



## WHAT'S NEW?

### 128th Independence Day Parade, Concert & Fireworks

Tuesday, July 4  
Parade: 10 a.m.  
Fireworks: 9:30 p.m.  
Details, p. 7

### Safe Grow Garden Photo Contest

Details, p. 9

### Fire Safety Messages & Summer Readiness Checklist

Details, p. 10

### City offices and facilities closed

Tuesday, July 4

### Trash collection/recycling

Tuesday, July 4 trash and recycling collection moved to Wednesday, July 5.  
Monday yard waste collection will go on as usual.



Photo: Janice Levitt

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

## 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

**AIRBnB**  Page 3

## 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.



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

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

**WEAR ORANGE DAY**  Page 3

## 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



Photo: Sean Gossard

Takoma Horticultural Club President Katherine Lambert (left) and Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart cut the ribbon at the Centennial Garden on Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue as members of the club look on.

**HORTICULTURAL CLUB**  Page 11

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

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**Meet City Lobbyist Alice Wilkerson**  
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# DOCKET

## City Council & Committee Calendar

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, July 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, July 26, 7:30 p.m.  
These City Council meetings will take place in the Community Center Auditorium.

*Note: The City Council will not meet on July 5. After the July 26 meeting, the Council will be on recess until September.*

### ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, July 25, 7 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Monday, July 10, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Council Conference Room

### COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Date, TBA, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Room TBA

### COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, July 10, 7:15 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

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

### FAÇADE ADVISORY BOARD

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

### NOISE CONTROL BOARD

Date TBA, 7 p.m.  
TPCC Room TBA

### NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, July 11, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Lilac Room

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

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

### SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE

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

### TREE COMMISSION

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

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

### ADA NOTICE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who 1) wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing; or 2) cannot attend a public meeting but would like to record an audio comment to be played during the public comment period of the meeting, is invited to contact Jason Damweber, Deputy City Manager, at [jasond@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:jasond@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7202 at least 48 hours in advance.

## City Council Action

All actions take place in scheduled legislative meetings of the City Council. Only negative votes and abstentions/recusals are noted. Adopted legislation is available for review online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

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 \$92.00 (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](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov), or contact the City Clerk 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 Councilmember: \$10,867.93

Members of the Council 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

**Wednesday, November 15** – New Councilmembers and Mayor take office

That same evening, the Council adopted **Resolution 2017-36** establishing policy objectives associated with the FY 2018 budget. The policy objectives include 1) conduct of a study of impervious surfaces in the City to inform future stormwater fees, possible development of a program to recognize voluntary stormwater mediation by property owners, and recognition that planting of trees on private land is an appropriate use of stormwater funds; 2) after completion of the housing and community development strategic plan, setting a spending target of 30 percent of the Housing Reserve balance to advance the Council's affordable housing goals; 3) continuation of discussions about the

CITY COUNCIL ACTION  Page 3

## 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](mailto:jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267) with questions or call the contact person listed below. As of June 9, 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, 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 Sklar, Arts Coordinator ([marilyns@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:marilyns@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, commemoratives, and recognitions in the City; recommends to the City Council procedures and programs to honor and commemorate individuals, organizations and businesses that have made significant contributions to the social, cultural, historical, political, economic, or civic life of the City or its neighborhoods; recommends programs for individuals to honor others; implements such programs; and decides on recognitions after opportunity for public review and comment.

**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 invited to apply at this time. For information, contact Moses A. Wilds Jr. ([mosesw@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto: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 ([rosalindg@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:rosalindg@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7205).

**Grants Review Committee (two vacancies):** evaluates applications for certain City grant programs and makes funding recommendations to the City Council. For information, contact Erin Kelly, Grants Coordinator ([erink@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:erink@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 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 (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 Council agenda page: [takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas).

## AIRBnB

■ From page 1

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 on the road," said Janice Levitt, who has been renting the top floor of her house on Ethan Allen Avenue for about 2.5 years.

Shannon and Patrick Earle rent out their entire house on Grant Avenue for weeks at a time while they travel in the summer with their three school-age children. "We're both teachers, and our families live in other parts of the country. When we're taking our kids to a national park or to visit relatives, it's great to have somebody living in the house," Shannon Earle said.

Guests have ranged across a wide spectrum, from U.S. and international vacationers to researchers using the National Archives in College Park to radiologists who are here for several weeks to take national examinations. Grandparents are among the most common guests. "We have a lot of grandparents coming to visit their kids in Takoma Park," said Levitt. "Maybe they used to stay with their kids, but now that those kids have kids, the house is too small."

Guests rarely need a lot of hand-holding. "Mostly we've found that people keep to themselves, especially the ones here for work," said Martin. "The tourists do have more questions, and we're happy to give restaurant recommendations and so on. We've prepared a list of frequently asked questions."

