Celebrating 50 Years

By Michael Kurland
Recreation Programs Supervisor

2017 will be an exciting year for our community. The Recreation Department is turning 50 years old! The department, which originally started out as a Recreation Committee and Council in Montgomery County in 1948, oversaw eight parks and only became an official department of the City in 1967.

Belle Ziegler, who was the deputy city clerk, became the Recreation Department’s first director. Belle jump-started the department with a number of urban recreation innovations. She launched a youth dance program under the direction of choreographer Wayne St. David and brought in the City’s first youth outreach worker, who instituted drug-prevention programs.

Chelsea Nunez (pictured left) and other recreation staff serve Celebrate Takoma attendees free ice cream in honor of the department’s 50th anniversary. More highlights from Celebrate Takoma on page 10.

Show some SPIRIT

By Erin Kelley, Grants Coordinator

On any given Wednesday evening in the Lilac Room at the Takoma Park Community Center, a chorus of lively voices can be heard counting down from twenty, finishing a challenging set of dead lifts with their arms: “...five, four, three, two, SPIRIT!” Following the completion of the set, high-fives are shared among the people in the room, which include several adults with

What’s Your Takoma Park?

As the City works to create its Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan, we want to hear what TPK residents think about their community.

Complete the Community Assessment Survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WJYGQSN

Survey closes June 19th.

Tell us how you feel.
OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS
TPCC, Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m.
These City Council meetings will take place in the Community Center Auditorium. Ward members will meet in their ward offices.

“City Council meeting will be held at the New Hampshire Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue. It will include a public hearing at 7:30 on the “Qualities and Characteristics of a Police Chief.”

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 13, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Monday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.
TPPC Lilac Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Thursday, June 28, 7 p.m.
TPC Hydrangea Room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE
Monday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.
TPPC Lilac Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE / CITY COUNCIL JOINT MEETING
Thursday, June 15, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center Gym
7315 New Hampshire Avenue

SAFE ROADSWAY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.
TPC Hydrangea Room

TPC: Takoma Park Community Center

Takoma Park News June 2017

On April 19, the City Council adopted Resolution 2017-28 committing the City Council to systematically and deliberately apply a racial equity lens in decision making.

A consent agenda was adopted on April 19. It included Resolution 2017-29 reappointing Jessica Kessler (Ward 3), Jane Yamaykin (Ward 6) and Diana Kahn (non-voting member, representing Historic Takoma) to the Commemoration Commission, and Resolution 2017-30 reappointing Julie Boddie (Ward 1).

IMPORTANT 2017 ELECTION DATES

• Tuesday, September 12 – Nominating Caucus
• Tuesday, October 23 – Deadline to register to vote by mail. After this date, register in person at the city clerk’s office.
• Tuesday, October 31 – Vote by mail request deadline. After this date, request a vote by mail ballot in person.
• Wednesday, November 1 – Early voting begins
• Tuesday, November 7 – Election Day
• Thursday, November 9 – Certification of election results
• Wednesday, November 15 – New Councilmembers and Mayor take office

CITY COUNCIL ACTION □ Page 3

FAVORABLE SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

This is to give notice that on May 10, 2017, the Council of the City of Takoma Park adopted Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2017-01 which amends Article III, the Council, and Article VI, Registration, Nominations, and Elections, of the Takoma Park Charter. Substantive revisions to the language of the Charter include: Section 301 - sets three year terms for the Councilmembers and Mayor elected in the 2017 and sets the day for the newly elected officials to take office as the second Wednesday after the election; Section 604 - establishes the date of the Nominating Caucus as the second Tuesday after Labor Day; Section 606 - changes elections from odd numbered years to even numbered years beginning in 2020; Section 613 - allows 48 hours after the election for results to be certified; This Charter Amendment will become effective on June 29, 2017 after a referendum by 20 percent of the registered voters of the City on or before June 19, 2017. For further information, contact the City Clerk by mail (7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912), phone (301-891-7267), or e-mail (jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov). The full text of the amendment is available for review at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Attest: Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHANGES TO CITY ELECTIONS

With adoption of Charter Amendment 2017-01, residents will begin to see changes this year. The City Election will be held on Tuesday, November 7. For this election only, the Councilmembers and Mayor elected will serve for three years, instead of serving the usual two-year term. There will not be an election in 2019.

The Nominating Caucus will take place earlier than in the past. Beginning this year, the meeting is set for the second Tuesday after Labor Day in an election year. This year, the meeting date falls on Tuesday, September 12. This earlier date will allow more time for mailing and return of vote-by-mail ballots.

Certified results of an election will be presented to the City Council 48 hours after the election, instead of the past practice of presenting results in 24 hours. A newly elected Mayor and City Council will be sworn in and take office on the second Wednesday after their election. If this day falls on Veterans Day, they will take office the following day.

The 2017 election will be the last City-wide election to occur to the Community Center. Starting in 2020, voters will cast a ballot at their home precincts on the same day as the presidential election and will vote for governor. The 2020 election will vote the resumation of two-year terms for the Mayor and City Council.

VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Before applying, review the information on the City website (Board, Commission, and Committee pages) and consider attending a meeting to see if it is a good fit for you. Appointments are made by the City Council. Apply by completing the online application and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications. Contact Jessie Carpenter at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 with questions, or call the contact person listed below.

Arts and Humanities Commission (one vacancy): serves in an official advisory role to the City Council on all matters related to the arts and humanities. The commission promotes, coordinates and strengthens public programs to further cultural development of the City. At least 2/3 of the members must be Takoma Park residents. The AHC generally meets bi-monthly. For information, contact Marilyn Silak, arts coordinator (marilyn@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7001).

Board of Elections (one vacancy): The Board of Elections plans and conducts City elections in coordination with the City Clerk.

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs – COLTA (one vacancy): adjudicates and mediates complaints for violations of Chapter 6.16, Landlord-Tenant Relations; rules on petitions for rent increases above the rent stabilization allowance; and decides appeals from the City Manager’s decision to deny, suspend or revoke a license under Chapter 6.08, Rental Housing Licenses. Residency is required except that up to four members may be nonresidents if they own or manage rental housing in Takoma Park. Commissioners are assigned to three-member panels for hearings, which are held as needed. Property managers and landlords are particularly interested in applying at this time. For information, contact Moses A. Wilds Jr., landlord-tenant mediation specialist (moses@ takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7215).

Commemoration Commission (five vacancies): documents, maintains, and preserves past, present, and future memorials, commemorations, 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.

Ethics Commission (three vacancies): 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.

City Council Discussion of Process and Criteria for the Police Chief Hiring Process

Monday, June 19 and Thursday, June 29, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Azalea Room

City Council Action

On April 19, the City Council adopted Resolution 2017-28 committing the City Council to systematically and deliberately apply a racial equity lens in decision making.

A consent agenda was adopted on April 19. It included Resolution 2017-29 reappointing Jessica Kessler (Ward 3), Jane Yamaykin (Ward 6) and Diana Kahn (non-voting member, representing Historic Takoma) to the Commemoration Commission, and Resolution 2017-30 reappointing Julie Boddie (Ward 1).
Notices of public hearing

The City of Takoma Park, Maryland, will hold a public hearing to consider an Ordinance authorizing an amount not to exceed $9,000,000.00 of public debt (the “Bonds”) to be issued under the State of Maryland’s Local Government Infrastructure Financing Program, pursuant to the authority of Section 4-230 of the Housing and Community Development Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, as amended. The purpose of this debt is to finance a portion of the costs of 1) Takoma Park Library and Community Center renovations; 2) construction of the Flower Avenue Green Street Project and the Ethan Allen Gateway Project, including, but not limited to, roadway and streetscape improvements such as ADA compliant sidewalks and ramps and LCD streetlights; and 3) comply with the costs of issuance of the bonds. The public hearing will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 7, 2017. Written public comments may be submitted to the City of Takoma Park in care of the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or via email at clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

Vacancies

Grants Review Committee (two vacancies): evaluates applications for certain City grant programs and makes funding recommendations to the City Council. For information, contact Erin Kelley, grants coordinator (erin@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7311).

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (one vacancy): oversees implementation and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act and provides public information and issues related to the ordinance.

Recruitment Committee (three vacancies): 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.

Safe Roadways Committee (five vacancies): 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.

What's Your Takoma Park?

We want to know, what's your Takoma Park? Everyone's experience is different, and we want to hear about yours!

The City of Takoma Park has contracted with the Cloudburst Group to develop a Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan. As part of Cloudburst’s research into current conditions in housing and the economy of the area, this survey will supplement data analysis and interviews with local elected officials, staff, and stakeholders to provide a snapshot of current conditions. Please take a few minutes to take the Takoma Park Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan (takomaparkmd.gov/public-notices/Whats-your-takomapark). We appreciate your time and thank you for your participation!

If you are interested in obtaining information on this survey, please contact Sara Daines at 301-891-7224 or sarad@takomaparkmd.gov.

Important City Phone Numbers

City Information ....................... 301-891-7100
City Clerk .................. 301-891-7267
City Manager .................. 301-891-7299
City TV .................. 301-891-7118
Finance .................. 301-891-7212

Housing & Community Development .................. 301-891-7119
Library .................. 301-891-7259
Police .................. 301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
Public Works .................. 301-891-7633
Recreation/Facilities Rental .................. 301-891-7290

June 2017

Takoma Park News
Takoma Park gets $90,000 energy efficiency grant

The Maryland Energy Administration has awarded the City of Takoma Park a $90,000 grant for low-to-moderate income, home energy efficiency renovations. The grant will assist in providing approximately 10 energy efficient makeovers for qualifying low-to-moderate income homeowners within the City.

Upon completion of the required application, eligible applicants receive a free home energy audit and assessment. The assessment will identify which energy efficiency improvements would make the greatest impact. Possible energy upgrades include insulation improvements, draft reduction, and installation of heating and cooling equipment and/or appliances. The average savings on electric and gas bills for participants is expected to be more than $500 annually.

