Wear Orange Day creates awareness of gun violence

On Saturday, June 3, a crowd of around 75 people gathered at the Old Town Takoma Park Gazebo in honor of the 3rd annual National Gun Violence Awareness day. Congressman Jamie Raskin joined Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart and four state legislators, Senator Will Smith and Delegate Jheanelle Wilkins, representing District 20, Delegate Jeff Waldstreicher of District 18, and Delegate Pamela Queen from District 14, to support the Maryland Chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

Also known as Wear Orange Day, the event was one of more than 250 rallies, picnics and neighborhood parties that took place across the nation, including six events in Maryland, from Annapolis to Frederick to Baltimore. The Wear Orange campaign was inspired by a group of Chicago teens, who asked their classmates to commemorate the life of their murdered friend, Hadiya Pendleton, by wearing orange—the color hunters wear to protect themselves in the woods.

Mayor Stewart gave a very emotional reading of poems from children that all began with the prompt “Because there was a gun...” Maryland Chapter Leader and Takoma Park resident, Danielle Veith, called on those present to honor Hadiya’s life – and the lives of the more than 90 Americans killed by gun violence every day and the hundreds more who are shot and survive – by taking action.

Gun violence survivors Timothy M. Curtis and Amy Cress urged the crowd to come together around the

Homes away from home this summer: AirBnB thrives in Takoma Park

By Kevin Adler

Go to AirBnB.com and type “Takoma Park.” On the website, you will find more than 50 listings in which people are offering short-term rentals in their homes with prices as low as about $50/night for a single room to $300/night and up for an entire house.

It’s not surprising that Takoma Park is popular on the lodging website. For visitors, the city provides easy access to downtown, a walkable Old Town area and attractive neighborhoods. For Takoma Park residents, many of whom have traveled extensively, it’s a chance to share their community with other travelers – and, of course, the extra cash is very attractive.

“It’s been a great experience. I’ve been surprised at how much demand there’s been. We had our first guest within a few days of signing up, and we have been full about three-fourths of the time since then,” said Nancy Martin, whose family has been renting the basement of their home on Carroll Avenue through AirBnB.

Takoma Horticultural Club cuts ribbon on new garden

By Sean Gossard

The Takoma Horticultural Club celebrated its 100th anniversary on Saturday, June 3, with a ceremonial ribbon cutting of its Centennial Garden. The club, city officials and Takoma Park neighbors gathered to take in the newly planted native plants at the corner of Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue. “I appreciate the hard work in making a space like this so welcoming,” said Takoma Letiza's, whose family has been renting the basement of their home on Ethan Allen Avenue for about 2.5 years.

Janice Leveit has been renting the top floor of her house on Ethan Allen Avenue for about 2.5 years.

Mayor Kate Stewart reads poems from children highlighting the detrimental effects of gun violence.

Mayor Kate Stewart reads poems from children highlighting the detrimental effects of gun violence.
At the meeting on May 17, 2017, the City Council adopted Ordinance 2017-19 setting tax rates for FY 2018: real property tax of $0.5348 per $100 of assessed valuation; personal property tax of $1.55 per $100 of assessed valuation; and railroad and public utilities tax of $1.57 per $100 of assessed valuation (Mayor Stewart voted against Ordinance 2017-19). The FY 2018 Stormwater Management Budget (Ordinance 2017-20) was adopted, setting the base rate for the Stormwater Management Fee at $0.02 (Councilmembers Kovar and Male voted against the ordinance). Ordinance 2017-21 was adopted, establishing the budget for Fiscal Year 2018.

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 7, 2017 IN TAKOMA PARK
Running for Office? Find important information at www.takomaparkmd.gov, or contact the City Council at 301-891-7267.

For this election only, the elected Councilmembers and Mayor will serve for three years. The next City Election will be in 2020.

2017 Annual Salaries – Mayor $14,128.34; City Councilmembers: $10,867.93

Members of the City are eligible to receive reimbursement for certain expenses.

The City pays for attendance at the Maryland Municipal League Summer and Fall Conferences.

Important 2017 Election Dates
Tuesday, September 12 – Nominating Caucus
Wednesday, November 1 – Early voting begins
Tuesday, November 7 – Election Day
Thursday, November 9 – Certification of election results

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 (jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267) with questions or call the contact person listed. As of June 2017, the following positions are available:

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 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 Sklar, Arts Coordinator (marlyns@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7266).

Board of Elections (two vacancies): plans and conducts City elections in coordination with the City Clerk.

Commemoration Commission (five vacancies): documents, maintains, and preserves past, present, and future memorials, commemorative, and recognition in the City; recommends to the City Council programs and procedures 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 recognition after opportunity for public review and comment.

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs – COLTA (one vacancy): adjudicates and mediates complaints for violations of Chapter 8.16, 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 9.09, 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 invited to apply at this time. For information, contact Moses A. Wilds Jr. (mosesw@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7215).