Levitt lived in China for five years and speaks Chinese, so she advertises that skill on her AirBnB listing. It's brought her several guests who spoke little English, and she's welcomed the chance to provide them with extra help. "In a sense, I look at AirBnB as a way to repay the hospitality that I received when I lived in China," she said.

The Earles rarely meet their guests, but the feedback they get indicates that their efforts are appreciated. "We've used AirBnB when we travel, and we appreciate how much easier it is when you land in a house that's set up for children," said Shannon. "That's why we keep our house stocked with books and toys for kids – even hanging onto toys our children are done with because they're good for young kids."

Like the Earles, both Martin and Levitt said their experience using AirBnB led them to become hosts. Traveling by herself to Spain in 2014, Levitt tried her first AirBnB in Barcelona. "It made such a difference to have a friendly face when I was traveling alone and didn't speak the language," she said.



Photo: Chad Fleschner

Rental unit offered by Nancy Martin and Ben Rosenthal.

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 furnishings, and by early the next week, they were in business. "All Airbnbs seem to be outfitted at Ikea," Martin laughs.

To create the actual listing, AirBnB and other hosting 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 small damage," Shannon Earle 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 has come 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 culling our belongings," Shannon said.

## WEAR ORANGE DAY

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shared belief that we can create a future free from gun violence. Takoma Park Police Captain Tyrone Collington spoke about his own experience being shot before he became a police officer.

As a part of the Orange Skylines project, the Takoma Park Community Center

## County rules

While AirBnB hosts are very happy with their experience, Montgomery County officials have expressed some concern that having a rotation of guests in residential neighborhoods could have negative impacts for other residents of the area, compete with the local lodging industry and possibly take traditional long-term rental housing off the market. A county survey in 2016 estimated that nearly 1,050 properties were being offered as short-term rentals through AirBnB or other online services, such as FlipKey and VRBO.

Since 2015, the county has required short-term rentals to pay the same 7 percent tax as hotels, and in May 2017 the Montgomery County Planning Board proposed regulations for a new category of "Short Term Residential Rental" properties. The County Council is now taking public comment on the proposed rules, which would prohibit rental of more than 30 consecutive days and more than 90 days of rentals in a calendar year. The rules also would require that the property owners or tenants who host the short-term rentals of units must be the primary residents of the home; limit the size of parties renters hold; outline the availability of on-street parking; and more.

According to Takoma Park Deputy City Manager Jason Damweber, the City is monitoring the county's proposal, but it has not submitted comments to the county.

Neither Martin nor Levitt has studied the proposed rules in depth, but they are aware of the developments, as well as the sensitive issues. Martin said, "We're good neighbors, and we've spoken with our neighbors about what we're doing and made sure it doesn't have an impact on them."

joined Baltimore City Hall and the Silver Spring Civic Center in Maryland, and sites across the country as diverse as the Empire State Building, the Nascar Hall of Fame, Boathouse Row in Philadelphia and Niagara Falls, in lighting up orange.

To get involved in the work of Moms Demand Action, email maryland@momchapterleaders.org.

## CITY COUNCIL ACTION

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personal property tax and conveyance of any changes made to appropriate taxing agencies by the May 1, 2018 deadline; 4) exploration of establishing an Economic Development Commission; 5) starting the CALEA police accreditation process if it is determined appropriate for the City after hiring of the new Police Chief and learning more about the benefits of accreditation; 6) design and possibly construct an atrium floor between the first and second levels of the Community Center utilizing funding initially proposed to be used for detailed design of the Police Department space; and 7) development of a formal policy during FY 2018 that establishes a minimum Unrestricted Reserve Balance for future budgets.

Also on May 17, the Council appointed Courtney Tompkins (Ward 2) to the Arts and Humanities Commission by **Resolution 2017-37** and adopted **Resolution 2017-38** reappointing Nadine Bloch and Jay Keller (Ward 3), and

appointing Rachel Branaman (Ward 6) to the Grants Review Committee.

**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 Lunch and Learn 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- to moderate-income residents in single-family homes. 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. Adopted legislation is available for review online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) (search "resolutions" or "ordinances").



### THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley  
Assistant: Sean Gossard  
[www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)  
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Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov)

[takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912.

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

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled—content paper.





# BUILDING COMMUNITY



Mayor Kate Stewart will be hosting lunches at restaurants in the Takoma Langley Crossroads neighborhood of Takoma Park, the city's neighborhood of international food, shopping and culture. Enjoy food from the Caribbean, South Asia, Latin America and more on this local food trip around the world.

Listed below are the dates and locations of the lunches. Community members are encouraged to join!

