



WHAT'S NEW?

More FY17 budget info
Details on page 8

TKPK5K, May 7
Details on page 11

Montgomery College community conversations begin
Details on page 4

Trash/recycling collection
No changes this month

Special-Event Road Closures
Sunday, May 7, 6:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Takoma Park 5K Challenge
Maple Avenue between Philadelphia Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway from 6:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Sligo Creek Parkway will close at 8 a.m. instead of 9 a.m. There will be no parking on Maple Avenue on race day from 6:30 to 11 a.m.
For more information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/safe-routes-to-school.

Correction: In the March issue of the newsletter (on page 11) Mike Tidwell was incorrectly referred to as Sidewell. We regret the error.

Mayor & Council
7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912



Credit: Selena Malott

All together now!

Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department teamed up to host a fun afternoon of indoor play (Seventh Annual Mid-Year Play Day) on Sunday, Feb. 12. Here Pat Rumbaugh, The Play Lady, is joined by the volunteers who helped with the event. See more highlights on page 14.

FY18 budget process begins

If it's spring, it must be budget time. So says City Manager Suzanne Ludlow as she looks up from the spreadsheets on her table: "This year is a little different. There aren't many major budget issues for the coming year. However, what we don't know is how changes at the federal level may affect us in the future."

City staff have been busy entering numbers into budget spreadsheets, and the city manager and deputy city manager have been meeting with Council members to

follow up on Council comments from the budget retreats held in January.

On Wednesday, April 5, Ludlow will present the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18), July 2017 – June 2018, to the City Council, kicking off the public process that leads to the Council adopting a final budget in mid-May.

Ludlow stated that most proposed budget numbers for FY18 are similar to last

BUDGET PROCESS □ Page 8

City council priorities set for 2017

The City Council's Priorities are used as a tool to guide policy and budget decision making and outline strategies to work toward desired outcomes for a wide range of major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities. The Council affirms its priorities by resolution in February of each year.

Priorities vs. policies

Priorities are not policy. They serve as the framework used to shape it. Anyone affected by City Council policy — whether in agreement or not — is encouraged to engage with the City Council to help shape how priorities are implemented. Residents can engage in the process by attending a City Council meeting, contacting their City

Councilmembers or by joining a board, commission or committee.

CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES □ Page 3



Takoma Park City Council

Budget Highlights

- Reduction of tax rate from \$.5675 to \$.56 per \$100 valuation
- Increase of base stormwater fee from \$55 to \$92 for all property owners, including nonprofits
- City to borrow funds for, and begin work on, library renovation and expansion
- City to borrow funds as match to large federal grants for the Ethan Allen Gateway and Flower Avenue Green Street projects
- Recreation department adds outreach division, focused on youth success
- Complete and use strategic plan to advance affordable housing and economic development initiatives
- Make \$300,000 contribution to housing reserve
- Continue energy initiatives for businesses and multifamily properties
- Continue emphasis on police/community relations
- Undertake a fourth residents survey

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett is proposing to lower the County real property tax rate by 2.5 cents per \$100 valuation. Learn more about the County's Proposed FY18 budget at www.montgomerycountymd.gov.

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Inside



Washington Improv Theater
Page 5



Flag Football League
Page 6



Bike to Work Day
Page 11

DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, April 17, 7:30 p.m. (Budget Work Session)
Wednesday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, April 24, 7:30 p.m. (Budget Work Session)
Wednesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, May 1, 7:30 p.m. (Budget Work Session)
These City Council meetings will take place in the Community Center Auditorium.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Wednesday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 11, 7 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, May 1, 7:15 p.m.
TPCC Azalea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 27, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

NOISE CONTROL BOARD

Monday April 24, 7 p.m.
TPCC Azalea Room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, April 20, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Rose Room

*All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. Schedule changes can occur after the *Takoma Park Newsletter* deadline. For the most up to date information, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on "Events and Meetings." Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue (TPCC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail can sign up at takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas.

ADA NOTICE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who 1) wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing; or 2) cannot attend a public meeting but would like to record an audio comment to be played during the public comment period of the meeting, is invited to contact Jason Damweber, Deputy City Manager, at jasond@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7202 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.

Notice of Public Hearing

**Proposed Charter Amendment
"Nominations and Elections"
Wednesday, April 26, 2017 – 7:30 p.m.
Community Center Auditorium**

Pursuant to Section 502(c) of the Takoma Park Charter, the City Council hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Charter titled "Nominations and Elections." As proposed, the amendment would (1) change the date of City Elections from odd numbered years to even numbered years; (2) set the term for the Mayor and City Council elected in 2017 to one year; (3) change the date of the nominating meeting to the second Tuesday after Labor Day in an election year; (4) extend the time for certification of election results; and (5) change the day on which the newly elected Mayor and Councilmembers take office. Written comments may be submitted to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The full text of the proposed amendment is available for review at: www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk

On Feb. 15, the City Council adopted **Resolution 2017-6** affirming the FY 2018 Council Priorities. The priorities inform the development of the City Manager's proposed budget and indicate the strategic direction the Council intends to move the city. **Ordinance 2017-4** authorized a contract for replacement of the salt dome cover at Public Works at the cost of \$29,560. **Ordinance 2017-5** approved a \$71,928 contract to resurface a portion of the lower parking lot at the Community Center. Two committee appointment resolutions were adopted: **Resolution 2017-8** appointed Geoffrey

Short to the Committee on the Environment; and **Resolution 2017-7** appointed Emily Dufton, Madona Tyler LeBlanc and Gloria Tseng-Fischer to the Arts and Humanities Commission.

At the Feb. 22 meeting, the City Council approved first reading of three ordinances extending PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) agreements with Montgomery Housing Partnership: **Ordinance 2017-6** for 8624-

CITY COUNCIL ACTION Page 3

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT Wednesday, April 5, 2017 - 7:30 p.m.

Pursuant to Section 502(c) of the Takoma Park Charter, the Council of the City of Takoma Park will hold a public hearing on proposed amendments to the Charter titled "Nominations and Elections." As proposed, the amendment would (1) change the date of City Elections from odd numbered years to even numbered years; (2) set the term for the Mayor and City Council elected in 2017 to one year; (3) change the date of the nominating meeting to the second Tuesday after Labor Day in an election year; (4) extend the time for the Board of Elections to certify election results; and (5) change the day on which the newly elected Mayor and Councilmembers take office. The hearing will take place in the Auditorium, Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912, on Wednesday, April 5, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. All interested persons should attend the public hearing and sign up to speak. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912; or clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The full text of the proposed amendment is available for review at: www.takomaparkmd.gov. *Note: There will be a second public hearing on April 26. The second hearing has been scheduled because of an error in the notice submitted to the Washington Post for publication.*

Attest:

Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk

VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Interested in serving? A great first step is to review information at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/. Then, attend a meeting to see if it is a good fit for you. If you have questions, contact the committee, or talk to your City Councilmember or the City Clerk. Appointments are made by the City Council. Apply by completing the online application and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications.

The following groups have vacancies as of March 17, 2017:

The **Arts and Humanities Commission** advises the City Council on ways in which the City might best serve the public with regard to matters involving the arts; encourages and aids the appreciation and awareness of, and participation in, the arts; encourages cooperation and coordination among individuals, organizations and institutions concerned with the arts in Takoma Park; and facilitates employment opportunities for artists and the development of self-sustaining arts programs. (3 vacancies)

The **Commemoration Commission** documents, maintains, and preserves past, present, and future memorials, commemoratives, and recognitions in the City; recommends 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 or its neighborhoods; recommends programs for individuals to honor others; implements such programs; and decides on recognitions after opportunity for public review and comment. (5 vacancies) (There are no members from Ward 4 or Ward 5.)

The **Ethics Commission** provides written

advisory opinions; investigates, hears, and decides in ethics inquiries and complaints; conducts a public education program; recommends legislative changes and improvements to the Ethics Ordinance; and promulgates regulations to accompany the Ethics Ordinance. (2 vacancies)

The **Facade Advisory Board** serves as an advisory panel to help ensure that facade designs and their maintenance are harmonious and consistent with the intended quality and character of the commercial areas of Takoma Park; provide guidance and assistance to commercial building and business owners seeking permits for facade alterations, signs, and new construction work; and inform residents and business owners of the historic district benefits and the requirement to continue coordinating with the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission regarding necessary approvals. (2 vacancies)

The **Grants Review Committee** evaluates applications for a number of City grant programs and makes funding recommendations to the City Council. The grant programs are: Cultural and S.T.E.M. grants, Program and Operational Support grants; Capital Project grants; and CDBG grants. (2 vacancies)

The **Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee** oversees implementation and adherence

to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act and provides public information and issues related to the Ordinance. (1 vacancy)

The **Recreation Committee** advises the City Council on how best to serve the diverse recreation needs of Takoma Park residents, including but not limited to reviewing and recommending policies and programs that concern recreational opportunities within the City, with a special emphasis on youth and seniors and broad and diverse participation. (3 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 transit. (2 vacancies)

Stay informed about City Council meetings and agendas! Subscribe to the weekly email list. You'll find the subscription form on the Council agenda page: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas>.

TPPD chief resigns

On March 10, City Manager Suzanne Ludlow accepted the resignation of Police Chief Alan Goldberg for personal reasons. Goldberg began working for the City of Takoma Park in October 2012 after retiring from a long career with the Montgomery County Police Department. He has served a total of 39 years in law enforcement.



Credit: Selena Malott

Ludlow noted that, during Chief Goldberg's tenure, many improvements were made in the Takoma Park Police Department, particularly concerning crime analysis and sharing information with the public. The recently presented Annual Report of the Police Department for 2016 showed the lowest level of crime in many years in most categories.

Ludlow will conduct a national search for a new chief for the City of Takoma Park. In the interim, the three captains in the police department, Captain Dan Frishkorn, Captain Tyrone Collington and Captain Richard Bowers, will rotate acting chief responsibilities, beginning with Captain Frishkorn. The department remains committed to excellence and will continue to protect the public safety of all

Alan Goldberg

residents, regardless of background.