Residents can download an application from the City’s website (takomaparkmd.gov/government/sustainability/energy-efficiency-rebates) or pick one up from Public Works at 31 Oswego Avenue, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. Grants will be awarded on a first-come first-served basis until funds are exhausted.

Takoma Park is committed to achieving an environmentally sustainable community, and this award puts the City one step closer in obtaining that goal. For questions, please contact Gina Mathias, sustainability manager, at gmathias@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7623.

This article originally appeared on the City’s website at takomaparkmd.gov/news/montgomery-county-awards-takoma-park-90000-energy-efficiency-grant.

Property Tax Credit Opportunities

By Susan Cheung, City Finance Director

As a property owner in Takoma Park, you know you may be eligible for a tax rebate from the State, County and City. For tax year 2016, 340 Takoma Park homeowners received tax rebate payments under the City's local supplement program. The program, which piggybacks on the State's property tax credit program, represents the City Council’s commitment to providing affordable housing in Takoma Park.

To be eligible for the City's tax rebate program, homeowners must first apply for the State Homeowners' Property Tax Credit. Those who qualify at the State level are automatically eligible for the City's tax rebate program, though some homeowners who receive rebates from the State may not necessarily also receive rebates from the City. Each year in April, the City receives a list of homeowners who have been accepted in the State's Program. Based on the list, City staff calculates a rebate amount using 50 percent of the state tax credit or total annual tax due, whichever is lower. Rebate checks are issued and distributed in May each year to qualifying homeowners.

Once the homeowner is qualified for State credit, an application is routinely sent by the State every year. The application must be submitted every year no later than September 1. Persons filing for the State Property Tax Credit Program are required to submit copies of their prior year's federal income tax returns, and they must give the State permission to verify the amount of income reported. All income-related information supplied by the homeowner on the application form is confidential. A copy of the Homeowners’ Property Tax Credit Application and instructions are available at http://dat.maryland.gov/5DAT%20Forms/HTC-60.pdf.

In addition to State and City rebate programs, Montgomery County offers property tax credit and exemptions to a variety of homeowners, including eligible seniors and disabled veterans. Similar to the City's program, many of the County rebates are directly associated with the State's program.

For more information about the State Homeowner’s Tax Credit program, please call the Tax Credit Telephone Service at 410-767-4433 or email sdat.taxcreditapp@maryland.gov.

For more information about Montgomery County’s Property Tax Credit and Exemption information, please visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/finance/taxes/tax-credit_exempt.html.

Montgomery College Takoma Park Community Conversation:

Takoma Park Silver Spring Campus
Tuesday, June 6, 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the Science North building, room SN100

This is the third of three planned community meetings co-hosted by Montgomery College and the Takoma Park City Council to hear how they can renew relations with the college and the community; ensure all voices and stakeholders are heard; provide a full sharing of information; inform and facilitate future college planning; inform and provide a foundation for the building design plan process; and balance the needs of the community, neighbors, students and fiscal prudence.

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.

Takoma Park named Playful City USA for 9th year in a row

Last month, the national nonprofit ka-BOOM announced that Takoma Park has been recognized as A Playful City USA for the ninth year in a row. Playful City USA is a recognition program honoring cities and towns that ensure that kids in their communities, particularly kids from low-income families, get the balanced and active play they need to thrive. Takoma Park is proud to stand with 257 honored communities that are making it easier for all kids to get balanced and active play in their neighborhoods and for pleading to integrate play as a solution to the challenges facing their communities. Play on! This article originally appeared on the City’s website at takomaparkmd.gov/news/boom-announced-takoma-park-playful-city-usa-for-9th-year-in-a-row.
**Snake Oil Revisited: Plant Medicines in American History**

**Thursday, June 1, 7:30 p.m.**

**Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium**

Free

Today, medicinal herbs are described as alternatives to prescribed and over-the-counter pharmaceuticals. However, well into the twentieth century, early drug companies like Merck, Parke-Davis, and Eli Lilly sold plant medicines. Many doctors prescribed them, and people looking for cures and relief purchased the herbs without prescription at drugstores, medicine shows, and by mail order. Historian Susan Strasser explores plants as ordinary as peppermint and more powerful as the opium poppy, and practitioners, including Lydia Pinkham, creator of the most famous patent medicine for women, and the Shakers, who made more money from medicinal herbs than from furniture.


**Photos:** Courtesy Susan Strasser

**Docs in Progress Presents Women of Maidan**

**Thursday, June 8, 7:30 p.m.**

Takoma Park Community Center Galleries.

**Free**

In November 2013, after peaceful student demonstrations at Maidan Square in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev were met with violence by the country’s special police forces, thousands of people from across the country descended on the square in support of the students. Women courageously filled the streets, energized the nation, and sustained the protestors for more than two months in the cold of winter. This is the story of the women behind what sustained the protestors for more than two months in the cold of winter. This is the story of the women behind what became known as the “Revolution of Dignity.” Following the screening, filmmaker Olha Onyshko will participate in a Q&A moderated by Erica Ginsberg.