- July 28 Tiffin
- August 25 Sardi's Pollo A La Brasa
- September 8 El Marinero Comida Lantina and Grill
- September 22 El Campeon Rotisserie Chicken & Bakery
- October 13 Tijuana's Mexican Cafe

All lunches begin at 12 p.m. For more information and updates on any location changes, visit [takomalangley.org/lunch-with-the-mayor](http://takomalangley.org/lunch-with-the-mayor).

## Fake ICE flyers

**Tyrone Collington,  
Acting Police Chief,  
Takoma Park Police  
Department**

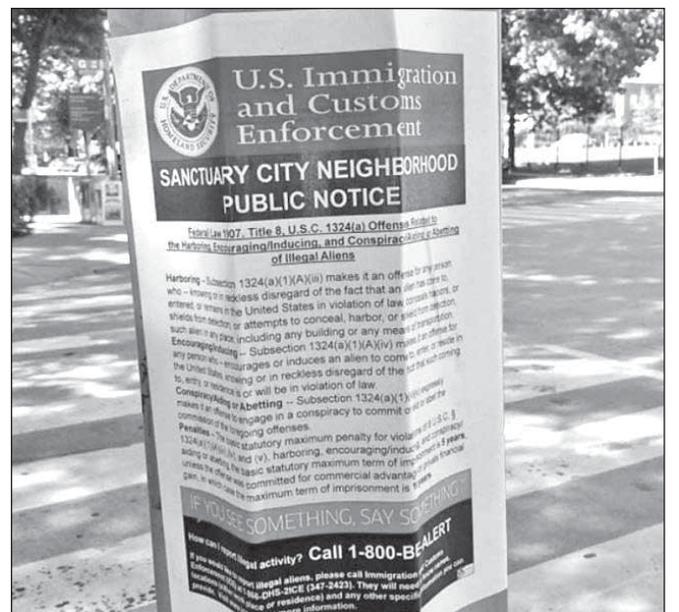
It has come to the City of Takoma Park Police Department's attention that flyers are being posted in and around the District of Columbia warning about penalties for supporting illegal immigration. These flyers appear to be authentic with logos from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Immigration 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/news-alert/message-from-the-acting-police-chief-regarding-fake-ice-flyers](http://takomaparkmd.gov/news-alert/message-from-the-acting-police-chief-regarding-fake-ice-flyers).*



**Takoma Park  
Car Free Challenge  
May 19 – October 19  
2017**

CAR FREE CHALLENGE

## 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 [carfree-tkpk.com](http://carfree-tkpk.com). Vacation plans, monthly prizes and more mean there is still plenty of time to compete.

## 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/t/XKNQDN3](http://www.surveymonkey.com/t/XKNQDN3).

## Important City Phone Numbers

City Information.....	301-891-7100	Housing & Community Development .....	301-891-7119
City Clerk.....	301-891-7267	Library .....	301-891-7259
City Manager .....	301-891-7229	Police .....	301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
City TV .....	301-891-7118	Public Works.....	301-891-7633
Finance .....	301-891-7212	Recreation/Facilities Rental .....	301-891-7290

# Writings on the wall: Public art update

Murals 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.



Photo: Arturo Ho and Busy Graham, Diem Arts

Sample panel from mural at 7610 Maple Avenue

Last month, artist Peter Krsko invited the public to a party to celebrate the completion of his mural, *Symbiosis*, at 1337 Holton 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



Photo: Marilyn Sklar

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

## 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



*Begin*, Nicole Bresner

Botts, Davd 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 2015. Her 30-year career



Joelle Rabion

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



Madona Tyler LeBlanc

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.



Courtney Tompkins

# 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 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

### 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 where they 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, plays, 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 them 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  
4-16 years  
Saturdays  
Beginners: 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.  
Advanced: 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
Session 2 (8 Weeks): July 1-August 19  
Resident: \$100/Non-resident: \$120

#### Taekwondo

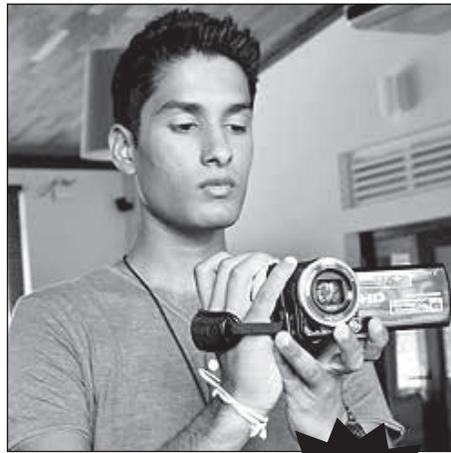
Martial arts are studied for combat skills, cultivation (meditation), mental discipline, character development and building self-confidence. There is a one-time, nonrefundable \$40 fee paid to the instructor