The City of Takoma Park has a council/manager form of government in which the council establishes policies and hires a city manager to oversee day to day operations, including hiring of staff. The Takoma Park Police Department is a full-service police department with 42 sworn officers and 30 civilian employees. After consulting with city council, staff and community members on desired characteristics of a new police chief, the City will post a job announcement for the position. For questions or more information please contact Jeremy Dickey, media specialist at 301-891-7236 or jeremyd@takomapark-md.gov.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

■ From page 2

8626 Flower Avenue; **Ordinance 2017-7** for 1001, 1003 and 1005 University Boulevard; and **Ordinance 2017-8** for 641 Houston Court (Councilmember Male voted no on all three). Several resolutions regarding state legislation were adopted: **Resolution 2017-9** supported HB 285 (SB 265) – Washington Metrorail Safety Commission Membership Act; **Resolution 2017-10** supported HB 979 – Property Tax Credit – Public Safety Officers; **Resolution 2017-11** supported HB 238 – Housing – Workforce Housing Grant Program – Mandatory Funding; and **Resolution 2017-12** supported HB 257 (SB 359) –

Maryland Meals for Achievement for Teens Act of 2017; HB 287 (SB 361) – Hunger-Free Schools Act of 2017, and HB 288 (SB 360) – Free School Meals for Students from Low- and Middle-Income Families Act.

On March 1, the Council approved second reading of the three PILOT agreement ordinances: **Ordinance 2017-6**; **Ordinance 2017-7**; and **Ordinance 2017-8** (Councilmember Male voted no on all three).

On March 8, the City Council approved the

consent agenda which included: **Resolution 2017-13** appointing Lacy Alison and Ashley Files Flory to the Noise Control Board; **Resolution 2017-14** opposing HB 532 (SB 1133) Election Law – Qualifications of Voters – Proof of Identity; **Resolution 2017-15** opposing SB 842 (HB 1354) Voter Registration Integrity Act; **Resolution 2017-16** supporting HB 1362 (SB 835) Maryland Law Enforcement and Governmental Trust Act; **Resolution 2017-17** supporting SB 740 (HB 1325) Oil and Natural Gas – Hydraulic Fracturing – Prohibition; **Resolution 2017-18** supporting HB 514 (SB 184) Energy Efficiency Programs – Calculation of Program Savings and Consideration of Cost Effectiveness; **Resolution 2017-19** supporting HB 110 Electric Vehicles and Recharging Equipment – Rebates and Tax Credits – Extension and HB 406 (SB 315) Clean Cars Act of 2017; **Resolution 2017-21** supporting SB 422 (HB 602) Keep Antibiotics Effective Act of 2017; and **Resolution 2017-22** supporting HB 1374 State Highway Administration Neighbor Notification Act.

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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.

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled—content paper.

Dialogue about Takoma Park Recreation Center continues

By Rick Henry

In the latest, and most significant, effort to address what City Councilmember Fred Schultz categorizes as an "inadequate and obsolete" facility, the City of Takoma Park recently sent out a "Letter of Interest" to area developers soliciting ideas to develop the Takoma Park Recreation Center site at 7315 New Hampshire Avenue.

The letter informs prospective developers that the City is interested in receiving "letters of interest" from them with ideas for partnering with the city to develop the site. The center is cur-



Credit: Selena Malott

Priscilla Labovitz and Jay Keller

fact that addressing the facility's shortcoming is a Council priority, spurred the City Council to reach out to developers for ideas.

"We are saying to them, 'we have a problem and we need your help to solve it,'" said Schultz, who represents Ward 6, where the center is located. "And the problem is that the current rec center no longer serves the needs of our residents."

Solving that problem could be accomplished in a variety of ways, according to Schultz, including renovating the existing building, tearing the current facility down and building a new one on site, finding another location (involving a land swap)

or constructing a mixed-use facility that would accommodate the Rec Center. "And if there any ideas better than those, we'd like to hear about them," he said.

The letter of invitation and the de-



Credit: Selena Malott

A resident and Vince Cain, recreation center supervisor (right)

rently located on land owned by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. The City operates it under contract.

According to Schultz, Park and Planning is anxious to unload the property and is actively trying to negotiate a deal with the city. This, coupled with the

RECREATION CENTER □ Page 12

CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

■ From page 1

Five areas of focus

The City Council's priorities break down into five broad categories with key major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities identified for each. Those five broad categories are:

1. A livable community for all
2. Fiscally sustainable government
3. Environmentally sustainable community
4. Engaged, responsive & service-oriented government
5. Advance economic development efforts

Based on these five broad categories, the Council identifies specific goals along with their corresponding strategies and desired outcomes.

Changes and additions

Some of the goals added since the priorities were first affirmed in February 2016 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Defending Takoma Park's status as a sanctuary city and continuing to be a welcoming and inclusive community for all residents
- Achieving greater energy efficiency, particularly in multifamily buildings and businesses
- Moving forward with library renovations

Each priority is explained in detail in the graphic on page 9. For information about the major projects, initiatives and ongoing activities associated with the priorities, visit the City's Project Directory.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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Assistant: Sean Gossard
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Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@



BUILDING COMMUNITY

HOUSING MAILBOX



By Moses A. Wilds Jr.
Landlord-Tenant Mediation Specialist

My apartment was broken into, and some of my personal property was taken. Can the landlord be required to reimburse me for my losses through his property insurance policy?

Your landlord's insurance probably will not cover your stolen personal property unless you can show that the landlord was negligent and caused the mishap. Tenants are strongly encouraged to consider purchasing renters insurance, which provides coverage against losses from theft, vandalism, fire or smoke and water damage (excluding floods). Renters insurance may also protect you if others are injured in your apartment and may pay your legal costs if you are taken to court.

Prior to purchasing renters insurance, the following considerations should be made:

- **Determine how much insurance is sufficient** to replace all of your personal property by creating a home inventory, a detailed list of all your personal property and their estimated value. The Insurance Information Institute offers free home inventory software at www.knowyourstuff.org.
- **Evaluate replacement cost vs. ac-**

tual cash value coverage. A replacement cost policy pays to replace your possessions without accounting for depreciation. An actual cash value policy pays to replace your possessions minus a depreciation deduction. Although replacement cost coverage is usually about ten percent more than actual costs coverage, the extra cost should be weighed versus the generally quick depreciation rate of most personal property.

- **Consider adding a policy floater** (a separate policy that provides additional insurance) if your personal property includes expensive jewelry, furs, collectibles or other valuables.
- **Determine if your renters insurance provides liability protection** that covers you against lawsuits for bodily injury or property damage for acts done by you, your family members and your pets. Most standard renters insurance policies generally provide at least \$100,000 of liability coverage, but additional amounts of coverage are available.
- **Find out about discounts**, which may be available if you have a security system, use smoke detectors, use dead-bolt locks, have good credit and have another policy (i.e. auto or business).

The Maryland Insurance Administration estimates that the average renter's insurance policy costs between \$15-30 per month.

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

Let the conversations begin

By Rick Henry

A standing room only crowd filled the Takoma Park Community Center on Tuesday, March 21 for the first of three scheduled "Community Conversations" about Montgomery College's proposed modernization of its Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus and its effect on the surrounding neighborhood.



The makeup of the audience reflected the various constituencies invested in the proposed facilities master plan, including city and county officials, representatives of the college, students, parents of students, faculty, and immediate neighbors of the campus from both Silver Spring and Takoma Park.

The underlying reason for the series of conversations is the desire to balance the College's need and plan to upgrade its facilities, especially its science laboratories, with those of the residents of the surrounding historical neighborhood.

In her opening remarks, Mayor Kate Stewart summarized the purpose behind the event. "Tonight, we have 1.5 hours to start a conversation and a meaningful dialog about how we (the

citizens of Takoma Park) can work with the college to meet their goals and inform their plans and still preserve the historical and residential character of the (nearby) neighborhood," she said.

Montgomery College President, Dr. DeRionne Pollard, echoed similar sentiments in her opening statement, while articulating what she called the college's critical need to "modernize its facilities."

"The college and I want to be a good neighbor, and there are multiple needs to be balanced," she said. "Help me deliver on the educational needs of our students."

According to Dr. Pollard, those needs hinge chiefly on the construction of a

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE □ Page 12

Meeting to discuss Downcounty Consortium high schools capacity study

Did you know MCPS is studying the spatial needs for Montgomery Blair High School? A possible addition could be constructed to address current and future space deficits at the school. According to the "At a Glance Report" for Montgomery Blair on the MCPS website, the school enrolled close to 2,900 students during the 2015-2016 school year, and 29.4 percent of those students were ninth graders.



Come learn about the process and possible building additions for Montgomery Blair High School. Individuals who need sign language interpretation or cued speech transliteration may contact Interpreting Services in the

Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program at 301-517-5539.

Thursday, April 6
7—8:30 p.m.

Montgomery Blair High School
Cafeteria

Takoma Junction community consultations held

Last month Neighborhood Development Company (NDC) in partnership with the City of Takoma hosted the second set of four community meetings held to seek input and share information about the proposed project located at the intersection of Ethan Allen and Carroll Avenue. Close to 200 residents representing all wards of the



Credit: Selena Malott

Ward 6 City Councilmember Fred Shultz and residents view city plans for Takoma Junction (March 9, 2017).

City attended the meetings. The topics covered at the March meetings were the public realm and access and mobility. Two meetings held in February addressed the topics of form and character with market and retail ideas. For more information and to view presentation slides from the meetings, visit takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/takoma-junction-redevelopment.

RECREATION

For more information and a full listing of our camps, classes and programs please visit: takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation.

YOUTH

ART

Clay for Kids

In this class, children will receive instruction on how to utilize a variety of techniques (coil, pinch, slab work) to create one-of-a-kind sculptures and vessels out of clay. Caregiver participation required for children 4-5 years old. There is a \$15 materials fee (per child) due to the instructor on the first day of class. Instructor: Caroline Mackinnon.



Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
4-8 years
6 Week Sessions
Mondays, April 24 - June 5
Wednesdays, April 26 - May 31
4 - 5 p.m.
Resident: \$130 /Non-resident: \$150

MAKE/Shift Studio I: Art Inspirations

Elementary students create exciting two- and three-dimensional projects in this after school class. Lessons include drawing, painting, collage, assemblage and mixed media. Contemporary and historical artists provide inspiration for this art program geared for 3rd through 6th graders. Beginning students welcome. Materials fee included. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman.

Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
8-11 years
6 Week Session
Thursdays, May 4 - June 8
4 - 5:45 p.m.
Resident: \$155 /Non-resident: \$175

MAKE/Shift Studio II: Drawing & Watercolor

Have fun learning to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Beginning students welcome. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School. Materials fee of \$25, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of each session. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman.

Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
11-14 years
6 Week Session
Tuesdays, May 2 - June 6
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Resident: \$140 /Non-resident: \$160

CAMPS

Camp Recess

Get ready for another fun-filled summer of adventure, games and activities. Campers will go swimming, have arts and crafts projects and play various games based on the theme of the week. Each week will end with a cook-out. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp. Please bring a non-perishable lunch every day. Camp sessions always fill — don't wait! Before and after care available.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Front Room
7315 New Hampshire Ave
5 - 12 years
Monday-Friday
1 Week Sessions
June 26 - August 11
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
\$80 per week
*4th of July week fee: \$65



Dribble, Pass & Shoot Basketball Spring Camp

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 Care and After Care are available for an additional fee. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
5-12 years
Monday-Friday
April 10-April 14
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
\$200

Girls Basketball Camp

Participants will learn basketball fundamentals, which include, but are not limited to, ball handling, shooting skills, foot work, and overall knowledge of the game. Campers will also improve communication skills and teamwork all while having fun. This girls-only camp is operated by Sonia Chase, a former collegiate of the University of Maryland, and WNBA basketball player, Charlotte Sting. Please bring a non-perishable lunch every day. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp.