**Photo:** Courtesy of Women of Maidan

**Public Art Update**

**The Space Between**

The Space Between explores the time and place where creativity happens. Guest curator Lisa Rosenstein has brought together works by Elizabeth Ashe, James Cassell, Sarayu Iyer and Lauren Kotkin. Her art also appears. Guest curator Lisa Rosenstein has brought together works by Elizabeth Ashe, James Cassell, Sarayu Iyer and Lauren Kotkin. Her art also appears. The exhibition runs through June 29 at the Takoma Park Community Center Galleries.

**“Homage to Caravaggio,” acrylic and mixed media, James Cassell**

**From Women of Maidan**

**Third Thursday Poetry**

**Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium**

**Free**

June’s Third Thursday Poetry features you. It’s open mic night, so here’s an opportunity to read your original works. The program will be livestreamed and recorded, so you must be willing to be on camera. No pre-registration. Just show up and sign up. An informal reception follows and all poets and participants are invited to attend.

**Author Mike Lofgren**

**Tuesday, June 13, 6-7:30 p.m.**

Mike Lofgren, author of nationally best-selling books *The Deep State* and *The Party Is Over: How Republicans Went Crazy, Democrats Became Useless, and the Middle Class Got Shafted* will be speaking on Tuesday, June 13, 6 – 7:30 p.m., at El Golfo Restaurant, 8739 Flower Ave., Silver Spring. Lofgren, one of America’s most insightful political observers, spent twenty-eight years working in Congress, the last sixteen as a senior analyst on the House and Senate Budget committees, which gave him an insider’s look at nearly everything important. The author will answer questions and sign books after his presentation. The event is free. Food and snacks provided for participants. Part of the Politics, Parenting, and More author series at El Golfo, sponsored by MHF, DiscoverLongBranch.com. Made possible by a generous grant from NeighborWorks.

**Be SmART!**

Want to get the latest information about We Are Takoma arts and humanities programs? Sign up for our newsletter at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities/arts-newsletter-sign-up.
YOUTH

DROP-IN

Kids Night Out
Want a night to yourself while your kids have a blast with their friends? Bring your children to the Takoma Park Recreation Center Kid’s Night Out for fun-filled nights of games, arts and crafts, movies and theme nights.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
6-12 years
First and third Fridays, ongoing
7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership card

TEENS

CAMPS

Camper City
Ages 12-17
July 17 - August 11
9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Residents: $200 / Non-residents: $250

Ninja Academy
Ages 12-17
July 24 - August 11
2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Residents: $200 / Non-residents: $250

FAVORITE! Game of Thrones
Middle School Division (Grades 5-8)
July 24 - August 11
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Residents: $200 / Non-residents: $250

Middle School Division (Grades 5-8)
July 24 - August 11
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Residents: $200 / Non-residents: $250

High School Division (Grades 9-12)
July 24 - August 11
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Residents: $200 / Non-residents: $250

Middle School Division (Grades 5-8)
July 24 - August 11
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Residents: $200 / Non-residents: $250

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Residents: $200 / Non-residents: $250

High School Division (Grades 9-12)
July 24 - August 11
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Residents: $200 / Non-residents: $250

Teens Night Out
Looking for something exciting to do on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month? The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides high-quality, affordable, safe and fun activities for teens. Come on out to a night of games, activities and more.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
12-17 years
Second and fourth Fridays, ongoing
7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership card

SPORTS

Y.E.S League Summer Basketball
This program provides a positive venue for youth to express themselves through the game of basketball. Teams will be guaranteed six games and each participant will receive a Y.E.S. League t-shirt. Games will be played at either 6 or 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School Gymnasium
7611 Piney Branch Road
Middle School Division (Grades 5-8)
Mondays, June 12 - July 31
Residents: $25 / Non-resident: $35

games and cozy 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.
Tuesday: 3 – 8 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed
Free

ADULTS

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.
Instructor: KJ Fitness
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 years and older
7 weeks
June 1 - July 22
Thursdays, 7:45 – 8:45 p.m.
Saturdays, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
$75

SPORTS

TP Adult Summer Basketball League
Join our Adult Basketball League this summer. Assemble your winning team and compete against other area teams to win the league championship. Teams will be provided uniforms. Individual participants will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if space becomes available on a team. If space becomes available on a team, you will be responsible for paying for your registration and any other associated fees to that team.
Takoma Piney Branch Local Park
Behind Piney Branch Elementary School
Ages 18 and older
Wednesdays and Thursdays, June 14 - August 3
Games will be played at either 6 or 7 p.m.
Team Fee: $200

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, June 22
12 – 2 p.m.
Free

Blood Pressure Screening
Adventist Healthcare will be doing a monthly blood pressure screening. Drop-in. No registration is required.
Takoma Park Community Center
Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Thursday, June 22
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Free

RECREATION  ▪  Page 7  ▪  June 2017
**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
Ongoing
Mondays, through June 26
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Free