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

## 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 50-inch and one 70-inch LED SMART TVs. We also have X-Box One and Wii Games, workstations, board games and comfy sitting areas for socializing with friends. Come join us 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: 4 - 7 p.m.  
Tuesdays: 4 - 8 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday: Closed  
Free



### 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



7 weeks  
July 6-August 26  
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  
7315 New Hampshire Avenue  
16 years and older  
Saturdays, Ongoing  
10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Drop-in: \$5

#### 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



#### Teen Night

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

## 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

## RECREATION

■ From page 6

55+

### DROP-IN

#### Bingo

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

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

#### 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  
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Free

#### Game Room Open Play

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

Takoma Park Community Center  
Game Room  
7500 Maple Avenue  
55 and older  
Summer Hours: Ongoing, Monday – Friday: 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Ongoing, 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  
7500 Maple Avenue  
55 and older  
Mondays, through July 31  
11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Free

### SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

#### 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



#### 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  
Saturdays, July 8-August 26  
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
Free

## PETS

### 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  
Puppies 8 weeks-5 months  
5 weeks  
July 18-August 15  
Tuesdays, 6:45 – 7:45 p.m.  
Resident: \$145 / Non-resident: \$165

#### Puppy II: For the Adolescent Puppy

Puppies in adolescence (between of 6-12 months of age) tend to get bolder, less focused, and develop selective listening. This class will teach and build upon basic skills with a focus on impulse control, not jumping, and polite behavior around other dogs and people. Instructor: Joyce Loebig

Heffner Park Community Center  
42 Oswego Avenue  
Dogs 6-12 months  
5 weeks  
July 18-August 15  
Thursdays, 8 – 9 p.m.  
Resident: \$125 / Non-resident: \$145

## RECREATION *Special Events*

### 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 open to all ages! In partnership with God Glorified C.O.G.I.C.

Takoma Park Community Center  
Outdoor Basketball Court  
7500 Maple Avenue  
All Ages  
Ongoing, last Friday of the month  
5 – 7 p.m.  
Free



### Independence Day Celebration

Be part of the tradition and join Takoma Park for its 128<sup>th</sup> 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. Entertainment will be by *ilyAIMY (Acoustic Rock Band)*, *AcroAirs from 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 301-585-5832 or gene511@aol.com.



Parade starts on Carrol 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



## 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 Krsko (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. Krsko 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 audiobooks 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 song, 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 while working on a routine dig at a Maryland plantation..."

*The Girl with the Lower Back Tattoo* by Amy Schumer, read by the author. Personal and observational essays by the award-winning comedian, actress, and writer...."The literary equivalent of a night out with your best friend."

*The Pigeon Tunnel* by John Le Carré, read by the author. In his highly anticipated memoir, Le Carré "gives us a glimpse of a writer's journey over more than six decades and his own hunt for the human spark that has given so much life and heart to his fictional characters."

*The View from the Cheap Seats* by Neil Gaiman, read by the author. This collection brings together more than 60 works of Gaiman's fiction and nonfiction. In his own words, "Some of them are serious and some of them are frivolous and some of them are earnest and some of them I wrote to try and make people listen."

*Behold the Dreamers*, a novel by Imbolo Mbue, Read by Prentice Onayemi. A Cameroonian immigrant family imagines a brighter future when the husband is employed by a Senior Executive at Lehman Brothers. This novel explores issues of marriage, class and race while exposing

the trapdoors in the American dream.

*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 is offered fifty dollars to return a young orphan, kidnapped by Kiowa Indians, to her relatives...both their lives are changed forever.

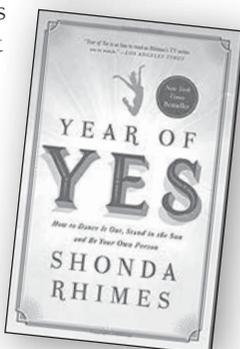
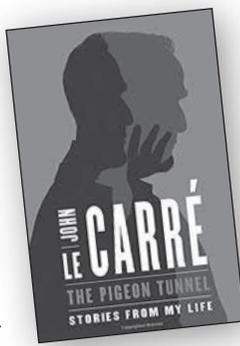
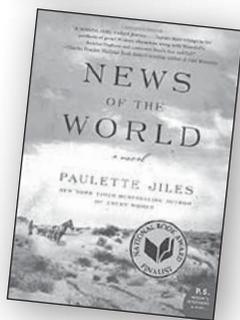
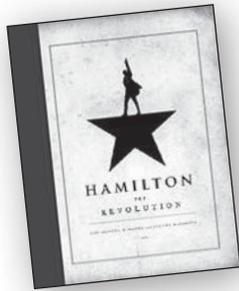
*The Daily Show – An Oral History* by Chris Smith, as told by Jon Stewart, the correspondents, staff and guests. This oral history takes the listener behind the curtain for the show's highlights through its nearly 17 years of groundbreaking comedy, political satire and news coverage.