Takoma Park Community Center
Lilac Room
7500 Maple Avenue
7-14 years
Monday-Friday, July 24-28
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Residents: \$175 /Non-residents: \$195

DRAMA & THEATER

Dungeons and Dragons

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." Taught by the library's own Dave Burbank.

Takoma Park Community Center
Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
9-18 years
5 Week Session
Thursdays, April 20 - May 18
4 - 6 p.m.
Resident: \$55 /Non-resident: \$65

EXTENDED CARE

REGISTRATION UNDERWAY FOR
EXTENDED CARE FOR THE 2017-2018
SCHOOL YEAR

After the Bell (After Care)

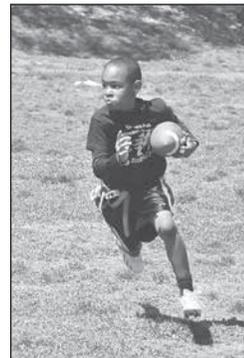
It is time to start thinking about next school year. The "After the Bell" after school childcare program for the MCPS 2017-2018 school year will provide a safe environment for children in grades K-5. Transportation will not be provided by the Recreation Department. Please contact MCPS Transportation at 301-840-8130 to change your bus route to New Hampshire Towers and we will meet them at the bus stop. The "After the Bell" Program will not operate on days the MCPS is closed. For more information, contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Back Room
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Grades K-5
Monday - Friday, 3:30 - 6:30 p.m.
September 5, 2017 - June 14, 2018
\$1,250 / year

SPORTS

Flag Football League

This league is a non-competitive, instructional, community league. Registration has already begun. Practices began the week of April 10, and the first game is April 22. Ed Wilhelm Field Divisions: 6-8 years, 9-11 years and 12-14 years 5 week season (No game April 15) Saturdays, April 22 - May 20 12 - 3 p.m.
Resident: \$40/Non-resident: \$50

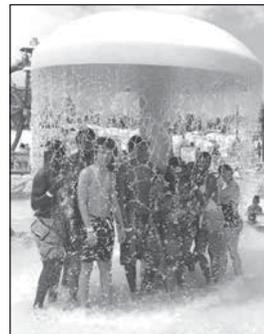


TEENS

CAMPS

Teens on the Move

Each day is a trip on a new adventure. Broaden your horizons and maximize your courage and strength. Take trips, such as rock climbing, horseback riding, zip lining, etc. Challenge yourself and overcome your fears during this 4-week adventure camp.



Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
1 Week Session
Monday-Friday
July 10 - July 28
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Resident: \$120 per week/Non-resident: \$140 per week

Spring Break P.R.E.P.S. Week

Spring Break P.R.E.P.S. (Planning and Researching for Educational and Professional Success) week is about assisting teens in planning for their future. During this week, teens will be able to participate in discussions with business professionals and take a few college tours to get a sense of life after high school. Occasional break away trips such as: bowling, laser tag, or roller skating will be included. Come with questions, an open mind

and a bag lunch! Before and after care are available for an additional fee.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
1 Week Session
Monday-Friday
April 10 - April 14
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Resident: \$100/Non-resident: \$120

DROP-IN

Teen Lounge

This special room is for teens only (middle school and high school students). You are welcome to watch two 50-inch and one 70-inch LED SMART TVs. We also have X-Box One and Wii Games, workstations, board games and comfy sitting areas for socializing with friends. Come join us after school for fun and laughs and on special events for an amazing time.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Ongoing
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 3 - 7 p.m.
Tuesdays: 3 - 8 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed
Free

Teen Modeling School

Discover your potential for modeling. This 8-week class will help participants prepare for pageantry and the modeling industry with the same techniques used by today's top models and industry pros. The instructor has partnered with high-end retailers to produce classy and elegant fashion events, promotions, grand openings, and fundraiser programs for nonprofit organizations in the past. Instructor: Charonique Vogue.

Takoma Park Community Center
Hydrangea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6 - 12
Wednesdays, May 4 - June 15
4 - 5 p.m.
Free

Teen Night

Teen Night is a great way for teens to meet their need for social interaction. The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides high-quality, affordable, safe and fun activities for teens. Come to a night of games, activities and more. Teen Night is held every second and fourth Friday of the month. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
12-17 years
Ongoing Second and Fourth Fridays
7:15 - 8:30 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership

Power Hour

Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. Staff is available to assist and can review the completed assignments. Upon completion of work, students are invited to lounge, play games, and/or participate in activities. Registration is not required.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Ongoing Tuesdays
4-5 p.m.
Free

RECREATION

■ From page 6

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Counselor in Training (CIT)

Sign up now for a three day training to become a Certified CIT while becoming First Aid/CPR certified. Work with children ages 5-12 during our youth summer camps and earn your SSL hours while having fun!

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue

Ages 14-17
Tuesday, May 2 & Thursday, May 4
4 – 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 6
10 – 5 p.m.

Resident \$25/ Non-resident \$35

Youth Summer Employment Program Interest Meeting

Parents and teens come to the Interest Meeting and learn about this 8-week program which will begin June 26 and will end August 18. Is your teen in need of a summer job? The City of Takoma Park is pleased to announce the return of the City's Youth Summer Employment program. The purpose of the Youth Summer Employment Program is to provide young people with a summer-long adventure that is more than just a job, but a true learning experience. There are a limited number of meaningful employment opportunities available this year. To register for the Interest Workshop or to find out more information, please call Leicia Monfort at 301-891-7283.

Takoma Park Community Center
Auditorium

7500 Maple Avenue

Ages 16-21
Friday, April 21

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Free

TRIPS

Redskins Draft Day Dash 5K Trip

It's your turn to take the field! It's time to lace up for the Draft Day Dash, a Redskins-themed 5k race that finishes on the 50-yard line at FedEx Field. Following



the race, 5k participants are invited to the Redskins Draft Day Party for exclusive tours of the Redskins locker room, meet the 2017 Redskins cheerleaders, enjoy appearances and autograph session by your favorite Redskins players and alumni and watch the

NFL Draft on the HD video boards including live NFL draft picks right from the stage. Post-race activities also include special giveaways for race participants, food and drink and live entertainment. Register soon; limited spaces available!

Takoma Park Community Center

Teen Lounge

7500 Maple Avenue

Grades 6-12

Saturday, April 29

8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Resident \$10/ Non-resident \$20

Ultimate Fitness Challenge Trip

The Ultimate Fitness Challenge is the nation's largest mobile fitness event traveling from coast-to-coast. At the Kids Ultimate Fitness Challenge, kids of all ages get the opportunity to flex their physical fitness by participating in a time-based obstacle course that includes sprinting, jump roping, wall crawls, hurdles, jumping jacks, sit ups, and tunnel crawls, before finishing off the course with a 20-foot confidence climb and 60-meter dash to the finish. The event also includes "Xtreme" gaming fun like zip line, bumper ball, and sky jump! The bus will depart the TP Community Center at 9:30 a.m. sharp!

Takoma Park Community Center

Teen Lounge

7500 Maple Avenue

Grades 6 – 12

Saturday, April 8

9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Free, however, due to limited seating, advanced registration is required.

ADULTS

ART

Collage

You will be introduced to a variety of collage techniques, work with elements and principals of design, and explore creative two- and three-dimensional assembly. Instruction will be given in surface preparation, adhesives, color theory and composition and is suitable for beginners, as well as more experienced students. Basic materials will be available. A materials fee of \$30, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman.

Takoma Park Community Center

Art Studio

7500 Maple Avenue

16 years and older

6 Week Session

Tuesdays, March 7 - April 18

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Resident: \$210 /Non-resident: \$240

FITNESS

Cardio Kickboxing

Cardio Kickboxing is designed to improve strength, aerobic fitness, flexibility, coordination and balance. This two-day a week new class will soon become a favorite! Please bring a water bottle and a towel.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Gymnasium

7315 New Hampshire Avenue

16 years and older

7 weeks

April 6 - May 20

Thursdays, 7:45 – 8:45 p.m.

Saturdays, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.

\$75 for all 7 weeks or \$10 drop in

Go-Go Fitness

Go-Go Fitness is a comprehensive 60-minute cardio, dance fitness workout that incorporates various dance styles and toning moves as well as the classic call and response of a live



Go-Go music workout set.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Gymnasium

7315 New Hampshire Avenue

16 years and older

Ongoing, Saturdays

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Drop-in: \$5

SPORTS

Adult Softball League

The Takoma Park Coed Softball League is a fun and exciting recreational program for competitive adults of all skill levels. Games will be played on Sundays. Team registrations must contain 50% of TP residents to qualify for Resident Team entry fee. Roster limit: 15 Registrations started March 1. All games are double headers.

Local Takoma Park Softball Fields

16 years and older

Sundays, April 9 - June 11

(No games 4/16, 5/14 or 5/29)

First game is at 9:30 a.m.

Resident: \$545 /Non-resident: \$645

RECREATION □ Page 13

RECREATION Special Events

Annual Egg Hunt

Get your baskets ready and join the Takoma Park Recreation Department for an "egg"-citing time! There are four age categories: ages 2 and under, 3-4 years, 5-6 years, and 7-8 years. The event starts at 10:30 a.m. with games and music. The hunt begins at 11 a.m. sharp! Don't miss out. Mr. Bunny will be available to take photos with you.

Ed Wilhelm Field

(behind Piney Branch Elementary School)

Saturday, April 15, 2017

10:30 a.m.

Rain Date: Monday, April 17 at 4 p.m.

Free



Celebrate Takoma

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

Maple Ave (between Philadelphia and Lee Avenues)

Saturday, May 20, 4 – 7 p.m.

Event held rain or shine

For more information, please call 301-891-7290 or visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/celebrate-takoma or visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/celebrate-takoma.



When a volunteer transforms into an employee

Fatoumata Sy, better known as Fatima, was recently hired by the Recreation Department this past January as a part-time front desk recreation program assistant.

Over the past few years, Fatima has volunteered at numerous special events hosted by the Takoma Park Recreation Department. This past June, Fatima was also a student ambassador for our Youth to Success Forum. Fatima started volunteering with the recreation department when she entered sixth grade at Takoma Park Middle School to fulfill her required SSL hours. When asked why she continued volunteering well after she achieved her requirements, she said, "I had fun at all the events, and I was going to continue to show up to them anyway, so why not help out?"