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**
**Computer Extras**
In this three week course experiment with social media, master the calendar and other computer/smart device apps and learn what to do with all those pictures of family and friends. Bring your questions. You need a Takoma Park Library card to access the computers, and take this course. Instructor: Patti Mallin.
Takoma Park Community Center
Computer Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Wednesdays, May 31 – June 14
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
$10

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**
**Adult Dog: Basic Manners**
This class focuses on teaching the polite behaviors we want from our dogs in the “real world”, on a leash, at home, and with other dogs and people. This class covers foundation behaviors (sit, down, stay, here, leave it), leash manners (not pulling, passing dogs and people), polite greetings, dog body language and how reinforcement works. Instructor: Joyce Loebig.
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Saturdays, through June 17
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Free

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**
**Puppy Kindergarten**
If you have a puppy, you need Puppy Kindergarten! Early puppy training and socialization has been shown to help prevent behavior problems later on. Each class will include supervised off leash play, where you will learn about dog body language and appropriate play. Most of all, we’ll have fun! Instructor: Joyce Loebig.

Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Avenue
Dogs 1 year and older
6 Week Session
Thursdays, June 1-June 29
6:45 – 7:45 p.m.
Resident: $125 / Non-resident: $145

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**
**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, through June 17
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Free

**SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH**
**Old School vs. New School Basketball Game**
It is not a game! Old School (age 26+) and New School (ages 14-25) will battle it out in a basketball game for a plaque and bragging rights for the entire year. Come and enjoy a great basketball game where the rivalry never dies. You don’t want to miss it. Raffle giveaways and DJ Beezy on the 1s and 2s! Whose side are you on? Takoma Park Middle School Gymnasium
7611 Piney Branch Road
Ages 14 and up
Friday, June 16
Doors open at 5:30. Game starts at 6 p.m.
Free

**School’s Out Summer Play Event**
Attention! Attention! Yes, that’s right... Let’s Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present to you the School’s Out Summer Play Event. Come join Let’s Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department for a fun afternoon of play at the TP Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Avenue). Free fun for all! It’s time for you to let your hair down and put on your comfy clothes. Transportation will be provided for the seniors to and from the event. To see a full listing of activities and performances, please visit www.letssplayamerica.org. See you there! To volunteer, sign up at montgomeryserves.org.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
All ages
Friday, June 16
5 – 8 p.m., Volunteers 4 – 9 p.m.
Free

**Free Fried Fish Fridays**
Join us every last Friday of the month as we celebrate...you with fried fish and chips (french fries). We’re frying all the fish and chips we can until everything runs out. Bring the family, bring your friends. This event is in partnership with God Glorified C.O.G.I.C. Open to all ages.
Takoma Park Community Center
Outdoor Basketball Court
7500 Maple Avenue
All Ages
Ongoing, last Friday of the month
5 – 7 p.m.
Free

**Family Outdoor Movie Night**
Get ready for another Family Outdoor Movie Night. The movie will start at dusk at Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School). Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family! The movie will be a family friendly “G” or “PG” rated hit. Bring snacks and your own water. The Recreation Department will provide one small bag of popcorn per person. Due to limited parking, walking is encouraged. Visit our website takomaparkmd.gov/recreation to vote on the movie.
Ed Wilhelm Field, Saturday, June 3. All ages. Dusk. Free. For more information please call 301-891-7290

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LIBRARY

June author programs

We’ve got two fun author programs in June, courtesy of our partnership with Politics & Prose bookstore. First up is author Leah Henderson, who will talk about her debut novel, One Shadow on the Wall, on Thursday, June 8, at 7:30 p.m. In the novel, aimed at ages 8-12, Henderson tells the story of an orphaned boy in current-day Senegal who is trying desperately to keep a promise he made to his dying father. Henderson is a dynamic speaker, who is also an up-and-coming author for kids. Come meet an author on her way up in the world of children’s literature!

Then, on Thursday, June 15 at 7 p.m., author Cynthia Leonor Garza will read and discuss her vibrant new picture book, Lucia the Luchadora, which focuses on a girl who decides that girls can be superheroes. In its review, Kirkus noted that “a madcap pace keeps the story moving along with humor, heart, and bravado in equal measures.” Please join us for what promises to be a very fun event.

SummerQuest 2017 Launch

Please join us on Monday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m. when we will officially kick off our 2017 summer reading program. Created each year by Dave Burbank, library associate and artiste extraordinaire, our unique SummerQuest program is an interactive “read to play” program.

The theme of SummerQuest 2017 is “Diggers vs. Dinosaurs.” To play, readers — both young and old — pick a character out of the dozens created by Dave (or they can make their own). Each character has two sizes — big and small. Readers give their characters names, color them if they want, and then hand us the larger-sized one. Henderson will read from her debut novel, One Shadow on the Wall.

In celebration of SummerQuest, we’re extending the theme of SummerQuest to the children of the Community Center, which allows them to keep track of their reading progress at the Children’s Room. Readers keep the smaller-sized version of their character along the giant game board in the Children’s Room. Readers keep the smaller-sized copy along with a copy of the SummerQuest story and small-sized version of the game board, which allows them to keep track of their reading progress at home.