Committee on the Environment (three vacancies): advises the City Council on all environmental issues, including, but not limited to, stormwater management, greenhouse gas reduction, tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning and restoration, energy use, transportation, energy conservation, and recycling.

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.

Facade Advisory Board (one vacancy): serves as an advisory panel to help ensure that historic district 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. For information, contact Rosalind Grigsby, Community and Economic Development Coordinator (rosalind@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7205).

Grants Review Committee (two vacancies): evaluates applications for certain City grant programs and makes recommendations to the City Council. For information, contact Erin Kelly, Grants Coordinator (erin@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7131).

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.

Recreation 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 limiting 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 Roads Committee (four 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.

Stay informed about City Council meetings and agendas! Subscribe to the weekly email list. You’ll find the subscription form on the City Council agenda page at www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas.
for about three years. “We’ve met really nice people. I have traveled a lot and lived overseas, and I appreciate what it’s like to meet a friendly face when I was traveling in Barcelona. ‘It made such a difference to Spain in 2014,’ Levitt tried her first AirBnB because they’re good for young kids.”

When she came home from that trip, Levitt discussed with her husband Dan Odess whether they should become hosts. “Sure, we were a little apprehensive that it might be strange to have people in our home, but we’ve had very little in the way of issues,” she said. They rent the upper floor of their home, so guests come in their front door and are told they can use the kitchen as needed, but do have a great deal of privacy.

The rental income supplemented Levitt during a career transition as she shifted from a high-pressure D.C. job to offering holistic health coaching through her new business, Savor Wellness. “I work from home now, so I can handle the messages and arrangements,” she said.

For Martin and her husband Ben Rosenthal, AirBnB was an extension of earlier experiences hosting students from abroad. “For four or five years, we hosted international students who stayed in our basement. We and our kids really enjoyed it. But things changed after 9/11, and a lot of that exchange activity dried up,” she said.

So when the family took a trip to Seattle and used AirBnB, an idea was born. On a Saturday morning, Martin and her daughter Leah raided Ikea for bright new furniture, and by early the next week, they were in business. “All AirBnB’s seem to be outfitted at Ikea,” Martin laughs.

To create the actual listing, AirBnB and other listing websites have various templates, which can be tweaked in endless ways for hosts to highlight what makes their home special. “The beauty of it is that you can see the market and adjust your listing accordingly. Plus, you can black-out dates when you don’t want to rent,” Martin said.

The platform takes care of the business side, too, such as handling payments from guests and creating an enforceable cancellation policy. Martin also likes that AirBnB’s ratings feature goes both ways – guests rate her home, but hosts also rate renters. For the Earles, AirBnB’s insurance policy covering some types of damages is especially important because they’re renting their entire home. “You’re more secure than just using Craigslist, where maybe you have to negotiate with a renter if there’s been some damage,” Shannon said.

Renting out their home has created a few additional logistical issues for the Earles, but they are managed relatively easily. A house cleaner comes at the end of each guest’s stay and gets the home ready for the next guest, and a neighbor is available if a guest has a quick problem, such as difficulty using the keypad-coded lock on the front door. But with the rental’s responsibility also comes some discipline that would be beneficial for many homeowners. “When we need a repair, we’ve learned to take care of it, and we don’t wait until it gets worse. Also, having to pack and store our stuff has made us more aware of calling our belongings,” Shannon said.

WEAR ORANGE DAY

City Council Action

on May 24, the Council adopted Resolution 2017-39 renaming Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples Day. Ordinance 2017-24 was adopted, authorizing execution of a contract with CHEER (Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research) to provide up to $45,000 for the Litchfield Summer Program. Ordinance 2017-25 authorized up to $45,000 for the repair and upgrade of the Auditorium projection system. Ordinance 2017-26 authorized a contract to complete energy efficiency improvements for low-income households in the community. Of the possible $120,000 for the program, $90,000 is from a Maryland Energy Administration grant.

All actions take place in scheduled legislative meetings of the City Council. Only negative votes and abstentions/recusals are noted. Actions are available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov (search “resolutions” or “ordinances”).
BUILDING COMMUNITY

Car Free Challenge Update

Launched May 19, the Car Free Challenge is a five-month-long competition to help Takoma Park reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation and reduce the number of cars on the road. The challenge is open to anyone living or working in Takoma Park. Individual and team prizes will be awarded throughout the competition, including several free bikes. So break out your padded bike shorts, walking shoes and SmarTrip cards and join the Car Free Challenge today.

Current standings

Individuals
In the lead for most miles are:
1. Eric P., 665.4 miles /22 trips
2. Jim H., 391.47 miles /35 trips
3. Kean McD., 328.4 miles /52 trips
4. Christopher D., 327.99 miles/25 trips
5. Jorge B., 274.35 miles /53 trips

Teams
WACO and Ripped Feet are in a close competition for team prizes with more 400 miles each.