As active as she is within her community, Fatima puts forth the same effort in school. In eighth grade she was the SGA President, and now in her senior year at Montgomery Blair High School, she is the president of the

W.E.B. Dubois Honor Society. Fatima decided to apply to work with the recreation department when she saw an opening because it was close to home, it was a place she was familiar with, and the work schedule would still allow her to dedicate decent time to her studies.

Fatima, the oldest of three, will be a first-generation college student this fall, so she makes it her business to keep her school work a top priority. "My parents came here so that their kids would not have to go through what they went through back home (Fatima's mother is from Mali, and her father is from Burkina Faso)," she said. "Their dreams are that my siblings and I surpass their achievements and become successful adults. I can't let them down."

We are proud to have had Fatima volunteer all these years and elated that she is now an employee. Please be sure to congratulate Fatima on her many achievements when you see her.



BUDGET PROCESS

■ From page 1

year's, with two exceptions: (1) a proposal to borrow money for library renovation and expansion and for two major street projects; and (2) a long-needed increase in the base stormwater management fee from \$55 to \$92 per year, critical to the City's responsibility to protect area waterways and the Chesapeake Bay (See box).

Regular operating expenses for the various City departments increase only a small amount (2.3 percent) from the current year, accommodating modest increases in the costs of salaries, benefits and supplies. In working to align staff to the Council Priorities, departments made some position changes but did not increase the total number of positions.

As Ludlow noted, the biggest area of uncertainty is the economic impact from federal budget changes, particularly possible downsizing of the federal workforce and cuts in grants and consulting contracts. As with the Recession and Sequestration several years ago, impacts to DC area workers and companies have ripple effects on DC area governments. Possible funding cuts to Takoma Park due to its status as a Sanctuary City are not expected to be great, but are being monitored. However, cuts are expected to the number of grants available for City projects, particularly environmental ones.

Regional negative economic impacts may not affect the City's upcoming FY18 budget, but could significantly affect FY19 and FY20 revenues. Ludlow noted that maintaining reserves in the FY18 budget will help prepare for a possible fiscal downturn in future years.

What will happen to the tax rate?

Ludlow is proposing lowering the tax rate slightly – from 56.75 cents to 56 cents per \$100 real property valuation. Because of rising property valuations, keeping the tax rate at its current level would be expected to bring in about \$711,000 more in real property tax revenue. At the lower rate of 56 cents, the City would instead expect to receive about \$542,500 more than it will receive this year.

Ludlow notes that this amount is almost equal to the 2.3 percent amount of increase in departmental operating expenses.

If the City were to set the tax rate at the rate that would bring in the same amount of money as this year (called the constant yield rate), the rate would be 53.58 cents per \$100 of real property valuation. Funds to pay for increased base costs would need to come from other sources, or projects and/or initiatives would need to be cut.

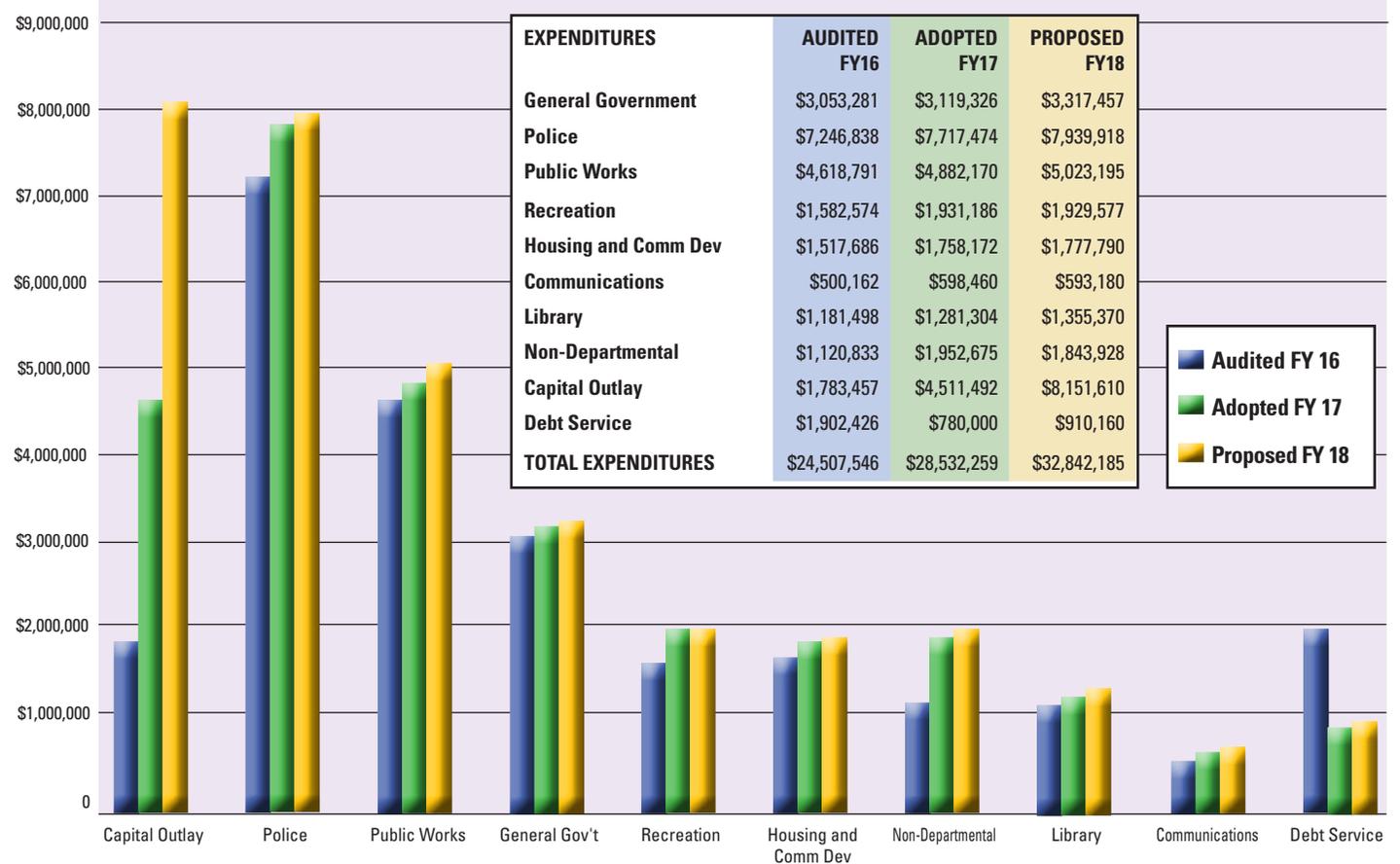
Special projects

"I am really excited by the library project this year," Ludlow said. After many years of planning, the detailed plans are getting underway, and the City will borrow money for construction. The City will also borrow money to pay for its match to two large federal grants for street work – the Flower Avenue Green Street and Ethan Allen Gateway projects.

Focusing on Council priorities

In preparing the budget, all depart-

Takoma Park Budget: General Fund Expenditures - FY '16 through FY '18



Takoma Park Budget: General Fund Revenues - FY '16 through FY '18

	Audited FY 16	Adopted FY 17	Proposed FY 18
Taxes and utility fees	\$16,142,419	\$15,931,903	\$17,149,066
Licenses and permits	\$87,315	\$76,804	\$76,704
Fines and forfeitures	\$482,986	\$505,000	\$405,000
Use of money and property	\$53,214	\$22,000	\$17,000
Charges for service	\$1,141,780	\$1,178,530	\$1,141,450
Intergovernmental	\$5,818,760	\$6,165,493	\$6,123,280
Miscellaneous	\$215,008	\$71,500	\$77,000
	\$23,941,482	\$23,951,230	\$24,989,500

Income Tax Revenue

Fiscal Year	Income Tax Revenue
2007	\$2,016,347
2008	\$2,359,552
2009	\$2,310,208
2010	\$2,138,384
2011	\$2,330,225
2012	\$2,595,845
2013	\$2,437,127
2014	\$2,671,765
2015	\$2,797,878
2016	\$3,494,273
Est. 2017	\$3,150,000
Prop. 2018	\$3,400,000

Stormwater Management Budget

Category	Adopted FY17	Proposed FY18
Personnel	\$133,200	\$145,500
Maintenance and Services		
Supplies	\$133,000	\$149,000
Computer Support	\$4,050	\$0
Engineering Services	\$30,000	\$50,000
Inspections and Maintenance	\$70,000	\$100,000
Bank Charges	\$11,500	\$11,500
Capital Projects	\$130,000	\$240,600
Capital Expenditure - Grant	\$168,750	\$113,750
Total Expenditures	\$680,500	\$810,350

Stormwater fee increase

All City efforts to install and maintain the pipes and rain gardens that collect, slow and filter water from rain in Takoma Park are paid for by funds from the Stormwater Management Fee. Property owners, whether they pay taxes or are nonprofits, pay a fee based on the amount of impervious surface on the property. The City's stormwater systems clean the waters going into Sligo Creek, Long Branch, the Anacostia Watershed and the Chesapeake Bay. Particularly when the federal government may be cutting back on its efforts to protect our environment, the City's work is more essential than ever.

The base stormwater management fee rate of \$55 per year has stayed the same since 2012. With new state regulations and a number of important projects to be completed, the rate needs to be significantly increased. The new rate of \$92 will provide the level of funding that is needed in the coming years. Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite presented detailed information on the need for the fee increase at the city council meeting of March 15. It's worth watching the video of the presentation, which is available via the City's website.

TAKOMA PARK CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Engaged, Responsive & Service-oriented Government

- Identify policing priorities and options for enhanced police/community relations.
- Improve communications with residents, especially two-way online communications.
- Make Tree Policy more user-friendly.

Advance Economic Development Efforts

- Attract new businesses and prepare for economic development in the City and region while maintaining the special character of our community.



Environmentally Sustainable Community

- Achieve greater energy efficiency, particularly in multifamily buildings and businesses.
- Increase renewable energy, particularly in solar.
- Preserve and grow the tree canopy.

Fiscally Sustainable Government

- Increase funding from Montgomery County to address tax duplication.
- Adopt financial policy to determine the appropriate level of designated reserves.

A Livable Community For All

- Identify youth and family programming needs, especially for our more vulnerable residents including but not limited to those in lower income and immigrant families and those with developmental disabilities, and develop approaches to meet those needs.
- Ensure a range of safe, quality, and stable housing options for residents of varying incomes.
- Defend status as a Sanctuary City and continue to be a welcoming and inclusive community for all residents.
- Move forward on Library renovations.
- Formalize relationships with neighboring jurisdictions to enhance public safety.