Reading challenges are designed to inspire kids and adults to read all kinds of books. One challenge, for example, asks readers “to read a book about someone different than you,” while another has readers tackle an award-winning book. And we have fun challenges like “read a book by an author whose last name begins with the same letter as your last name” and “read a book that shows you how to make or do something, then make or do it.” All books count, including those that are read to kids, audiobooks and digital books.

We’ll also have a separate SummerQuest set of challenges for parents of babies, toddlers and preschoolers. Just ask for them at the circulation desk. And we encourage adults to join in the fun, using the SummerQuest reading challenges to perk up their reading of adult books during the summer. If you can’t make it to the June 12 kickoff, that’s no problem. You can register for SummerQuest all summer long! We’ll conclude the program in early September with a party once everyone is back in school.

Library

Friends Book Group to read John Lewis memoir

By Tim Rahn

The Friends Book Group will read and discuss March, the award-winning, three-part graphic memoir about the life of Congressman John Lewis on Wednesday, July 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center.

Written by Lewis and Andrew Aydin and illustrated by Nate Powell, the March trilogy recovers Lewis’s early days as a civil rights activist and leader in the Civil Rights movement. The pivotal event that opens and closes the series is the Selma, AL march on March 7, 1965, which became known as Bloody Sunday. Julian Lucas, writing in a New York Times book review describes March as “a galvanizing account of his [Lewis’s] coming-of-age in the movement, it’s a capsule lesson in civil rights, science, a story that inspires without moralizing or simplifying in hindsight.” Copies of March 1 are currently available at the library. March 2 and March 3 will be available early this month.
Be a part of TPFF’s 40th festival

The Takoma Park Folk Festival (TPFF) is celebrating its 40th year in 2017. There are lots of ways to get involved in the festival on September 10, 2017, and before.

Artisans, local artists and craftspersons: We know you’re out there. Share your wares in our varied and highly regarded juried craft show and sale. Applications due June 30. Applications and info available at tpff.org. Questions? Contact Gina Gaspin, crafts@tpff.org

Food vendors: Apply to serve up your finest. Applications due July 1 and more information at tpff.org.

Community groups: Reserve your table to reach thousands of diverse, community-minded festival goers from Takoma Park and the surrounding region with great causes and resources. For more information, contact tables@tpff.org.

Volunteers: TPFF needs lots of volunteers on festival weekend and before (e.g., tabling at events, distributing flyers). Email volunteer@tpff.org, indicating when you can volunteer (at and/or before Festival), and any specific interests. Students, SSL hours available!

Sponsors: Donations help us make TPFF a free event, accessible to music and arts lovers across the region. Contact donations@tpff.org for information.

In addition to all these great ways to get involved, and help us spread the word and set the stage beforehand by sharing posts on Facebook, mentioning and reTweeting on twitter (@tpfolkfestival) and sharing flyers at your business or workplace. Contact media@tpff.org for a printable flyer or to get flyers delivered.

And most important, please attend! This is an all-ages, family-friendly event with something for everyone. The lineup features musicians from diverse genres, including a youth stage with some dance and storytelling. Plan to join us for the main event on September 10 at Takoma Park Middle School. Together, we’ll make it the most delightful treat for all five senses, wrapped up in Takoma Park’s special sense of community welcome.

4th of July Celebration

Planning is currently underway for this year’s Takoma Park 4th of July Celebration, which will include a parade, an evening program, and fireworks. This year’s celebration theme is “Unity in the Community,” and our grand marshals will be the co-founders of the “Unity in the Community” initiative, Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart, Capital City Cheesecake Co-Owner Meagan Murphy, and Takoma Park Police Department Captain Tyrone Collington. We’re looking forward to a great year. If you or someone you know might like to participate in the parade, please visit takomapark4th.org to learn more and sign up.

The Takoma Park Independence Day Committee (TPIDC), which organizes the annual celebration, is currently seeking volunteers to help on July 4 and to join the Committee that plans the annual celebration. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Parade Coordinator Tara Egan at tara.miegan@gmail.com or 240-865-8837, or join us at our next meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 7:30 p.m., at Historic Takoma.

Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape

In late summer, the City will begin reconstruction of the intersection of Ethan Allen Avenue (MD-410) and New Hampshire Avenue (MD-650).

Look for more information coming soon!
takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/ethan-allen-gateway-streetscape

SPIRIT Club

From page 1

special needs and two instructors. The replacement of the word “spirit” for the number one is no accident. SPIRIT stands for Social, Physical, Interactive, Respectful, Integrated & involve Teamwork. These are the tenets behind the eponymous organization. The SPIRIT Club, which leads the weekly exercise class.

The SPIRIT Club, which has a gym in Kensington but offers group exercise classes at community centers through the region, provides “supportive and accommodating programs to increase the health and wellness of people of all abilities, including people with disabilities, mental health and substance abuse disorders, and age-related diseases.”