Get involved
It’s not too late to join the challenge. Sign up for a chance to win a new bike at carfreetkpk.com. Vacation plans, monthly prizes and more mean there is still plenty of time to compete.

Fake ICE flyers

It has come to the City of Takoma Park Police Department’s attention that flyers are being posted in and around the District of Columbia warning about penalties for supporting illegal immigration. These flyers appear to be authentic with logos from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. These flyers are fake.

Both agencies deny issuing or sanctioning such flyers. It is not clear at this time who is posting them.

If you see any such flyer in the City, please take it down and contact the Takoma Park Police Department at 301-270-1100.

As former Chief Goldberg indicated to the City residents in November 2016, “The Takoma Park Police Department is committed to Constitutional Policing where the rights of all individuals are respected. As a local police department, we have sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States, the Maryland Constitution and the local laws and codes.”

“Our priority is and always has been the preservation of life and protection of property. To that end, I can assure our residents that we are apolitical and will continue to build and maintain our bridges with the community. We have no interest or authority in the deportation of immigrants.”

“The mission and commitment of the Takoma Park Police Department is the safety and welfare of all our residents and visitors. We value and will continue to maintain our relationships with all members of our community.”

We respect all City of Takoma Park residents no matter their immigration status. Takoma Park remains a sanctuary city.

This article originally appeared on the City’s website at takomaparkmd.gov/newsalert/message-from-the-acting-police-chief-regarding-fake-ice-flyers.

Survey solicits community’s input on important traits for new TPPD Chief

Last month the City Council held a series of meetings concerning the process and criteria for selecting the new Police Chief. Members of the public are also invited to take our survey to help us better identify the qualities and characteristics that the new Police Chief should embody. Visit this link to take the survey: www.surveymonkey.com/r/XKNQDN3.

Important City Phone Numbers

City Information ....................... 301-891-7100
City Clerk .................................. 301-891-7267
City Manager ........................... 301-891-7229
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
Superheroes come to town

They are bold and bad. They are tough and triumphant.
Superheroes leap from comic book and newspaper pages to save us. The masked and costumed crusaders hail from other planets, while others are homegrown.
But, what is Wonder Woman like behind her shield and Batman beneath his cape? Are they fighters off the clock?
What causes their armor to crack?
In our daily lives, superheroes are everywhere. There are police officers and firefighters putting their lives on the line for our safety. There is the single parent working, driving, cooking, coaching, tutoring, reading, and cleaning. There is the friend, colleague, or family member living with a disease and struggling to make the best of each moment. And, these real superheroes also have moments of weakness.
(Super)Hero looks at the frailties of the imaginary and real humans and aliens who go to battle for us and themselves.
The exhibition features paintings, drawings, and sculpture by Elena Botts, David Ross, Linda Button, Gilda Odio and Nicole Bresner.
Join us to celebrate the opening of (Super)Hero on Thursday, July 6, 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue.

New Arts and Humanities Commission members

Meet our newest members to the Arts and Humanities Commission. Joelle Rabion, formerly of Chicago, has lived in Takoma Park and Silver Spring since February 2013.
Her 30-year career in the arts includes roles in art galleries, museums, and ultimately, organizing international conferences and fine art fairs in Miami, Chicago and D.C. She currently works as a wellness consultant. Joelle is delighted to live here and excited to be a part of the Arts and Humanities Commission.
Madona Tyler LeBlanc lives in the diverse Rolling Terrace neighborhood with her partner, two children and several cats. While her background as a dancer, poet and English teacher did not prepare her for her current occupation as a nurse, it did prepare her for the Arts and Humanities Commission. A lover of the arts, especially music, Madona hopes her passion will be contagious and that the joy and empowerment of experiencing and creating art will spread like wildfire throughout Takoma Park.
Courtney Tompkins has a master’s degree in art history and currently works in visual communications. She has years of experience in museum environments, including positions at the Detroit Institute of Arts and the National Gallery of Art. She recently purchased her first home in Takoma Park, motivated in large part by the City’s community involvement and commitment to arts and culture. Courtney is looking forward to working with other members of the Commission to promote art programs and services that benefit the City’s residents.

Writings on the wall: Public art update

Muralists abound around Takoma Park. Michael Kirby has just a few more brushstrokes to go, but Takoma Park citizens will put the final touches on his massive mural at Prince Georges and Conway Avenues.
This public art, sponsored by the City of Takoma Park, features an underground fantastical world where children and animals play between mazes of tree roots.
Kirby points out that he painted the roots so that they connect to the living plants above the wall.
The artist began the painting on the 285-foot wall last summer. However, weather and other projects of Kirby’s in the area have delayed completion. He plans to announce public painting days soon, and along with them, the mural’s title. Check the City’s Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for announcements.