To view the priorities online, visit: <http://bit.ly/CityCouncilPriorities>



Terrific trio of authors

We've got a trio of great author programs coming up in April. Two of the authors – novelist Hena Khan and graphic novelist Alexis Frederick-Frost – are relatively new to the world of children's literature, while one – William Joyce – is the author/illustrator of a number of modern day classic picture books as well as the winner of three Emmys and an Oscar.

Khan is up first with a program, set for Tuesday, April 4 at 7:30, where she will read from and discuss her first novel for kids, *Amina's Voice*. The book features a Pakistani-American girl, who is trying to deal with the challenge of starting middle school as she navigates between two cultures.

In its review of *Amina's Voice*, *Kirkus* noted: "Khan deftly—and subtly—weaves aspects of Pakistani and Muslim culture into her story, allowing readers to unconsciously absorb details and develop understanding and compassion for another culture and faith. Amina's middle school woes and the universal themes running through the book transcend culture, race, and religion." Khan is an up-and-coming author whose previous books, including the picture book, *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors*, have won critical praise. *Amina's Voice*, meanwhile, is the first book published by Salaam Reads, the new Muslim children's book imprint of Simon & Schuster.

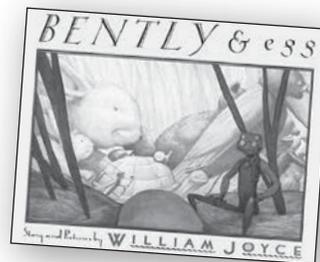
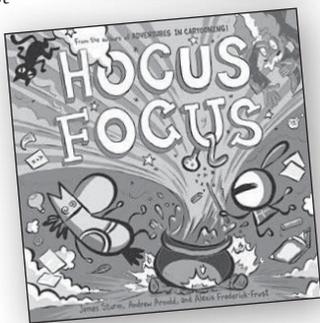
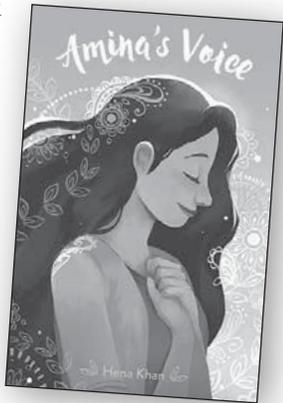
Then, on Monday, April 17 at 7:30,

graphic novelist Alexis Frederick-Frost will speak about his new book, *Hocus Focus*. Frederick-Frost is part of the trio that creates the popular *Adventures in Cartooning* series – his co-authors are James Sturm and Andrew Arnold – and *Hocus Focus* is their newest book.

In *Hocus Focus*, the knight is quite unhappy with her first magic lesson, which has her peeling turnips for soup instead of creating a magic potion, so she takes things into her own hands by stealing the wizard's wand and spell book. Then things get crazy when the knight transforms one character into a hugely-hungry worm.

As in the other *Adventures in Cartooning* books, *Hocus Focus* is part traditional graphic novel and part drawing manual. It's a combination that inspires and engages young readers and drawing fans. At our event, Frederick-Frost will talk about and read from the book and then do some live drawing for the crowd.

Our final April event, which takes place on Monday, April 24 at 7:30 p.m., spotlights the multi-talented William Joyce, who has created award-winning picture books, children's television series, and movies. At our program, Joyce will focus on the newly-reissued editions of three of his classic picture books, *Bentley & Egg*, *A Day with Wilbur Robinson*, and *Dinosaur Bob and His Adventures with*



AUTHORS □ Page 12

CALENDAR

Circle Time

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

Spanish Circle Time

Thursdays, 10:15-10:45 a.m. OR 11-11:30 a.m.

Led by Senora Geiza

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Saturday, April 1, 10:30 a.m.

Join Marie-Fraise des Bois (a.k.a. Madame Marie) for songs and rhymes in French

Registration encouraged if you want to be updated with future program dates;

to register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents or call 301-891-7259.

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Goethe's *Faust* continue.

Takoma Park Community Center

Books-to-Action: A Social Justice Book Club for Kids & Adults

Saturday, April 8, 2 p.m.

Our theme is global warming and environmental activism.

Best for ages 5 up

Poetry on our city streets and in our parks

By Merrill Leffler

One April day in 2007, Carroll Avenue was suddenly blooming with poetry. Installed on rigid stems (steel poles) were colorful posters of poems by well-known older poets, among them Emily Dickinson, E.E. Cummings, and Langston Hughes, many contemporary poets, some with reputations like Lucille Clifton and Robert Hayden, and many younger poets. In all, thirty posters were posted from Takoma Junction to Old Town, in numbers of City parks, at the library, and at the entrance to the Takoma Park Community Center. An urban poetry walk – Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park — has now become a featured part of our cityscape.

Supported by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library in collaboration

POETRY □ Page 15

Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park

Mimesis

My daughter
wouldn't hurt a spider
They had nested
Between her bicycle handles
For two weeks
She waited
Until it left of its own accord.
If you tear down the web I said
It will simply know
This isn't a place to call home
And you'd get to go biking
She said that's how others
Become refugees isn't it?

Fady Joudah

A Spider on My Poem

Black one,
I was going to frighten you away,
but now I beg you,
stay!
You're what I need.
This poem needs real legs, faster than the eye.
And a belly with magic string in it
made from spit,
designed to catch and hold whatever flies by.
Also, the unrivaled way
you came, boldly, fast as a spider,
till you passed all real in the middle of the page.
Everything I need.
Please stay.

Ruth Whitman (1922-1999)

Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park, an urban poetry walk, is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Poster designs are by students at the School of Visual

Free tree seedlings plus to celebrate Arbor Day, April 8

Come celebrate Takoma Park's largest environmental champions – our trees – on Arbor Day, Saturday, April 8, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., on the grounds of the Takoma Park Library. The City Public Works Department and the Tree Commission will have free native tree seedlings for you to choose from, and helpful information about how to successfully plant and care for trees. Tips for involving children in tree care will also be shared. Species that will be available are black oak, bald cypress, paw paw, persimmon, pitch pine, redbud, red maple, shumard oak, sweetgum, American sycamore, and white oak. American hazelnut, a tall shrub, will also

be available. And a special collection of books for children and adults related to trees will be on display in the Library.

Why celebrate trees? The City's Joint Working Group on Urban Tree Canopy has prepared a special flyer, "Growing Environmental Champions: Takoma Park's Trees," summarizing many of the social and ecological benefits of living with trees. It is available on the City's website, at cityclerk-takomapark.s3.amazonaws.com/bcc/tree/envtl-plus-tree-benefits-for-takoma-park.pdf. To quote Jeff Meyers of *The Tree Book*, planting a tree is "an act of faith and a gift of hope for the future."



Bike to Work May 19!

This year Bike to Work Day will be held on Friday, May 19, at two "pit stop locations" in Takoma Park.

1. Sligo Creek Parkway at New Hampshire Avenue (7-9:30 a.m.)
2. Old Takoma at the Gazebo (6-9 a.m.)

The event is free and fun for all ages and provides an opportunity for community members to utilize the City's new Capital Bikeshare stations (located at the Takoma Park Recreation Center and Kirklynn Avenue).

Register today at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org.

If you would like to volunteer at the event or are a business that can sponsor with in-kind donations (food, prizes, giveaways, etc.), contact Jamee Ernst at jameee@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7217.

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge FAQs and fun facts

Editor's Note: The incorrect date for the race was published in the Spring/Summer City Guide as May 1. Please disregard this. As noted in the article, the race will be held on May 7. We apologize for the error.

FAQs

The Takoma Safe Routes to School program aims to encourage students to walk or bike to school regularly and safely. In addition to providing built in exercise for the students, this will reduce traffic congestion and emissions around schools. Safe Routes also funds infrastructure projects in the City of Takoma Park, such as improving sidewalks and intersections.

The TKPK5K is being held to promote Safe Routes to School, to spend a great day with the community enjoying a family friendly, healthy activity and to raise funds for the parent teacher associations at five area schools, Takoma Park ES, Piney Branch ES, Rolling Terrace ES, East Silver Spring ES and Takoma Park Middle School. The funds are used for programs that focus on walking for health, fitness and bike/pedestrian safety. Read on (and visit TKPK5K.com) to get all the information you need, so you can plan to participate in this year's race on Sunday, May 7.

What time does the race start?

8 a.m.	5K run/walk start
9 a.m.	1-mile fun run
9:15 a.m.	.25 mile youth run

Please arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the race.

Where is the race?

The race start line is near the front of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD. The official start line is at the corner of Maple and Grant Avenues. Post-race activities are held on Grant Avenue next to the community center.

How do I register for the race?

Visit TKPK5K.com to register online or

to download registration forms in English or Spanish. Early bird prices end on April 18, so sign up early.

Are there any road closures on race day?

Road closures on race day include Maple Avenue between Philadelphia Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway from 6:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Sligo Creek Parkway will close at 8 a.m. instead of 9 a.m. There will be no parking on Maple Avenue on race day from 6:30 to 11 a.m.

Is the course certified?

The course is a USAFT-certified 5K. Visit TKPK5K.com to view a map of the race course.

Can I run with my child in a stroller?

Yes, strollers and baby joggers are allowed, but they must start at the very back of the starting corral.

Do I get a t-shirt?

Yes, all participants in the race will receive a 5K t-shirt when they pick up their packets. Sizes for t-shirts are guaranteed with early bird registration. Choose from youth sizes small and medium and adult sizes small, medium, large and extra-large, or opt for no shirt if you'd rather not have one.

Where do I pick up my packet?

Packet pick up will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2 – 6 p.m., at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. The packet includes your bib, shirt and safety pins. Packets can also be picked up on race day starting at 7 a.m., but please come on Saturday.

What prizes will be awarded?

- Prizes will be awarded based on chip-timed finish for the 5K run in the following categories: Top male and female

overall, top boy and girl 15 to 18, top boy and girl 11 to 14, and top boy and girl 10 and under

- Prizes will be awarded based on net-timed finish for the one-mile run in the following categories (14 and under only): Top boy and girl 11 to 14, top boy and girl 7 to 10, and top boy and girl 6 and under
- Awards for the 5K will be announced no later than 10 a.m. The 5K Walk and the .25 mile youth Run will not be timed.

What happens if it rains on race day?

The race will go on as planned if it rains. There will be a delay for lightening. Please dress accordingly.

How do I volunteer?

Volunteers are needed for packet pick up and on race day. Check TKPK5K.com for ways to sign up.

What are the volunteer opportunities?