According to Jared Ciner, founder of The SPIRIT Club, the goals of the exercise class are to 1) help participants work on their physical health, 2) increase opportunities for socialization, and 3) utilize the mental health benefits of physical exercise. Ciner, who previously worked as a trainer for a regional health and fitness company and as a support counselor to adults with special needs, founded The SPIRIT Club because “[there was] nothing about the gym model that was accommodating to people with developmental disabilities.”

Mary Jane Muchui, a resident of Takoma Park and an assistant at the Wednesday evening exercise class, found that The SPIRIT Club provided her son Christopher with something for adults with special needs to participate in The SPIRIT Club exercise class. The grant, which is sourced from FY17 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, requires that scholarship recipients be residents of the City of Takoma Park and that at least 70 percent of scholarship recipients be of low- or moderate-income. POSNA for parents and other loved ones who care for adults with special needs. POSNA meets monthly, its members seek to provide socialization and in activities that support their physical and mental health.

The Village supports POSNA, as it is a senior issue,” said Mergner, referring to the challenge of providing meaningful opportunities for adults with special needs to engage in the community and in activities that support their physical and mental health.

The Village of Takoma Park Inc. (“The Village”), if she could form a support group under its auspices. The Village is a 501(c) (3) organization with a mission to “provide intergenerational support to seniors and persons with disabilities who wish to live actively in the Takoma Park Community.”

This is a senior issue,” said Mergner, referring to the challenge of providing meaningful opportunities for adults with special needs to engage in the community and in activities that support their physical and mental health.

The Village supports POSNA in increasing such opportunities through a grant from the City of Takoma Park, which provides scholarships for adults with special needs to participate in The SPIRIT Club exercise class. The grant, which is sourced from FY17 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, requires that scholarship recipients be of low- or moderate-income.

As many adults with special needs are of very low income, the scholarships are intended to provide these individuals the opportunity to engage in community-based activities that may not otherwise be financially feasible. For more information on these scholarship opportunities, please contact The Village of Takoma Park Inc. at villageoftp@gmail.com.

To enroll in SPIRIT Club contact, jciner@spirit-club.com. To learn more about POSNA, contact muchui@aol.com.
**A festival for your five senses**

When attendees made their way to this year’s Celebrate Takoma Festival, they likely heard music first. The joyful melodies the Panquility Steel Band played definitely put folks in a festive mood. Next festival goers were met by children’s games, drawing with colored chalks, or riding the ever popular mechanical bull. And they may have been tempted by Italian cuisine served up by Crossroads market, or Chef Hogate’s fresh fruit lemonades and spicy kabobs. Once again the cultural diversity of Takoma Park was well celebrated.

**Don’t leave home without… security, provided by the Takoma Park Police Department**

By Claudine Schweber, Co-Chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

**Participate in the community cam program:**

Do you want to have a camera on the property monitored by the TP Police? You can do that by joining the Community Cam program. The camera is purchased by the owner; again, police support is free. The police do not monitor your cameras. Residents register, and if there is a crime in the neighborhood, police will check the list and ask permission from the owner to view what’s on the camera. Police will only access your camera if there is a call for assistance at your home. To sign up, call 301-270-1100 or visit takomaparkmd.gov/news/the-citys-community-cam-program.

**Maryland fire deaths**

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of May 19, 34 people have died in fires compared to 22 in May 2016.

**Fire safety messages**

Windows can be vital escape paths in an emergency, especially in the bedrooms. Make sure they will all open easily. It could be your second way out. Check yours today and be prepared. It’s still the law! All firewoks are illegal in Montgomery County. Stay safe and let the pros handle them.

**Passport Services**

Passport services are available on first come, first served basis Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Takoma Park staff will encourage you to call the City’s main phone number at 301-891-7100 and checking if the office is open before departing for the Community Center for passport services.

For additional information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports.
Night market draws crowd

By Melanie Isis

Crossroads’ Night Market attracted a large crowd on Saturday, May 13. The organizers were not sure if the rain would hold off, but they lucked out with a dry day, clearing skies and wind, allowing the event to proceed as scheduled.

The Night Market featured food vendors, community groups such as Education First, TP Rec Department, and Docs in Progress, craft vendors, a live band, and children’s activities. Amerigroup sponsored a moon bounce, and local artists offered face painting and juggling. Takoma Park Recreation Department staff set up games for children as did The Play Lady.

Food vendors served long lines of customers throughout the three-hour event. El Sol/Candy’s Pupusas sold freshly prepared pupusas in a choice of cheese, beans, pork, beef, chicken and herbs to be enjoyed with the side of curtido (cabbage slaw). Nancy’s Antojitos offered grilled chicken and beef in tortillas with spicy onion/peppers, corn on the cob, and tomatoes. Both sold fresh juices and water. Organic grower/roaster Alcoba Coffee sold beans and ground coffee as well as hot coffee, which they sold out of due to the crowd.

El Carreton Frozen Treats scooped organic ice cream in tropical flavors, such as mamey, zapote, passion fruit and guava to a stream of customers. Seedy Nutty sold bags of their tasty, healthy snack mixes. Crossroads Farmers Market offered a food demo and samples of strawberry cilantro salsa.