Last month, artist Peter Krsko invited the public to a party to celebrate the completion of his mural, Symbiosis, at 1337 Helton Lane (See article on p. 7). The mural on the side of El Alazan Western Wear features large flowers, cactus and fish and other animals. Artists young and old helped Krsko complete the giant painting on the brick wall during six days in May and June.
Symbiosis was made possible by the City of Takoma Park, Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority and JBGR Retail.
Finally, on June 22, a mural was unveiled at 7610 Maple Avenue in Takoma Park. Twenty students, ages 7 to 11, from that residence collaborated with teaching artist and muralist Arturo Ho.
The group created together after school on Fridays in March and April to brainstorm, sketch and design images for the community mural. Students chose the themes of love, peace and community to show their passions for

Kirby painting

Takoma Park. This project was facilitated by Montgomery Housing Partnership, Carpe Diem Arts and Arturo Ho and was funded with support from the City of Takoma Park and The JBG Companies.

Symbiosis conceptual image, Peter Krsko
RECREATION

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’s Kids 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

EXTENDED CARE

AFTER THE BELL 2017-2018

After The Bell childcare program is offered at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave). This program will provide a safe environment for children grades K-5 who will engage in daily indoor/ outdoor group activities and holiday based events. Each day kids will receive a snack, have time to complete homework, and enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, play, free play and more. Parents can arrange transportation through MCPS by calling 301-840-8130 to change your bus route to (New Hampshire Towers), and we will meet you at the bus stop.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Back Room
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Kindergarten-5th Grade
10 months
2017-2018 MCPS school year
3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
$1,250

FITNESS

Kung Fu
This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise, which help the students defend themselves by strengthening hand-and-eye coordination. The student will gain physical fitness, mental and spiritual strength. There is a one-time, non-refundable fee of $50 paid to the instructor at the first class for a uniform. Instructor: Master Thompson
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades K-2
2 week session
Saturdays
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
$35

DROP-IN

Taekwondo
Martial arts are studied for combat skills, cultivation (meditation), mental discipline, character development and building self-confidence. There is a one-time, nonrefundable $40 fee paid to the instructor at the first class for a uniform. Instructor: Felix Lindeire
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
5 years and older
8 week session
July 10-August 28
Mondays, 6 – 7 p.m.
Resident: $100/Non-resident: $120

AFTER HOURS BASKETBALL

This program, in its third summer, will provide a drop-in service for the teens and young adults ages 16-24. The Recreation Department is partnering with the Takoma Park Police Department to offer Tuesday and Thursday late night basketball. We are looking to provide safe but fun activities for the young adults in our community as well as build the relationship between the community and the Takoma Park Police Department.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Ages 16-24
Tuesday and Thursdays,
July 6-August 11
9 – 11 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership card

TEENS

CAMPS

Impacting the World through Video Summer Camp
In this two-week fun and educational day camp, teens will work in small teams to plan, shoot, and edit short documentary videos to document an issue of importance locally. Participants will develop a call to action and create a short video which may incorporate interviews, archival materials, narration, music, and original footage. Participants will be provided access to and training with video cameras and the Final Cut Pro editing system.
Instructor: Docs In Progress
Takoma Park Community Center
Media Video Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
2 Week Session
Monday - Friday
July 31-August 11
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Residents: $300/Non-residents: $375

DROP-IN

Teen Lounge
This special room is for teens only (middle school and high school students). You are welcome to watch two 59-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 for fun and laughs and on special events for an amazing time.
Instructor: KJ Fitness
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Dropping
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 4 – 7 p.m.
Tuesdays: 4 – 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
July 6-August 28
Thursdays, 7:45 – 8:45 p.m.
Saturdays, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
$85

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
Saturdays, Ongoing
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
$8

Karate Self-Defense
Promote physical fitness, self-defense, leadership and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style, Isshinryu (which means One Heart Way). This program is a partnership between the Takoma Park Recreation Department and the Penn State University Karate Club. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Instructor: Penn State University Karate Club
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Back Room
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 years and older
Wednesdays, ongoing
7 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership card

Ladies Boot Camp
A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour. Students are required to bring their own mat. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Sixteen Classes. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 years and older
Tuesdays and Thursdays
8 week session
July 11-August 31
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
$85
Drop-in: $10

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July 2017
**Line Dancing**

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise, and an enjoyable social activity that leads to meeting new people and making new friends. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary.