*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 produced this dramatic narrative. "Hours after Dr. Martin Luther King's final speech, punctuated by his immortal line, "I've been to the mountaintop," the celebrated Reverend forms an unlikely friendship with a motel maid as they talk into the early hours of what will be his final day."

*Year of Yes: How to Dance it Out, Stand in the sun and Be Your Own Person* by Shonda Rhimes. Read by the author. "Profound, impassioned and laugh-out-loud funny, in Year of Yes Shonda Rhimes reveals how saying YES changed – and saved – her life."

*Valiant Ambition: George Washington, Benedict Arnold, and the fate of the American Revolution* by Nathaniel Philbrick. Read by Scott Brick. The author



## CALENDAR

### Circle Time

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

### Spanish Circle Time

Thursdays, 10:15 – 10:45 a.m. OR 11– 11:30 a.m.  
Led by Senora Geiza

### LEGO Club

Sunday, July 2, 1:30 – 3 p.m.  
Building fun for ages 3 – 10.

### Family Music Concert w/ 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.

### Caldecott 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  
Wed., July 19, 7:30 p.m.  
Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park Community Center

### "The Princess & the Frogs" Storytime/Craft

Featuring picture book author Veronica Bartles  
Saturday, July 29, 2 p.m.

### Coming up.....

Award-winning graphic novelist Gareth Hinds presents his newest book, *Poe: Stories and Poems*, Tuesday, Aug. 1, 7:30 p.m.  
Family music concert with the *Alphabet Rockers*, Thursday, Aug. 10, 7 p.m., Takoma Park Community Center auditorium

## 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. Marsha is known for her ability to create kids' songs that teach science concepts in an entertaining — and toe-tapping — way as shown on her CD, *Gravity Vacation*, and the band will be playing many of Marsha's songs on July 8. It's sure to be a fun family event, so please join us for this free concert! No registration or tickets are required for this program, which is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.



Known for his graphic novel adaptations of Shakespeare plays, *Beowulf* 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.

- 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 great for adults, teens and older elementary school-aged children.
- On Saturday, July 29 at 2 p.m., picture book author Veronica Bartles 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 "refresh-

ing princess book that puts kissing in its place and rejoices in childhood idylls." Copies of Bartles' 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) Gareth Hinds.



Known for his graphic novel adaptations of Shakespeare plays, *Beowulf* 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.

# Safe Grow Garden Photo Contest



Is your lawn or apartment garden free of synthetic pesticides (including herbicides and fungicides) and safe for wildlife, pets and people? Snap a picture!

To raise awareness about Takoma Park's Safe Grow Act, we are launching a Safe Grow Garden Photo Contest. From **June to August 2017**, Takoma Park residents are encouraged to take pictures of their flowers, gardens and vegetables and share them with us.

### Contest Rules:

- All photographs must be original.
- Entries must be from Takoma Park residents.

- The garden, vegetables, plants or flowers featured must be from a lawn or apartment lawn that abides by the Takoma Park Safe Grow Act.
- Have fun!

Photos can be shared via social media using the hashtag #SafegrowTakoma or submitted via email to jeremyd@takomaparkmd.gov.

First, second and third prize winners will be announced at the first City Council meeting in September. Information on prizes and judges will be announced closer to judging.

If you have any questions, send us an email at jeremyd@takomaparkmd.gov. Happy snapping!

## Takoma Park Folk Festival: Counting down to Sept. 10

The Takoma Park Folk Festival (TPFF) is just two months away. In its 40th year, this beloved, free, all-ages, family friendly event will be held at Takoma Park Middle School on Sept. 10. Enjoy diverse music—including a youth stage, some dance and storytelling, a juried craft show and sale, non-profits doing great work locally and globally, delicious food, and more.

Applications for performers, artisans and food vendors have closed. Keep an eye on tpff.org to see who's taking the stage, participating in our juried craft show/sale and serving up delicious, global cuisine for all dietary persuasions. Want a sneak preview? Our friends at WOWD will be spotlighting performers, and we'll profile artisans and performers on our blog.

There are still lots of ways to get involved:

- **Shine the spotlight on your great work.** Engage with attendees from across the D.C. metro area. Community table applications are open. To apply, visit tpff.org. Questions? Contact tables@tpff.org.
- **Promote TPFF.** We're looking for volunteers to table at farmers markets, distribute flyers at businesses and



community gathering spots, and more. Students: SSL hours available. We also have yard signs! Contact media@tpdd.org to volunteer or request a yard sign.