- Registration (new registrants) – Volunteers will register new runners and organize packets for new runners. Packets include t-shirts and race bibs. Accurate record keeping is required.
- Packet Pick-up (pre-registered runners) – Volunteers organize packets for pick up by runners. Packets include t-shirts and race bibs. Accurate record keeping is required.
- Refreshments: Volunteers set up the refreshments for post-race activities and maintain order during post-race.
- Start/Finish: Volunteers assist with the operation of the start and finish line. Onsite training provided.
- Course Marshals: Course marshals will be stationed on the course to direct runners and report issues.
- Fun Run/Youth Run: Volunteers will assist fun run/youth run director with

corralling participants, starting and finishing the races, and handing out prizes.

- Clean Up: Volunteers will make sure the community center and environs are left in good condition.

Fun facts

- In 2008, 350 people signed up for the TKPK5K; in 2016 1,400 people signed up.
- The youngest runner ever was 3 years old; the oldest 79.
- Most runners are 18 and under.
- More women run the TKPK5K than men.
- All proceeds benefit area schools. In 2016, each PTA received a check for \$5,000. The students benefit in so many ways, including afterschool activities, recess equipment, healthy refreshments at school events, wellness committee events and more.
- Each year an award is given to a member of the community who contributes to the health and wellness of area students. Mr. Austin, former PE teacher at TPES; Joyce Seamens, advocate for the Piney Branch pool; and Amanda Strite, first grade teacher at ESSES have been awardees in the past.
- The record for the fastest runner in the TKPK5K ever is held by Quincy Schmidt with a time of 16:47. But don't let that deter you. All runners and walkers are welcome!

Riders and volunteers needed

Thanks to Takoma Park Safe Routes to School (TP SRTS) and the Maryland State Highway Administration, the iCan Shine Bike Camp will be coming to Takoma Park to teach individuals with disabilities to ride a conventional bike and become lifelong independent riders. This camp is free and open to Maryland residents only. The camp will be held June 26-30 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:50 p.m. at Takoma Academy, 8120 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD. Each volunteer and his/her assigned camper will be scheduled for a specific session time (i.e. 8:30-9:45 a.m. or 2-3:15 p.m.) for the duration of the camp. TP SRTS is currently recruiting both riders and volunteers for the camp.

Riders (30 total) must be:

- 8-14 years old by start of camp and have a disability
- able to walk without an assistive device and sidestep to both sides
- able to attend a 75-minute session each day of the five-day camp
- under 220 pounds and have a minimum inseam measurement of 20 inches
- Maryland residents

Volunteers (60 needed) must be:

- at least 16 years old (unless accompanied by an adult)



- able to attend 90 minutes at the same time each day for five days (15 minutes of training/daily debriefing, 75-minute session)
- able to provide physical, emotional and motivational support to assigned rider
- able and willing to jog or run for a great cause!

For more information and to register, contact lucyn@takomaparkmd.gov or visit iCanShine.org and/or takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/safe-routes-to-school.



SafeRoutes



RECREATION CENTER

■ From page 3

velopment possibilities for the center was one of the main topics at a March 9 meeting of the Friends of the Takoma Park Rec Center, (FORC) a community group that formed last fall to advocate for upgraded facilities and more programs at the Rec Center.

At that meeting, the group heard from Jacob Schans, a representative from Coalition Homes, part of the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, one of the developers that received the letter of invitation. Schans shared Coalition Homes' vision of constructing a new building to include 12 units for low-income families as well as a community Rec Center.

Such a proposal reflects the broad approaches the City is hoping for, said Ward 1 Councilmember Peter Kovar, who attended the meeting. However, he added, the City is approaching the process with an open mind. "From our (the Council's) perspective, it is far from definitive what we would like to see happen," he said, noting that this effort overlaps with a broader sector development plan for New Hampshire Avenue that focuses on com-

mercial development for that corridor.

The sector plan specifically addresses and endorses the need for redeveloping the rec center and recommends keeping it at its current location, a sentiment Wayne Sherwood, a member of FORC, said he, and most of the group, share. "I have attended two meetings of FORC, and at both meetings people spoke strongly in favor of maintaining, upgrading and expanding the rec center at its current location," he said.

Priscilla Labovitz, who organized FORC, characterized the group as having a "general, but not unanimous, desire to keep the center at its present location," but stressed that "the most important outcome is an attractive, safe and well-resourced Rec center that is accessible to all residents of Takoma Park, particularly those in Ward 6."

Schultz agrees and while he is not sure what the final plan will entail, he is focused on its outcome: "When you inventory all of the city's recreation opportunities, we are grossly undersupplied with adequate recreation space for all of the people in the city, and we need to do something about it."

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE

■ From page 4

new math-science building to replace the buildings known as Science South and Science North, which are located on the Eastern border of the campus on Fenton Street. "Science South is 56 years old, and Science North is 38 years old," she said. "Our faculty and students need modern classrooms, facilities and laboratories."

A group of approximately 15 students attended the meeting, and some shared stories about how the current facilities created learning obstacles for them and would ultimately harm student progress and success. They were united in their positive experience and enthusiastic about their time at the college, and like Dr. Pollard, they asked for the community's assistance in working to enhance school facilities.

Nearby residents were sympathetic to the college's need for better facilities, stating they were willing to make some "sacrifices" for the college and the student body. Virtually all who spoke supported the college's efforts to modernize. However, many were concerned with the look and footprint of the proposed modernization. As one resident put it, "how do we address the college's need to upgrade its technologies and facilities and not do 'violence' to the historical neighborhood?"

Ward 1 Councilmember Peter Kovar, who represents the neighborhood and the campus, talked about the long relationship between the college and the City and stressed that there were two key components at work with regard to the modern-

ization. "There is the policy side and the process side, and they are intertwined," he said. "The policy side has to do with what the actual buildings will look like, and we will have disagreements about that."

Both Kovar and Casey Anderson, chair of Montgomery County Park and Planning, which will serve as a consultant on the plan but will have no regulatory authority over it, stressed the need for the college to look at the big picture when it comes to the planning and construction of the building.

Anderson shared examples of how other communities with higher education institutions have worked together on development, while Kovar urged the college to not just focus on a new building, but to focus on the surrounding community and the future needs and design of the college.

As for the process, Kovar said that this series of meetings, which were led by a professional facilitator, was "the start of a better consultation process between the two entities that can be built upon going forward." Reflecting on the event, Mayor Stewart agreed: "All the main stakeholders were in attendance and that was the goal of the evening - to bring everyone together, provide information, listen to concerns and lay the foundation for future meetings."

The next two meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, May 9 and Tuesday, June 6. "The structure of those meetings will be informed by the information gathered at the first meeting and what the facilitator recommends," said Mayor Stewart. "I am looking forward to continuing the conversation."

AUTHORS

■ From page 10

the Family Lazardo.

Joyce's film, *The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore*, won a 2012 Oscar for best animated short film, and he also has won three Emmys for his television series, *Rolie Polie Olie*. Joyce's book, *A Day with Wilbur Robinson*, was the basis for the 2007 Disney movie, *Meet the Robinsons*, and he has illustrated numerous covers of *The New Yorker* magazine.

Those familiar with Joyce's children's books know about his unique ability to combine fantasy, humor and pure quirkiness to create unforgettable characters and plots. Despite their fantastical nature, Joyce's books somehow also seem totally plausible, which adds to their allure for both young readers and their grown-ups.

In *Bently & Egg*, Joyce tells the story of a frog named Bently who agrees to babysit the egg of his duck friend Kack Kack and finds it's a harder job than he thought. In *Dinosaur Bob and the Family Lazardo*, the Lazardo family has a series of outrageous adventures with their unusual pet dino, while in *A Day with Wilbur Robinson*, a young boy spends a memorable sleep-over with his best friend's wacky family.

At all three of these events, Politics & Prose will sell copies of the authors' books. But the programs are free, and no registration or purchase is required to attend. Please join us!

Favorite poem evening returns in its 20th year!

The "Favorite Poem Evening", sponsored jointly by the Takoma Park Maryland Library and the Friends of the Library, is now in its 20th 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 18, at 7:30 p.m.

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 via e-mail (ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov). The deadline for submission is Monday, April 14.

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 19 years. All ages are welcome. Please attend and bring your friends and neighbors. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

BUDGET PROCESS

■ From page 8

ments looked to the 2017 Council Priorities for direction. The Council has set aggressive goals and departments have aligned staff and resources to be able to address them. A new Council emphasis this year is racial equity. As the Councilmembers consider legislation and other actions, they will also consider how the action helps or hinders racial equity in Takoma Park. According to Ludlow, the various components of the proposed budget will be looked at through this lens.

Share your thoughts about the budget

You are encouraged to let the Council know what you like, don't like or want to see in the FY18 budget. You can testify at budget public hearings on April 12 or April 26 or send emails to council@takomaparkmd.gov. Detailed information on the proposed budget, stormwater fee and special projects is available on the City's website at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

This year there is a special opportunity to learn more about the budget, a "Budget Open House," on Thursday, April 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Azalea Room of the Takoma Park Community Center. All are welcome to drop in, talk to the City Manager and City staff to ask about what is in and not in the budget, and learn more about proposed projects, the tax rate, the stormwater fee, and so on.



**Sunday, May 7
8:00 AM**

**Takoma Park
Community Center**

TKPK5K.COM

5K RUN, 5K WALK, 1 MILE FUN RUN, 1/4 MILE YOUTH FUN RUN

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



SafeRoutes



RECREATION

■ From page 7

55+

DROP-IN

Bingo

Come and try your luck. Win a prize. No registration required.

Takoma Park Community Center
Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Thursday, April 27
12 – 2 p.m.
Free

Blood Pressure Screening

Adventist Healthcare will conduct a monthly blood pressure screening. Drop-in. No registration is required.

Takoma Park Community Center
Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Thursday, April 27
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Free

Game Room Open Play

The game room is available for adults age 55 and older to play pool, table tennis, basketball arcade and other active games. The game room is a great place to join friends for lively conversation, and just to "hang out" before, in between and after classes during the day.

Takoma Park Community Center
Game Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Ongoing
Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Free

Needlework Get-together

Work on your knitting and crochet with other needlework enthusiasts. Join us for fun, conversation and support with your projects. This is not an instructional class. Drop-in. No registration required. The group will not meet during inclement weather.



Takoma Park Community Center
Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
10 Week Session
Mondays, April 3 - 24
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Free

Walking Group

Join your neighbors and friends for indoor lap walking. Drop-in. No registration is required.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 and older
Tuesdays, April 4 - 25
12 – 1 p.m.
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

AARP Driver Safety Course

The nation's largest classroom refresher course for drivers 55 and older designed to tune up driving skills, explain safe driving strategies and cover the latest rules of the road and defensive driving techniques. Some insurance companies in Maryland may offer auto premium discounts to drivers who take this course. Check with your agency. Make your check payable to AARP. Bring your check, AARP card and driver's license to class. Instructor: Jerry Hulman. Registration with the Takoma Park Recreation Department is required to participate.