Instructor: Barbara Brown
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Wednesdays, July 5 - August 30
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Free

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**Blood Pressure Screening**

Adventist Healthcare will be doing a monthly blood pressure screening. No registration is required.
Takoma Park Community Center
Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Thursday, July 27
12 – 2 p.m.
Free

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**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
Summer Hours: Ongoing, Monday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Ongoing, Saturdays: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Free

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**Zumba Gold**

Zumba Gold is the Latin-inspired dance fitness program that makes working out fun. Designed for the active senior, the Zumba Gold workout provides participants with the opportunity to improve balance, flexibility and cardiovascular strength. This is a free class however registration is required. Due to the popularity of the Zumba classes, you may register for one class per week only. Choose the day/time that best fits your schedule.
Instructor: Yesika Flores
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Saturday, July 8 - August 26
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Free

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**Independence Day Celebration**

Be part of the tradition and join Takoma Park for its 128th Independence Day Celebration. This year’s parade will begin at 10:00am and start at Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues and end on Maple Avenue in front of the Community Center. The evening program will start at 7:00pm at Takoma Park Middle School.

Washington Adventist University and the Takoma Park Community Band conducted by Gerald Younger. There will be an announcement of parade winners, a welcome by Mayor Kate Stewart as well as Patriotic Medley and National Anthem Vocals by Heather Aubrey Lloyd and David Goethe. The main event of the night will be the fireworks by Bay Fireworks that start at 9:30pm. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the excitement. Walking to both of these events is encouraged. For more information, contact Gene Herman at 301-585-5632 or gene511@aol.com.

Parade starts on Carroll ends at Maple Avenue
All ages
Tuesday, July 4
Parade: 10 a.m.
Evening Program: 7 p.m.
Fireworks following evening program
www.takomapark4th.org
Free

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**New mural celebrated**

On June 10 community volunteers, artists and the Takoma/Langley CDA celebrated the completion of “Symbiosis,” a new mural on the side wall of 1337 Holton Lane. The mural was sponsored by the Takoma/Langley CDA (business association) with approval from property owner JBGR.

Planning began in March with public meetings at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Artist Peter Krisko (3rd from right in the above photo) presented several mural themes to community members to consider and discuss. At a second meeting, the group selected one of the designs for the new mural. Painting began May 20, with power washing and priming of the wall. Krisko scheduled public painting sessions, so volunteers could join in the artistic process. Some of them attended the celebration and posed for the photo above.

Krsko has created many murals around the D.C. area, including several in Long Branch. In 2015, the CDA hired him to create a large mural about migration on the Holton Lane side of 7601 New Hampshire Avenue (Fiesta Laundromat). That mural was funded by the CDA with a matching grant from the City of Takoma Park. The CDA would like to undertake a third mural in FY18.
Enjoy our newest summer reading on audio

By Ellen Robbins

Summer is just around the corner – and the Library has an array of exciting new audio books to take on that long road trip you may be planning. Many of these titles were finalists or winners of the 2017 Audie Awards, – the premier awards for audio recordings, given by the Audio Publishers Association.

The Audie winner for best audio recording of 2017 was Hamilton: The Revolution by Lin Manuel-Miranda and Jeremy Carter. Narrated by Mariska Hargitay with the authors. This recording has been in our collection for a while.

Here are some of our newest audio recordings:

The award for best Audio Drama was In the Embers by Brian Price and Jerry Stearns. Narrated by Robin Miles and others: “...a source of a pressed flower, and the sound of two girls’ voices recovered from a burned wooden beam by using a brand new laser technique to read a charred surface like the grooves of a 78 rpm record.

These are the clues that archaeologist Digger Morgan discovers at a Maryland plantation...”

In Such Good Company by Carol Burnett. Read by the author. Carol Burnett “pulls back the curtain on the twenty-five time Emmy Award-winning show that made entertainment history,” with funny and touching reminiscences about working on the series.

News of the World, a novel by Paulette Jiles, performed by Grover Gardner. At the end of the Civil War, Captain Jefferson Kyle Kidd travels through Texas and performs live readings from newspapers to audiences hungry for news of the world. When he has pocketed fifty dollars to return a young orphan, kidnapped by Kiowa Indians, to her relatives... both their lives are changed forever.

The Daily Show – An Oral History by Jon Stewart, the correspondents, staff and guests. This oral history takes the listener behind the curtain for the show’s highlights through its nearly 17 years of groundbreaking comedy, political satire and news coverage.

Boys in the Trees by Carly Simon. Read by the author. This memoir follows Simon’s life and musical career, including her rise to stardom, her relationships some of the most famous musicians of the day, and her ill-fated marriage to fellow superstar James Taylor.

The Mountaintop by Katori Hall. Performed by Larry Powell and Aja Naomi King. Members of the L.A. Theatre Works and some of their best friends.

The Pigeon Tunnel by Brian Price and Jerry Stearns. Drama was audio recordings:

Enjoy our newest summer reading on audio

Library Briefs

• Kids’ musician, singer and songwriter Marsha Goodman-Wood, well-known to regulars of the Library’s Tuesday Circle Time, will perform with her band, Marsha and the Positrons, on Saturday, July 8 at 2 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium.