- **Volunteer at TPFF.** There are lots of ways to be a part of the "behind the scenes" magic, including set up, tear down, information table, performer hospitality, parking, collecting donations for beneficiaries and more. Email volunteer@tpff.org, indicating specific interests and timeframe available. Students: SSL hours available.
- **Sponsor TPFF.** Donations help us make TPFF a free and accessible to diverse music and art fans. Contact donations@tpff.org for information. Attend! See you on Sept. 10 for a community experience that delights all the senses.

## 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 months before the legislative session 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 part, the opportunity to 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



Alice Wilkerson

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, thousands 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

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### 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

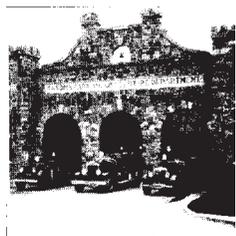
■ From page 8

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 Kalanithi'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.



## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

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 1196 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 time at the station compared to 1254 hours in May 2016. Grand totals as of May 2017 were 8042 hours compared to 6652 in 2016, an increase of 1390 hours.

### Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported that as of June 23, 37 people have died in fires compared to 24 in 2016.

### 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 the 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

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.

## 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.

Traveling away from home? Have you:	YES* If item is not Applicable, mark NA in this column	NO/Not Sure
Given the details to family or friends who can be contacted for emergency help?		
Checked the predicted weather forecast for your destination?		
Made a list of important numbers for medical, police, trauma or rescue units in the new location?		
Identified the nearest hospital or emergency room?		
Packed extra medications and any special items if you are stuck in a vacation area?		
Made a list of any allergies should you need emergency care?		
Checked to learn if your medical insurance will be accepted in your new location?		
Written/saved the contact information for your doctors and pharmacy back home?		
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?		
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.		
If you are driving, packed enough supplies and emergency items if the car breaks down?		
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)?		
<b>At home in Takoma Park, while you are away:</b>		
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.

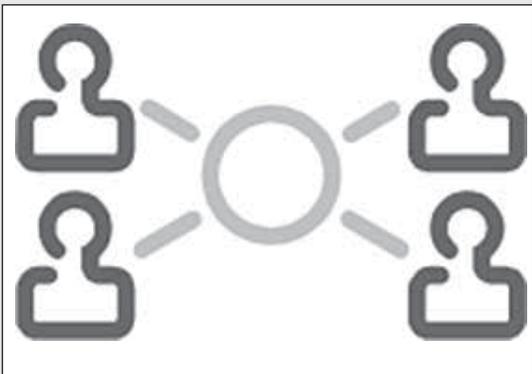
For additional information, visit [takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports](http://takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports).



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk)



# 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.



Photo: Rick Henry

Dalton Potter

"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, say 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 the first time to musicians and collectors who may pay upwards of \$50,000 for an instrument. It also means being able to provide a space for teachers to conduct master classes and for professionals to practice as well as performance space to hold concerts and recitals. And don't forget about a repair shop staffed with highly

for 10,000 square feet inside the Beltway," said Kelly. "We worked with a broker for 1.5 years and couldn't find anything."

Finally, in 2012, he said he came across the old Blair Mansion built in 1880. (It was last used as the Blair Mansion Inn before closing.) "I looked at it and liked it, but it needed a lot of work," said Kelly, adding that he had to convince Potter that the building could be renovated and used.

After finally convincing Potter, the pair then ran into trouble finding anyone to help finance the renovations. "Nobody would lend us the money to make the renovations," Kelly said. The pair eventually secured a loan from the First Bank of Wisconsin, and the renovation effort began.

"It was a huge undertaking," Potter said. "We literally had to strip everything down to the studs."

It was a process similar to the one applied to some of the vintage instruments that find their way into the company's shop - restore what was already beautiful into something even more grand and enable beautiful music to be produced.

For the community, that music will come forth in a variety of ways. Kelly said they are starting a Takoma Park Chamber Series with four concerts planned for next year. In addition, they have partnered and will continue to partner with the House of Musical Traditions to present some non-classical concerts in the facility. Members of the Maryland/DC String Teacher's Association are able to use the performance room for free, while others can rent the space to for a modest fee to conduct recitals.

Despite the expanded opportunities and services that are now available, both Potter and Kelly said that they will never lose focus on the students that come to them to learn, rent or purchase their first instruments. "We started out with student rentals," said Kelly, noting that the company rents thousands of instruments to students around the country each year. "Many of those students became players, professionals and collectors, and they come back to us in those capacities."

"Music develops social skills, abstract thinking and maturity," said Potter. "It is the key to making a better world." And Kelly and Potter never had a better venue from which to make a better world.



Photo: Rick Henry

Jim Kelly (right) and Dalton Potter

skilled, certified master technicians as well as a library filled with research books and computers to help staff authenticate and appraise classic instruments for customers.