Takoma Park Community Center
Hydrangea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Friday, April 28
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
AARP class fee: \$15 for AARP members/\$20 for non-members
Payment for the class will be collected by the AARP instructor on the day of class.

Holy Cross Memory Academy

This course explains how memory works; offers quick strategies for remembering names, faces and numbers; provides basic memory tools; and maximizes the effectiveness of using memory aids such as lists. (This program is not intended for people with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia). Registration with Holy Cross is required. For more information and to register and pay directly with Holy Cross, call 301-754-8800 or go to www.holycrosshealth.org.

Takoma Park Community Center
Lilac Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Mondays, April 24 - May 22
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Class fee: \$25 per person, payable to Holy Cross (includes textbook, handouts and materials).

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Cardio Groove Classes

High energy and fast-paced, low impact Aerobics that get the heart pumping and feet moving quickly, then a well-earned cool down and stretch. Moves follow the beat of music designed for Aerobics. Instructor: Nancy Nickell.

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Thursdays, April 6 - May 25
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Free

Line Dancing

Learn how exercise can be fun with music. Instructor: Barbara Brown.

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Wednesdays, April 5 - June 28
No class 4/12, 5/3, 5/31, and 6/7
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Free

Tennis Fun and Fitness

This class blends exercise with learning or reviewing tennis skills utilizing special equipment for indoor play. All equipment

provided, but you can bring your own racket. Instructor Coach SJ.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 and older
Thursdays, April 20 - June 8
No class 4/13
12 – 1 p.m.
Free



Zumba Gold

Zumba Gold was designed for the active senior with less intense dance routines for beginners and older adults using modified movements.

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Saturdays, April 8 - June 17
No class 5/20
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Free

TRIPS

10th Annual Peeps Show

Carroll County, MD
Wednesday, April 19
8:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Baltimore Museum of Industry and Inner Harbor

Baltimore, MD
Tuesday, April 25,
8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center
Recreation Office
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older

Registration is required. For trip details and procedures please see the Forever Young Spring/Summer newsletter online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation.

Let's play ball, Cuba

By Helen Lyons

For the first time in nearly two decades, a Maryland baseball player will set cleats down on Cuban soil and swing a bat over a home plate in Havana. While the Baltimore Orioles only managed to beat the Cuban national team in the 1999 exhibition series by a margin of one in extra innings, the Takoma Park youth baseball team is hoping to knock more than three out of the park.

"We've got 15 players who will be spending their spring break in Cuba," said Coach Eric Saul of Takoma Park, who was a baseball player himself before spending the last five years teaching others, "and it's something we hope to do every year."

The Takoma Park youth baseball team will travel to Cuba this month as part of Caribbean Goodwill Baseball Tours, a program that fosters cultural exchanges between countries.

In addition to participating in the baseball tournament, the team will bring more than 600 pounds of sports equipment, along with first-aid and school supplies, to distribute to Cuban children and schools in the rural communities they will visit across the island during their trip.



"They just love baseball there," Saul said, recalling his own travels to the country as an architecture student. "The whole country loves it. Kids played everywhere, even in the streets, but they had no gear. No bats, no gloves, no balls. They used sticks and whatever they could find."

Saul often joined in their games when he could and remembers hitting a homerun with a stick that would end up bothering him even years later. "It was their only ball," he explained. "I felt terrible." Though the players cheerfully assured him it was fine, Saul always wanted to return to the country and bring with him proper equipment so that the children could play the game they loved

so much in the same way the baseball stars they looked up to did.

Yujin Sasaki, 13, is one of the players on Saul's team who will be going to Cuba. As part of a community project, Sasaki will bring four dozen custom-printed baseballs with him that bear a logo of his own design promoting U.S.-Cuba friendship.

"He will sell the balls to the community, and each buyer will be able to handwrite a message on the ball," explained Makiko Murotani, Sasaki's mother. "Yujin wants to connect his community and Cuban baseball players as people to people with this project."

It won't be Sasaki's first trip abroad to play baseball. Both his parents were born and grew up in Japan, and Sasaki played on a local little league team in Wakayama, Japan for two summers.

According to his mother, "he is in a unique position of having already connected [with] American baseball players and Japanese baseball players and is hoping to form a tie with Cuban players through this trip."

The Takoma team will play four days' worth of games while in the country and then join their Cuban counterparts in a day-long baseball camp led by former Major League All-Star players, including Devon White and Bill "Spaceman" Lee. For more information, visit www.takomabaseball.com.

PBES feasibility study concludes

By Helen Lyons

The Piney Branch Elementary School's Parent Teacher Association met on March 28 to view the final presentation of the school's feasibility study, a plan to build additions onto the building in order to meet expected future enrollment. "We're trying to get ahead of these needs before the increase," explained Gary Mosesman, team leader in the division of construction serving Montgomery County Public Schools

Four concepts were presented to add five classroom spaces to the building in order to accommodate an expected increase of 92 students over the next several years, all of which included adding additional parking spaces to the school. "Teachers are parking in the neighborhood," said Mosesman. "Kids are being dropped off blocks away [from the school] and have to walk."

Other concerns that the architecture firm (Smolen Emr Ilkovitch Architects) hopes to address include the cramped bus lane in the front of the elementary school. One solution proposes changing Grant Avenue to a two-way street with a loop for buses. The firm will submit their proposals in the next two to three months for "vetting," and any plans will ultimately

have to be approved by Dr. Jack Smith, superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools.

Money for planning and schematics has been budgeted for the fiscal year 2019, and if one of the concepts is chosen for implementation, construction would not begin until 2021. "It's a Band-Aid solution," said Ellen Zavian, whose son is a fifth grader at Piney Branch.

She expressed concern that existing classrooms within the building were not up to par because the school was originally designed to be an open-classroom learning facility, where none of the classrooms had walls. "There's poor air conditioning, poor ventilation," said Zavian. "[Piney Branch] wasn't built to have interior walls. And we're going to be cheap now, and we won't be able to fix it later."

A series of meetings open to the public were held throughout the process of designing concepts for renovations, and members of the firm said that participation from the community guided their designs. "We've had pretty good attendance," agreed Piney Branch's principal, Rachel Dubois. "We had teachers, parents, kids and some people who were just members of the community. It was so neat to see such participation. People were in-



CREDIT: Helen Lyons

Students entertain themselves in the media center at Piney Branch Elementary School while the feasibility study results are presented. The Media Center would remain intact under all proposed renovations, but an added hallway would take students from there to the playground directly, instead of having the students walk up several stairs outside.

involved; it wasn't just slapping things up. It was great to see people's ideas incorporated into the design."

The aim is to renovate Piney Branch Elementary School so that it can accommodate a total enrollment of 740 students. "In terms of the feasibility study, it's the start of a really long process," said Dubois. "There are a lot more conversations to come; this is the beginning."

Next members of the architecture firm will present the results of the study to the Takoma Park City Council before compiling documentation from the study and submitting it to the superintendent.

For more information about the study and to review the proposed concepts, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/construction/project/pineybranch.aspx

More Highlights from Seventh Annual Mid-Year Play Day on Sunday, Feb. 12



One of the city's younger residents finds fun in a box.



Maya and Josh Wright make a valentine for mommy.

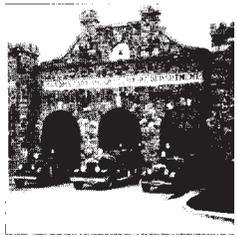


Sawyer Wilson, 1 year old



Wyatt Gaegler, 3 years old

Credit: Selena Malott



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Feb. 28, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 84 fire-related incidents in 2017. The department addressed or assisted with 424 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 508.

Totals for 2016 were 94 and 538, representing a decrease 124 calls.

During February, the Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 3,508 hours in the station compared to 2,544.5 hours in February 2016.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as March 20, 27 people have died in fires compared to 19 in March 2016.

Fire safety message

It's spring time! While you are doing your spring cleaning of your home, make sure you get rid of any potential fire haz-

ards. Here are some you should be aware of:

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet from the furnace and hot water heater.
- Keep oily rags in airtight containers and away from heat sources.
- Trash should not be stored in the basement.
- Clean lint filters every time you use the dryer. Clean the dryer vent ductwork every year.
- Keep stairs free of clutter and safe for quick exit in an emergency.
- Maintain easy, quick access to your fuse box or circuit breaker panel.
- Test and clean all of your smoke alarms.
- Check and see if your bedroom window will open if you should need it to escape a fire in your home.

Can we find your home in an emergency?

Are your house numbers clearly visible from the street? Take a look! Please provide five-inch numbers with contrasting background.

Mark your calendar

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department will be presenting a "Home Fire Safety" presentation on Wednesday, May 31. Topics to be covered include what happens when you call 911, knowing what to do in the event of an emergency, and do's and don'ts of using fire extinguishers. Registration is required. To register, call 240-773-8954.

Emergency preparedness in the digital age, part II

By Claudine Schweber, Co-Chair Emergency Preparedness Committee

A few months ago, we discussed the need to make sure that your family or designee could access your personal digital files, such as automatic bill pay and so on in case of an emergency (November 2016). Now, the challenge is to be scam savvy and prevent access or thwart intruders who may want your money or your identity.



Think you are already sufficiently savvy? This happened to a friend about three weeks ago.

"I checked my e-mail and read one from my broker. One of her clients was returning to France and wanted to liquidate one of his holdings worth \$XXX and was willing to take half for it. I said I'd think about it. The condition was to wire the funds from my bank immediately, and the transaction would be completed. I said that I had a cash account with the firm, and I would sell a fund that I own and the dollar requirement would be easily met. I received a return e-mail saying that the fund couldn't be sold. I wrote back saying I've never heard anything so preposterous. I was instructed again to wire what money I could – money to be sent to a bank in Texas with an account number and owner. I called the brokerage firm and was told by my rep that she never sent me any e-mails."

This person, usually fairly cautious, was shocked to discover it was a close call. What can you do? Apply the 3D system: (1) establish practices to deter an online thief; (2) identify warning signals to detect intrusion; and (3) immediately implement ways to defend your security for laptops, mobile phones and computers.

Deter

- Don't click on unsolicited links (which the above person did).
- Don't give out personal information, especially your social security number.
- Update virus/malware protection.
- Set the browser and email spam/junk files to medium/high.
- Turn on pop-up blocker.
- Check financial receipts and credit reports regularly.
- Only click on secure sites with the prefix https in the URLs.
- Use a secure third party such as PayPal when buying direct from an owner (i.e. Craig's list).