Attendees browsed the vendors, strolled the market or sat down to eat. There were beautiful hand-woven Guatemalan bags, wraps, belts, and sandals from Xelaju; Tanzanian clothing and accessories from Eve’s Road; herbs, tinctures, teas and skin care products by Marble Arch Gardens; and button/ bead jewelry by Buttons and Beads. Artemiya had a beautiful selection of hand-crafted tagua bracelets, earrings and necklaces. Mena’s Boys Gourmet sold jars of pickled beets and onions. Live music provided a relaxing rhythm for the event.

Event sponsors Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority and Crossroads Community Food Network were pleased with the turnout, and hope to make the night market a regular event.

Melanie Isis is executive director of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority Inc.

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge Highlights

At right, Safe Routes to School Coordinator Lucy Neher presents a medal to the men’s overall best time winner, Dickson Mercer.

At far right, Women’s best overall time winner Melissa Schweisguth proudly wears her medal.

Perfect conditions brought out 1458 registrants for the Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge (TKPK5K) on Sunday, May 7. A record 1,030 runners crossed the start line. Race results can be found at www.tkpk5k.com.

Many thanks to the Race Committee and more than 30 volunteers who contributed time and effort to the well-organized event. The Sponsor Fair featured tables with activities and give-aways related to safety, health and fitness. Safe Route’s new Smoothie Bike was launched on race day and was a big hit.

The event raises funds for PTA safety activities at the five local schools that participate in the Safe Routes programs: Takoma Park Elementary, Piney Branch Elementary, East Silver Spring Elementary, Rolling Terrace Elementary and Takoma Park Middle School. Next year will mark the 10th Anniversary of the TKPK5K; save the date: Sunday, May 6.

At left, A family affair: Tesgera Daniel (middle) came out for the race with his son, Hara, and daughter, Simera.
PUBLIC MEETINGS OF NOTE

City Council
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, June 7, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, June 14, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, June 28, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
Detailled agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil agenda.

July 4 — City Offices Closed
Tuesday, July 4
All City offices and facilities will be closed Tuesday July 4, for the Independence Day holiday. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry
First Saturdays, noon — 3 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly, fresh staples, plus links for needy families. Call 240-405-2929 or educate scissors@ Laurel.com. www.educaresepservices.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 for 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
Wednesday, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
This class is designed for adults with developmental/ neurologic challenges. For more information, contact Jared Ciner at jciner@spiritclub.com or 301-485-4364.
TPCC Lilac Room
Free
Spanish Circle Time

Takoma Park Maryland Library
New Farm Stand at TPES
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 TP. Cash, credit, EBT/SNAP accepted. No pets. Please. Produce is supplied by a local Montgomery County farm. Your Chef’s Table. Questions? Email alsaboien10@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
Takoma Park Seventh Day Adventist Church, 6810 Eastern Avenue, N.W.
Please join us for a lesson and exercises in the use and training and maintaining balance led by Mr. Kathy Anderson, injury prevention coordinator, Howard University Hospital. Free and open to all — no registration required. Refreshments provided. For more information, please visit villageoftakomapark.com.

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Takoma Park Silver Spring Campus
Tuesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.
A concert featuring Michael Vaughn on violin, Nana Westmoreland on cello and Carl Banner on piano.

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENTS

Village Rides Volunteer Orientation
Tuesday, June 13, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center, Rose Room
Orientation session for those interested in driving Takoma Park seniors once a month or more. Please call 301-648-2918 to register.

Friendly Visitors Volunteer Orientation
Wednesday, June 14, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center, Room TBA
Orientation session for those interested in visiting a TP senior once a week for an hour. Please contact The Village of Takoma Park at 301-648-2191 or email sandygametrez@gmail.com.

Aging Well Network
Tuesday, June 27, 10 a.m. — 12 p.m.
Takoma Seventh Day Adventist Church, Fellowship Hall, 6810 Eastern Avenue, N.W.
Please join us for a lesson and exercises in the use and training and maintaining balance led by Ms. Kathy Anderson, injury prevention coordinator, Howard University Hospital. Free and open to all — no registration required. Refreshments provided. For more information, please visit villageoftakomapark.com.

Drum for Joy with Jagai MacMillan
Mondays, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St. Learn hand drumming
Blues Mondays
Mondays, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Republican restaurant, 6828 Laurel Ave. www.republicatla.com

Jazz Jam
Tuesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.
Takoma Station, 6014 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 Kathy Gaughan and friends

Washington Musica Viva
Sunday, June 11, 4:30 p.m.
Alfresco at community drumming, dancing, hooping, hanging, laughing and everyone having a good time. People of all ages and experience are welcome.
Free

Third Thursday Poetry Reading
Thursday, June 15, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
The popular “Third Thursday” poetry series features the work of a wide range of poets from across the region.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Takoma Park’s 128th Independence Day Celebration
Tuesday, July 4, 7 – 9 p.m.
Parade will begin in the morning at the intersection of Carroll and Ethan Allen avenues. Fireworks will take place at Takoma Park Middle School starting around 9:30 p.m. with a raffle and music preceding them.

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