• Come learn a bit about the awesome history of graphic novels and get a taste of some graphic novel classics at our Graphic Novel Primer on Monday, July 10, 7:30 p.m. Library Associate Dave Burbank, the library’s graphic novel guru, will take us on an illustrated hour-long tour of how graphic novels came to be and discuss why they have skyrocketed in popularity in recent years. No registration required for this event, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

• On Saturday, July 29 at 2 p.m., picture book author Veronica Barletas will offer a new twist on the traditional princess tale as she reads her book, The Princess & the Frogs, then leads the audience in a related craft. In Bartles’ book, Princess Cassandra is desperate for a friend, but decides a pet frog will have to do for now. When she kisses the frog in excitement, however, it turns into a prince who wants to marry her — something which doesn’t interest this particular princess. In its review, Kirkus called The Princess & the Frogs a “refreshing princess book that puts kissing in its place and rejuncts in childhood idiols.” Copies of Barletas’ book will be available for sale, but this event is free and no registration or purchase is required to attend.

• Join us on Tuesday, August 1 at 7:30 p.m. for the launch of the newest book by award-winning graphic novelist (and Takoma Park resident) Garth Hinds. Known for his graphic novel adaptations of Shakespeare plays, Becwulf and The Odyssey, Hinds this time tackles Edgar Allen Poe in Poe. Stories and Poems. Hinds has won critical praise for his previous books, with reviewers noting his fine line and expert use of color, shadow and perspective in bringing the emotions of a story to the fore. Politics & Prose will be selling copies of Hinds’ books, but our event is free and no purchase or registration is required to attend. Note: our event is best for teens and adults because of the gothic horror nature of Poe’s stories, amplified by Hinds’ illustrations.

• Take some hip hop, add in some social justice themes, and you’ve got a concert by the Alphabet Rockers! The dynamic duo of Kaitlyn McGaw and Tommy Shepherd Jr. bring their music and energy to Takoma Park for a free concert on Thursday, Aug 10, at 7 p.m. in the Community Center auditorium. Although based in San Francisco, the Alphabet Rockers are doing an East Coast tour in August and we were lucky to book them, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. In a review of the duo, the San Francisco Chronicle wrote: “Alphabet Rockers tackle issues of race and diversity while inspiring a love of hip hop.” No registration or tickets are needed for this free event, seats are first-come, first-served.

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.
Legos Club
Sunday, July 2, 1:30 – 3 p.m.
Building fun for ages 3 – 10.
Family Music Concert with Marsha Goodman-Wood & Band
Saturday, July 8, 2 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center auditorium
Kids Art
Sunday, July 9, 2 – 3 PM
Graphic Novel Primer
Featuring Dave Burbank, graphic novel guru Monday, July 10, 7:30 p.m.

LibCalcott Club
Monday, July 17, 7 p.m.
All ages welcome; lemonade and cookies served.

Friends Bi-Monthly Book Club
Discussion of the March trilogy by John Lewis, Andrew Aydin & Nate Powell Wednesday, July 19, 7:30 p.m.
Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park Community Center

“The Princess & the Frogs” Storytime/Craft
Featuring picture book author Veronica Barletas Saturday, July 29, 2 p.m.

Coming up…

Award-winning graphic novelist Garth Hinds presents his newest book, Poe. Stories and Poems. It is being published on Tuesday, August 1, 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center auditorium
Meet City lobbyist Alice Wilkerson

Interview by Apryl Motley

“I’ve lived in or around Takoma Park for the last 12 years,” said Alice Wilkerson, lobbyist for the City of Takoma Park. “Currently I live half a block outside the City line in North Takoma/East Silver Spring.” She resides there with her husband, Joseph, and their two kids. Wilkerson began her job as a lobbyist nine months ago when she joined full-scale lobbying and public policy firm Public Policy Partners as a government relations associate.

For Wilkerson, one of the major victories this legislative session was obtaining $150,000 in bond bill funding for the City’s library renovation. “This advocacy built on over five years of work by the City Council and staff. For a major request like this, we began advocating for funding well before the hope of the legislation started,” she explained. “The Mayor, City staff and I met with our D20 legislators to ask them to introduce the bill and to request that funding for the library be a priority project. We continued to work with our D20 legislators throughout session to prepare for the hearing, arrange for the City to testify and to provide project details to the committee.”

“Thanks to years of planning, hard work by the City and leadership from our D20 legislators, we received full funding of our bond bill request,” Wilkerson continued. “Each session hundreds of organizations, municipalities and nonprofits apply for bond bill funding, but only a select few receive funding, and many don’t receive full funding, so this funding is a significant accomplishment for the city.”

In the past, work on issues like funding for the library’s renovation influenced Wilkerson’s decision to become a lobbyist. “I chose to become a lobbyist because I believe we need more advocacy voices in Annapolis. I want to use my years of experience working inside the General Assembly to help my community and advance progressive policies.”