"It's a hard balance to be everything to everybody," said Kelly, who on the day of this interview was heading off to Europe to research and purchase antique instruments. "We have grown to be a company with 25 employees, but are also trying to keep a 'mom and pop' feel."

Finding a location that would allow them to serve the many constituencies was foremost in Potter and Kelly's minds when they decided they would leave their original location. It also proved exceptionally challenging. "We were looking

## SILVER SPRING - TAKOMA THUNDERBOLTS

Charter Member Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League

### THUNDERBOLTS 2017 SEASON HOME SCHEDULE FOR JULY

Home games are at Montgomery Blair Baseball Stadium, 51 East University Boulevard, Silver Spring, Maryland in the Four Corners Area

Admission Prices: Adults - \$6.00; Children under 18 - \$2.00

Youth baseball and softball players in uniform and children under the age of 5 get in FREE

Mon.-Sat. games start at 7 p.m.; Sunday games start at 6 p.m.

Schedule is subject to change. Check website, [www.tbolts.org](http://www.tbolts.org), for updates.

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT
Saturday	7/1	Alexandria Aces
Sunday	7/2	Rockville Express
Monday	7/3	Herndon Braves
Wednesday	7/5	D.C. Grays
Thursday	7/6	Baltimore Redbirds
Friday	7/7	Loudoun Riverdogs
Tuesday	7/11	D.C. Grays
Wednesday	7/19	Gaithersburg Giants
Friday	7/21	Loudoun Riverdogs
Saturday	7/22	<b>RAIN MAKE-UP DATE (if needed)</b>

### HORTICULTURAL CLUB

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and beautiful," said Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart before a ceremonial ribbon cutting at the new garden.

Groundbreaking for the Centennial Garden took place last fall with City Gardener Mike Welch and his work crews planting oakleaf hydrangeas as a buffer between the garden and a neighboring property. Other plantings include native species like sweetspire, needle palm, fragrant sumac, winter hazel, white wood aster and bottle brush buckeye. "The plants were chosen because they are very hearty and mostly native," said Taffy Turner, a member of the Takoma Horticultural Club.

Most of the plantings also flower at different times of the year, keeping the garden looking fresh no matter when it's visited. The area was previously a barren spot along Philadelphia Avenue before being weeded and mulched.

"It's no longer a shameful point in the city," Welch said. "It's a point of real beauty."

Despite the ribbon cutting, there is still plenty more work to be done on the new garden. A stone pathway is planned in the fall along with edging work to keep weeds at bay.

"It's done as much as any garden is done," said club member Kathy Jentz during a speech before the ribbon cutting. "It usually takes about five years for a garden like this to grow into what was planned," Turner said.

And the club is always looking for com-

munity help to keep it looking beautiful. "We could use more people to come and weed," Turner said.

The new garden also features a park bench donated by the Casey family in honor of Clarence and Catherine Casey, longtime members of the horticultural club and avid gardeners.



Photo: Sean Gossard

Diane Eggensperger (left) and Takoma Horticultural Club member Anne Hardman check out some of the native species in the club's Centennial Garden.

"It looks beautiful," said one of the neighborhood children whom came to see the new garden next to Takoma Park Elementary School.

The Takoma Horticultural Club — founded in 1916 — holds community plant exchanges and education workshops as well as promote gardening in Takoma Park. For more on the Takoma Horticultural Club, visit [www.TakomaHort.org](http://www.TakomaHort.org).

# JULY '17

## Do you have an item for the city calendar?

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

"TP Community Center" is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park or Takoma, D.C., unless otherwise noted.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS OF NOTE

#### City Council

City Council Meeting, Wednesday, July 12, 7:30 p.m.  
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, July 19, 7:30 p.m.  
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, July 26, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Auditorium

*Note: The City Council will not meet on July 5. After the July 26 meeting, the Council will be on recess until September.*

Detailed agendas are always available for review online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas).

#### July 4th — 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 and monthly food supplements for needy families  
240-450-2092 or [educare\\_ss@yahoo.com](mailto:educare_ss@yahoo.com)  
[www.educare-supportservices.org](http://www.educare-supportservices.org)

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

#### Circle Time

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

#### The Spirit Club

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

#### Spanish Circle Time

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

#### Kid's Night Out

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

Fun and games for kids

#### Teen Night

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

#### Takoma Park Farmers Market

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

#### Community Self Defense

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

#### Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA)

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

#### Takoma Park's 128th Independence Day Celebration

Tuesday, July 4, 9 a.m. – 10 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.