Detect

Be concerned about:

- Offers that seem 'too good' and want a quick response (such as above case)
- Financial statements with strange charges
- Calls, letters, or emails about purchases you didn't make
- Surprise credit denials
- A negative change in your credit rating

Defend

- Even if only suspected, contact the fraud/security department of the company (above person immediately reported the scam).
- Immediately contact the credit reporting agency or credit card company.
- Set a fraud alert or get a new card.
- File a police report.

Note: In Maryland, in cases of identity theft, it is possible to have an "R restriction" on your driver's license, so the thief cannot use that document. For more information, visit <http://tinyurl.com/gvz-64kg>. You can also contact the committee at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov.

Special thanks to Tracy Rezvani, administrator, Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection, for providing information about the 3D system

Comments? Concerns? Questions?

Stop by on your way to work to talk about issues important to you. Locations will vary; stay tuned on the City's e-news and social media for locations.

Community Coffee

When: April 7 from 8–9:30 a.m.
Where: NaTra Teas at 720 Erie Avenue
Who: Councilmembers Jarrett Smith and Terry Seamens, Mayor Kate Stewart, and City staff
All residents are welcome to attend!



"Starting Friday mornings with coffee and conversations with residents is the best way to get things done in Takoma Park!"
—Mayor Kate Stewart

POETRY

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with a second-year graphic design class at Montgomery College, first under Professor Andrea Adams and now Professor Norberto Gomez, this spring will mark the 11th year of a marvelous collaboration.

Each January a small committee selects the poems that Merrill Leffler and graphic designer Michele Morgan, both longtime board members of the Friends, present to the class. For students, designing the poetry posters is a great opportunity to have their work before the public. For residents and visitors to the city, it's a chance to stop for a moment and read — even contem-

plate — a poet's unique take on some subject, whether it be love, oystering, cooking, teeth, buzzards, or a new dress. As in the past, this year's poems are from all over the world. In addition to U.S. poets, there are poets from 16th century Persia (Kabir), 18th century England (John Clare's "I Am"), Turkey (Nazim Hikmet), Poland (Witśława Szymborska), Mexico, and Peru. There is even a poster with stanzas from "A Hard Rain's A-Gonna Fall" by Nobel Prize winner Bob Dylan.

Most of the posters from these last ten years are downloadable PDFs on the Friends' website, www.ftpml.org. Visit them there, and be on the lookout in April for this year's new poems.

Crossroads Farmers Market

JOIN OUR 2017 MULTI-FARM CSA!

Do your body—and your community—a whole lot of good. Get fresh, local produce *and* help build a healthier, more inclusive food system.

For more information and to join online, go to:
www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org
Questions? Email lwhitehurst@crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org

APRIL '17

Do you have an item for the city calendar?

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 May issue is April 14, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning April 28. 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, Wednesday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.
City Council budget work sessions: Mondays, April 17, April 24, May 1.

TPCC Auditorium

Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

First Saturdays, noon – 3 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

Circle Time

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.
A beloved local tradition, the 30-minute program of songs, fingerplays, rhymes, movement exercises and stories teaches early literacy concepts in a fun way. The program is geared for infants through preschoolers and their grown-ups.
Takoma Park Maryland Library

The Spirit Club

Therapeutic recreation class for Takoma Park residents 17 and older
Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
This class is designed for adults with developmental/neurologic challenges. For more information, contact Jared Ciner at jciner@spirit-club.com or 303-883-4364.
TPCC Lilac Room
Free

Spanish Circle Time

Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Join Senora Geiza for a 30-minute program highlighting basic Spanish vocabulary through songs and rhymes.
Takoma Park Maryland Library

New Farm Stand at TPES

Begins April 20
Every Thursday, 3:30-5 p.m.
Behind TPES next to the playground
Featuring fresh, seasonal, local produce; farm-fresh eggs and pasture-raised chicken, the farm stand is open to the public and sponsored by the PTA. Cash, credit, EBT/SNAP accepted. No pets, please. Produce is supplied by a local Montgomery County farm, Your Chef's Table. Questions? Email alisaobrien10@yahoo.com

Kid's Night Out

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

Teen Night

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

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

Community Self Defense

Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
6836 New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park
Certified Gracie Jiu Jitsu Black Belt instruction
Free and open to all

Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA)

This support and advocacy group of parents and other loved ones of adults with special needs including autism, Down's Syndrome, and severe chronic psychiatric challenges usually meets the fourth Thursdays of every month at the home of a Takoma Park resident. For more information, contact Mary Muchui at muchui@aol.com or 301-646-2109.

Montgomery Blair High School Capacity Study Meeting

Thursday, April 6, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
MBHS Cafeteria
Did you know MCPS is studying the spatial needs for Montgomery Blair High School? Come learn about the process and possible building additions for the school. For more information, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/construction/index.aspx.

Community Coffee

April 7, 8–9:30 a.m.
NaTra Teas, 720 Erie Avenue
Join Councilmembers Jarrett Smith and Terry Seamens, Mayor Kate Stewart, and City staff for coffee and conversation. All residents are welcome to attend.



Arbor Day Celebration

Saturday, April 8, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
Come celebrate Takoma Park's largest environmental champions – our trees – on the grounds of the Takoma Park Library. The City Public Works Department and the Tree Commission will have free native tree seedlings for you to choose from and helpful information about how to successfully plant and care for trees.

Annual Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 15, 10:30 a.m.
(Rain date: Monday, April 17, 4 p.m.)
Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)
Get your baskets ready and join the Takoma Park Recreation Department for an "egg" citing time. There are four age categories: ages 2 and under, 3-4 years, 5-6 years, and 7-8 years. The event starts at 10:30 a.m. with games and music. The hunt begins at 11 a.m. sharp. Don't miss out. Mr. Bunny will be available to take photos with you.
Free

A Lighthearted Flower Show

Wednesday, April 19, Set-up 7 p.m.; Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Historic Takoma, Inc., 7328 Carroll Avenue
Bring your favorite flowers and foliage from your spring garden for us to admire. The Takoma Horticultural Club's April Flower Show is less of a contest and more of a chance for fellow gardeners to share their beauties, so bring yours to our April meeting. For more information, visit www.takomahort.org.
Free and open to all
RSVP not required, but preferred via Facebook: www.facebook.com/events/608011129403908.

Takoma Park Earth Day Festival

Saturday, April 22, 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.
Join the TPSS Co-op and local artisans, farmers, food vendors, and green business celebrate Earth Day. There will be music and a fairy
www.tpss.coop/EarthDay2017.html

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENTS

Aging Well Network

Tuesday, April 25, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

TP Community Center, Azalea Room

"Keeping Order and Beyond"

Are you chronically disorganized? This is your chance to learn how to improve your skills. Better organization may lead to more productivity, as well as peace of mind, especially when your important papers are concerned. Free and open to all, no pre-registration required. Refreshments provided. For more information, visit villageoftakomapark.com.

8th Annual Art Hop Takoma

Saturday and Sunday, April 28 – 29
Takoma commercial district (D.C. and Maryland)
The Takoma commercial district turns into a showcase for visual artists. Painting, jewelry, glass, pottery and more will be available. Performances will be held at the Gazebo.
Free

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 14th St. NW
Open mic for jazz musicians

Wednesday Night Drum Jams

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

Takoma Park Chamber Music Series

Sunday, April 9, 3 p.m.
Potter Violins: John Kendall Recital Hall, 7711 Eastern Ave.
In this inaugural concert of the Takoma Park Chamber Music Series, we invite you to enjoy two of the great masterworks of chamber music written by Johannes Brahms. Come hear wonderful musicians led by special guest, Gabe Bolkosky, in performing Sextet No. 1 and No. 2. For more information, visit classicalmusicconcert.org.
Tickets \$20

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, April 20, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
The popular "Third Thursday" poetry series features the work of a wide range of poets from across the region.

Carroll Cafe - 2nd Fridays Coffeehouse

Friday, April 21, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Seekers Church 276 Carroll St NW
Featuring award-winning multi-instrumentalist Rob Flux and D.C.-area pop/rock band Round About.
Tickets and info at carrollcafe.org

Cello Masterclass with Zuill Bailey

Sunday, April 23, 7 p.m.
Potter Violins: John Kendall Recital Hall, 7711 Eastern Ave.
Calling all cellists! Come watch and learn as renowned cellist Zuill Bailey shares his wisdom with young musicians in one of the Jim & Carol Trawick Masterclasses brought to you under the auspices of the National Philharmonic. Please note that students are pre-selected to perform in these classes, but everyone is welcome to observe master musicians sharing their experience and skills with the country's future performers. Attendance is free, but an RSVP is requested.

Photo Salon

Monday, April 24, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room
A monthly salon for photographers to show and critique work. Professional, fine art, and amateur photographers are welcome.

Gallery Exhibit "Four"

Through April 30
TP Community Center
Featuring works by Aishwariya Chandrasekar, Cedric Baker, Norma Brooks, and Pam Eichner.

UPCOMING EVENTS

3rd Annual Montgomery County GreenFest

Saturday, May 6, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Bohrer Park at Summit Hall Farm
506 S. Frederick Ave, Gaithersburg
Activities for all ages, including an electric car show, do-it yourself workshops, music and food trucks.
Presented by the Montgomery County Government, Montgomery Parks, City of Gaithersburg, WSSC, GreenWheaton, Bethesda Green, Poolesville Green, Silver Spring Green, City of Takoma Park, City of Rockville, University of Maryland Extension, MCPS Outdoor Environmental Education
Free

Historic Takoma House and Garden Tour

Sunday, May 7, 1 – 5 p.m.
Self-guided walking tours showcasing Takoma Park's historic homes. This year's event will feature the area around Spring Park that was once a Prince George's County neighborhood (intersection of Elm and Poplar avenues). Tours run rain or shine.
Tickets \$22-\$25

Make a Difference - Plant a Tree

Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Replace the Canopy

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

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



photo by Piper Vernon-Clay

As a purchasing agent with Arbor Landscapers, the city is making five species available at wholesale prices. Swamp white oak, Princeton elm, sweet gum, black gum and American linden—all native shade trees that usually retail for about \$350—are available to residents at \$195, installed.
Sale dates run March 1 through April 15.

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: Arborist, Takoma Park Department of Public Works, 31 Oswego Ave., Silver Spring, Md., 20910 by close of business April 15.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Please include a map of property/tree installation locations.

____ Swamp White Oak (2") \$195 _____ Princeton Elm (2") \$195

____ Sweet Gum (2") \$195 _____ Black Gum (2") \$195

____ American Linden (2") \$195

+ 6% sales tax

Total _____