Read on to learn more about her work on behalf of the City.

TP News: What was your main motivation for pursuing your line of work?

Wilkerson: Before lobbying, I worked for more than 10 years as Jamie Raskin’s Chief of Staff when he was a State Senator. I really enjoy working at the state level because there are more opportunities to work directly with legislators, advocates and the community on legislation, and personal involvement can really affect policy outcomes.

TP News: Why is it important for the City to have a lobbyist?

Wilkerson: Takoma Park needs an advocate who can look out for the City’s interests, defend City policies that may be superseded by State legislation or regulations, and represent the community values of Takoma Park. Each session, hundreds of bills are introduced, hundreds of which potentially affect the City. This year, over 2,800 bills were introduced and approximately 900 passed into law. Almost every bill introduced receives a hearing. Hundreds of those bills are also amended, debated, voted on in committee and on the floor of the House of Delegates and Senate, and ultimately, receive the signature or veto of the governor.

A large part of my job is monitoring all of the legislation introduced to see which bills may be of significance to the City and working with the City Council and staff to represent the City’s position on bills and amendments. I also work to

TPES

Alice Wilkerson

advocate for policy changes and defend City policies when they may be superseded by State legislation or regulations. I also focus on the City’s advocates for policy changes and defend City policies when they may be superseded by State legislation or regulations. I also focus on the City’s interests. I work to ensure that the City’s interests are represented at the State level, and I advocate for policies that align with the City’s goals and values.

Five Questions for Alice Wilkerson

Favorite Place/Activity in Takoma Park:
4th of July parade and fireworks

Best Thing about Living in Takoma Park:
Great neighbors

What’s on Your Desk Right Now:
Kindergarten registration packet for TPES

What You Do in Your “ Spare Time”:
Gardening

Best Advice You Ever Got: My college advisor and favorite professor encouraged me to do as many internships as possible starting with an internship in the Maryland General Assembly.

Audio

From page 8

brings his mastery of historical narrative to a tumultuous time in the Revolution. When Breath Becomes Air by Paul Kalanithi Read by Sunil Malhotra and Cassandra Campbell. This memoir “chronicles Kalanith’s transformation from a naïve medical student into a neurosurgeon at Stanford working in the brain, the most critical place for human identity, and finally into a patient and new father confronting his own mortality.” An “unforgettable, life-affirming reflection.” Kalanithi died of stage IV lung cancer in March of 2015.

All quotations are from publishers’ book jackets.
As of May 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service personnel assigned to the station have responded to 221 fire-related incidents in 2017. The department also addressed or assisted with 1198 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1417. Totals for 2016 were 248 and 1346 representing a decrease of 177 incidents.

During May, Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 1532.5 hours of standby ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1346 representing a decrease of 177 in-cidents.

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported that as of June 23, 37 hours in May 2017 were 8042 hours compared to 6652 in 2016, an increase of 1390 hours in May 2016. Grand totals as if put in a total of 1532.5 hours of standby ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1346 representing a decrease of 177 in-cidents.

Lions receive awards
At the 95th Annual Convention held Gettysburg, Pa., the Takoma Park Lions Club once again earned the Fire Star Award and the Governor’s Exceptional Club Award for outstanding annual achievements to the community and Lions Club International. Also, Past District Governor Mike Bigler received the International President’s Centennial Member Pin.

Safety messages
• Fireworks: All fireworks are still illegal in Montgomery County. Enjoy them, stay safe and let the pros handle them.
• Grilling Safety: There’s nothing like outdoor grilling. It’s one of the most popular ways to cook food. However, a grill placed too close together anything that can burn is a fire hazard. They can be very hot, causing burn injuries. Follow these simple tips, and you will be on your way to safe grilling.
  • Only use propane and charcoal BBQ grills outdoors.
  • Place the grill well away from the home.
  • Keep children and pets at least three feet away from the grill area.
  • Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat build-up from grills and in trays below grill.
  • Never leave your grill unattended.
  • Let the coals completely cool when you are finished grilling before disposing in a metal container.

Lions receive awards
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STAY CONNECTED!
The City of Takoma Parks strives to keep residents engaged and informed in a variety of ways including social media, the City website, public safety notifications via email and text, and this newsletter, to name a few. As we begin a new year, we want to provide you with some tips for staying on top of the goings on around the City:

• Visit takomaparkmd.gov, where you can access information on upcoming Council meetings and agendas, City news, and the status of City projects.
• Like the City of Takoma Park on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at @TakomaParkMD.
• Sign up for Public Safety notifications on Takoma Park Alert takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert.
• Stay up to date with city news and blogs from City Staff, the Mayor and Council at takomaparkmd.gov/news.
• Make a service request or report an issue using “My TkPk,” an online and application based reporting tool takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk.