#### Wine Tasting and Lecture

Tuesday, July 11, 6:30 p.m.  
El Golfo Restaurant, 8739 Flower Ave., Silver Spring  
Wine-maker and sommelier Damon Kalas, co-owner of The Urban Winery in downtown Silver Spring, will lead participants through

### VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENT

#### Trip to Frederick Douglas National Historic Park

Tuesday, July 25  
Join the Village at Takoma Park for a trip to the Frederick Douglas National Historic Site in Anacostia. Born into slavery, Douglass escaped as a young man and became a leading voice in the abolitionist movement. This trip is open to all. Stay tuned for details regarding transportation, time, and whether you need to register for this event. Visit [villageoftakomapark.com](http://villageoftakomapark.com) for updated information.

an exploration of fine wines, including his own as well as wines from Italy, Spain and South America. Useful for those who are puzzled about what to order at a restaurant, what to bring to a party, or who just want to understand wines better. Free. RSVP to [pgrenier@mhpartners.org](mailto:pgrenier@mhpartners.org)

#### Everyday Biking Seminar

Tuesday, July 11, 7 – 8 p.m.  
TP Community Center Auditorium  
The Everyday Biking Seminar is a short presentation designed to introduce the basics of how to safely and easily fit biking into your daily life.  
Free

#### Community Coffee

Friday, July 28, 8–9:30 a.m.  
Takoma Beverage Company, 6917 Laurel Avenue  
Join City councilmembers, Mayor Kate Stewart, and City staff for coffee and conversation. All residents are welcome to attend.



#### Lunch with the Mayor

Friday, July 28, 12 p.m.  
Tiffin, 1341 University Boulevard East  
Mayor Kate Stewart will be hosting lunches at restaurants in the Takoma Langley Crossroads neighborhood of Takoma Park, the city's neighborhood of international food, shopping and culture. Community members are encouraged to join! All lunches begin at 12 p.m. For more information and updates on any location changes, visit [takomalangley.org/lunch-with-the-mayor](http://takomalangley.org/lunch-with-the-mayor).

### ARTS AND LITERATURE

#### People's Open Mic

Sundays, 9 p.m.  
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.  
[www.republictakoma.com](http://www.republictakoma.com)

#### Drum for Joy! with Jaqui MacMillan

Mondays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.  
Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St.  
Learn hand drumming

#### Blues Mondays

Mondays, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.  
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.  
[www.republictakoma.com](http://www.republictakoma.com)

#### Open Mic Night

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

#### Jazz Jam

Tuesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.  
Takoma Station, 6914 14th St. NW  
Open mic for jazz musicians

#### Wednesday Night Drum Jams

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

#### Summer Drum Circle at the Gazebo

Wednesday, July 12, 7 – 9 p.m.  
The Gazebo (corner of Carroll Avenue and Westmoreland)  
The Summer Drum Circles at the Gazebo feature community drumming, dancing, hooping, hanging, laughing and everyone having a good time. All ages, family friendly, little or lots of experience welcome. Drums and instruments provided or bring your own. Bring a friend, a chair, some water and your rhythmic spirit.

#### Takoma Radio Anniversary

Sunday, July 16, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
7014-B Westmoreland Ave.  
Summer's coming, and Takoma Radio will celebrate its one-year on-air anniversary with special programming and a parking lot party. Visit the Takoma Park Radio Facebook page for more information.

#### Junior Soul at the Gazebo

Sunday, July 16, 10:30 a.m. – noon  
The Gazebo (corner of Carroll Avenue and Westmoreland)  
Junior Soul is a Takoma based funk influenced, jam inspired, jazz project. They play a mix of covers and originals that focus on getting even the most casual listener moving and shaking. Junior Soul pays homage to past masters while also forging ahead on a new path.  
Free

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Free Violin Concert at the Gazebo

Sunday, Aug. 27, 11 a.m. – noon  
The Gazebo (corner of Carroll Avenue and Westmoreland)  
More than 50 student violinists and guitarists from the House of Musical Traditions and the D.C. Youth Orchestra Program will play their instruments, led by music teacher Ken Giles. Most of the students are from 5 to 15 years old.  
Free

## WILKERSON

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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 representa-

tion.

**TP News: What are your biggest challenges and opportunities in advocating on behalf of the City's interests?**

**Wilkerson:** The main challenge is educating legislators outside of Montgomery County about the City and its needs. Legislators from other parts of the state, and even some from Montgomery County, don't realize that the City is a chartered municipality that provides a full range of services and community programs funded primarily by City property taxes. Many legislators are also unaware of the great diversity in Takoma Park. Many legislators from other parts of the state think all of Montgomery

County is like Potomac.

The biggest opportunity for the City is leading by example. The City has been very progressive on numerous policies from fair and affordable housing to expanded participation in municipal elections to community youth programs, environmental protections, and so much more. This allows the City to work with elected officials from other parts of the state, serve as advisors on best practices and testify on state legislation about these programs and policies and how they could benefit the entire state.

**TP News: What's the most important thing you want residents to know about what you do?**

**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.