First mowing (high). Only if soils has less than 5% organic matter, top dress with ¼" compost.
June	Remove weeds by hand, mow high.
July	Mow high, sharpen mower, apply compost tea every two weeks to unlock nutrients in organic matter in soil, apply beneficial nematodes for grubs if needed, water deeply if grass begins to wilt.
Aug	Mow high, water deeply, test soil.
Sept	Dethatch if necessary, add lime, if necessary, and/or natural fertilizer if recommended by soil tests, aerate, or top dress with compost, reseed thin spots, continue mowing high.
Oct	Leaf shredding and mulching, mow ½ to 1 inch shorter than usual.
Nov- Feb	Winter dormancy, do not apply nutrients or organic matter during this time.

Bike Camp July 6-10, 2015

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School together with iCan Shine will offer a one week camp designed to teach individuals with disabilities to ride a conventional two-wheel bicycle. iCan Shine uses adapted equipment, trained professionals and volunteers. This five-day camp, requiring riders to attend only one 75-minute session per day, is taking place the week of July 6-10, 2015.



To be eligible to enroll riders must:

- Be at least eight years old
- Have a physical or intellectual disability
- Be able to walk without an assistive device
- Be able to side-step quickly to both sides
- Have a minimum inseam measurement of 20 inches and
- Weigh no more than 220 pounds

Email Lucy Neher, lucyn@takomaparkmd.gov for a registration packet.

**Takoma Academy, 8120 Carroll Avenue,
Takoma Park, MD.**

APRIL '15

Do you have an item for the city calendar?

Let us know if you have a nonprofit 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 April issue is April 20, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning May 1.

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

City Council Meeting, Monday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.*
City Council Meeting, Monday, April 13, 7 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Monday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Monday, April 27, 7 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Monday, May 4, 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 at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

First Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church,
7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for
needy families
240-450-2092 or educare_ss@yahoo.com
www.educare-supportservices.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Dedication of the Takoma Park Community Center/Sam Abbott Citizens' Center to Sam Abbott's memory

Tuesday, April 14, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center/Sam Abbott
Citizens' Center
Remembrances, music, poetry and celebration
of a life

125th Anniversary of Takoma Park incorporation

Saturday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
Reception for past and present mayors and city
councilmembers, Historic Takoma presentation
and cake cutting



Earth Day

April 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan
Allen Ave.
A green solutions fair, family activities, live music,
a "Trashy Art" contest and local food trucks.

www.mainstreettakoma.org

Spring Tree Care Workshop

Saturday, April 25, 10 a.m. – noon
Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave.
Tips about tree care in spring, including a walk to
observe nearby trees. Sponsored by the Takoma
Park Tree Commission.
Free

Takoma Park House and Garden Tour

Sunday, May 3, 1 – 5 p.m.
Various locations
As part of the 125th anniversary of the
incorporation of Takoma Park, the houses for
2015 tour all date to the 1890s.
Tour runs rain or shine.
\$20



Takoma Park Farmers Market

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

Food Truck Fridays

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

ARTS AND LITERATURE

People's Open Mic

Sundays, 9 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Drum for Joy! with Jaqui MacMillan

Mondays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St.
Learn hand drumming

Blues Mondays

Mondays, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Open Mic Night

Tuesdays, 9 – 11 p.m.
Busboys and Poets, 235 Carroll St NW

Jazz Jam

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

Wednesday Night Drum Jams

Hosted by Katy Gaughan and friends
Wednesdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m.
The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St., NW

Radical Harmonies

Wednesday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.
Documentary chronicling the Women's Music
Cultural Movement
Free
TP Community Center auditorium
www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts/



Genticorum: French Canadian Music

Friday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.
Seekers Church, 276 Carroll Street NW
A new-generation Quebec traditional music
group with non-stop dance rhythms, hearty
call-and-response singing, foot percussion and
three-part harmonies
\$16 in advance and \$20 at the door.
www.carrollcafe.org

Footworks

Saturday, April 11, 3 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
Interactive percussive dances from around the
world
\$10 suggested donation
www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
D.C.-Maryland poets read their work
Free
www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts

Takoma Spring Clean Up

Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. – noon
Meet at the Clock Tower on Laurel Avenue
Weeding and cleaning along Carroll Avenue
corridor from the Takoma Theatre to the Takoma
Junction

Free Mandolin Class

Saturday, April 18, 2 – 3 p.m.
House of Musical Traditions, 7010 Westmoreland
Ave.
Free beginning mandolin class at House
of Musical Traditions, taught by multi-
instrumentalist Justin Heath. Learn basic
techniques and get your questions answered.

Ukulele Workshop and Mini-Concert with Stu Fuchs

Saturday, April 18, 2 – 4:30 p.m.
Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW
Kala ukulele artist and renowned teacher Stuart
Fuchs will translate his studies of guitar, Afro-
Latin hand percussion and didgeridoo to the
ukulele for an exploration of Caribbean styles.
\$15-\$35

Art Hop Takoma Opening Night Party

Takoma Central, 235 Carroll St., NW
Friday, April 24, 6 p.m.

Akhemdova Ballet

Saturday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
Classical, contemporary and character dances
Suggested \$10 donation
www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts

Art Hop Takoma

Saturday and Sunday, April 25-26, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
More than 70 artists in shops, restaurants
and galleries throughout Takoma, pls free
performances and demos, fire dancing, aerial
art, an Art Car parade and more. Free trolley all
weekend.
[www.mainstreettakoma.org/featured-events/
art-hop-takoma](http://www.mainstreettakoma.org/featured-events/art-hop-takoma)
Details, page 14

Rock the Box 2015 Championships

Sunday, April 26, noon – 5 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch
Road, Silver Spring
The Competitive Breakin' League's Rock the Box
Championship is an annual event that the Lab DC
School brings to the Md./D.C./Va. community.

Portraits Exhibit

Through May 3
Galleries at the TP Community Center
Drawings, photography, painting and dolls
inspired by people and their personalities.
Featuring work by Alyscia Cunningham, Clay
Harris, Danny Carroll and Cutie nd the Creep.
Free

UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrate Takoma Festival and Azalea Awards

Sunday, May 17, 11 a.m.
Takoma Piney Branch Local Park, 2 Darwin Ave.,
Silver Spring
Celebrate Takoma features culinary tastes,
festive performances, visual and performing
arts, crafts and games that originated from
nations around the world. Takoma-Piney Branch
Neighborhood Park will be transformed into
a world of fun and learning; the venue for this
family festival features a large stage of free live
entertainment, food and craft vending, exhibit
areas and a game area (nominal fees charged
for food and merchandise vendors). Incorporated
into the festival again this year will be the Takoma
Foundation's Azalea Awards.

Takoma Park helps pay for your trees

Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Replace the Canopy

Takoma Park has put a priority on saving and replenishing the tree canopy: Not only do we have an arborist, we also arrange for discounts for residents to plant their own trees. You can get \$100 towards the cost of the first tree you purchase (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.



photo by Jan Stovall

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

As a purchasing agent with Arbor Landscapers, the city is making five species available at wholesale prices. Swamp white oak, willow oak, red maple, 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 April 17.

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. Submit to Todd Bolton, Takoma Park Department of Public Works, 31 Oswego Ave., Silver Spring, Md., 20910 by close of business April 17.

Someone will be in touch regarding installation dates, which will occur in May.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please include a map of property/tree installation locations.

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

+ 6% sales tax

Total _____