Getting away this summer: Be prepared to manage the unexpected
By Claudine Schweber, Co-Chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

Yes, it’s that time of year when we can relax on the road, at the beach, in the mountains or at other locales. The bags are packed, the GPS is programmed, and reservations are made. But what would you do if someone got sick, or you got separated from family or friends? Are you prepared to deal with the unexpected and limit the emergency impact? Here’s a Summer Readiness checklist, so you can enjoy the summertime while you are away.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traveling away from home?</th>
<th>YES*</th>
<th>NO/Not Sure</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have you:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Given the details to family or friends who can be contacted for emergency help?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Checked the predicted weather forecast for your destination?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Made a list of important numbers for medical, police, trauma or rescue units in the new location?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identified the nearest hospital or emergency room?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Packed extra medications and any special items if you are stuck in a vacation area?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Made a list of any allergies should you need emergency care?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Checked to learn if your medical insurance will be accepted in your new location?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Written/saved the contact information for your doctors and pharmacy back home?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identified escape routes and a re-uniﬁcation location before you set out in areas where there may be no cell towers — in case you get separated from others?</td>
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<tr>
<td>If you are traveling with small children, have you packed extra water, baby food, extra snacks and a change of clothes? Note: If you are flying, check if the airline stows a car seats and strollers free of charge.</td>
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<tr>
<td>If you are driving, packed enough supplies and emergency items if the car breaks down?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have you packed working flashlights and extra batteries, cell phone car charger (if car is operable), emergency kit and updated car assistance (such as AAA)?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

At home in Takoma Park, while you are away:

| Does someone you trust know where to reach you in case of flooding, street damage, burglary or other difficulties? |
| Does your home have a continually “lived in” look, such as light timers set for different times in several rooms? |
| Have you negotiated with someone to take mail, newspapers or packages, or have you stopped delivery of these items? |
| Is someone coming inside to water plants or feed pets? |
| If you have a security service, have you figured out how to deal with the person bringing in mail, newspapers, watering plants or feeding pets? |
| If you have pets, have you not only arranged for their care, but also made sure the caretaker knows how to reach the vet and you? |
| Other? |

Look at your responses. Go through each “no” and make the needed change. Review the “not sure” items, find out for sure, and take action.

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 encourage calling 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.
Knock on wood

By Rick Henry

To walk into Potter Violins’ new location, the restored Blair Mansion on Eastern Avenue in Takoma Park, is to be overwhelmed by wood. Beautiful, glorious wood. New wood floors, give way to restored wooden staircases, leading to the most impressive and important wood components—the rows and rows of violins, violas and cellos, some with $400 price tags and some with six-figure price tags, that fill the mansion’s many rooms.

“It is such a joy to have people look around and make use of it,” said Dalton Potter, Potter Violins’ president and co-owner, of the space which opened in May 2016, the culmination of a four-year process. “It’s a dream to finally be able to live up to our potential.”

It’s a potential that Potter and Jim Kelly, vice president and director of operations, saw was unfulfilled at the original 3,600 square-foot location in Bethesda where they operated for 20 years. It’s a potential that Potter describes simply as “bringing more music to the community.”

In practical terms, that means being able to cater to everyone – from students who are renting an instrument to play for 20 years. It’s a potential that Potter described simply as “being able to cater to everyone – from students who are renting an instrument to play for 20 years. It’s a potential that Potter described simply as “being able to cater to everyone – from students who are renting an instrument to play for 20 years. It’s a potential that Potter described simply as “being able to cater to everyone – from students who are renting an instrument to play for 20 years. It’s a potential that Potter described simply as “being able to cater to everyone – from students who are renting an instrument to play for 20 years. It’s a potential that Potter described simply as “being able to cater to everyone – from students who are renting an instrument to play for 20 years. 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It’s a potential that Potter described simply as “being able to cater to everyone – from students who are renting an instrument to play for 20 years. It’s a potential that Potte...
advocate for legislation the City wants to introduce, pass or defeat. As an example, during the most recent legislative session I was able to defeat bad bills, such as those that would have prohibited non-citizens from voting in municipal elections, eliminated sanctuary cities in Maryland and expedited tenant evictions.

Advocate for numerous bills, such as banning styrofoam, the Law Enforcement Trust Act, and a bill ensuring the WMATA safety oversight board has local representation.

Wilkerson: What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned this year?

Wilkerson: I want residents to know how much I enjoy representing the City. I get to advocate for services, projects, programs and people that are a part of my community, and I get to see the direct benefits to the City on a daily basis.

TP News: What is the biggest lesson you’ve learned this year?

Wilkerson: Many of us have learned that advocacy and participation in the political and legislative process is more important than ever. Along that same line, having strong state, county and municipal policies and regulations is more important than ever before, and we need to do everything we can to protect them.

Do you have an item for the city calendar? Let us know if you have a non-profit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we’ll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the August issue is July 14, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning July 28. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.