Fun, folk and festivity return

By Helen Lyons

When most people think of folk music, they imagine bluegrass, banjos and straw hats or the twang of an acoustic guitar and the ballads of rural musicians lyricizing fondly about the countryside. Naturally, Takoma Park does it differently.

“Hip hop, soul, gospel, rap, rock bands – we’ve allowed anything,” explained Rob Hinkel, chair of the program committee and one of the performers in the percussive acoustic rock band hAIMY. “It represents the inclusiveness Takoma has always stood for. This is the music of the folk who live here.”

After last year’s hiatus, the Takoma Park Folk Festival returned last month to send off summer with six stages of performers, international food booths, a juried craft show and tons of games and activities for children.

The theme for the festival was “Celebrate 40 years of Community,” and plenty of locals and visitors alike came out to do just that.

“It’s so much fun,” said Lauren Schauf, who was enjoying the festivities with her husband, Zach, and daughter, Ada. “We spent the beautiful day dancing, making crafts and listening to music.”

Ada helped her mother weave at a community loom while a jug band played and African jerk chicken roasted on a grill.

“It’s a chance to show off your music,” said performer Special Ed. “All kinds of people come out to listen.”

The Takoma Park Folk Festival began in 2005, Takoma Park also earned 84 percent support of an advisory vote that where. Since a 2006 charter every city resident who’s at voting age has the privilege to vote, with more voters to provide a broader choice voting (RCV), “instant runoff” ballot.

“RCV is a simple change that gives voters a stronger voice in our elections and upholds majority rule. It takes on significance when there are more than two candidates, like in the Ward Two council race this fall. Rather than be limited to just picking one candidate, voters have provided voters with the power of a ranked choice voting (RCV), “instant runoff” ballot.”

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The Bele Bele Drum Collective performs during the 2017 Takoma Park Folk Festival.

Design for rehab of Eastern Avenue nearly complete

By Rick Henry

Action happens fast on Eastern Avenue, the thoroughfare at the southern end of Takoma Park that marks the boundary between Maryland and Washington, D.C. Such action involves drivers of swift moving vehicles of all types, focused on the immediate, with the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists not foremost in their minds.

When it comes to addressing these issues, however, action is a more deliberate process, involving public hearings and design revisions. It is a process focused on the long-term and one that takes the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists (along with many other considerations) into account.

It is that process that the Washington, DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) began undertaking in 2016 when it proposed improvements to the stretch of Eastern Ave. between New Hampshire Ave. NE and Whittier Ave. NW. The proposed improvements are designed to reduce vehicle speeds, improve movement and safety for both pedestrians and bicyclists and reconstruct non-ADA compliant features and deteriorating roadway infrastructure.

At a public meeting held Sept. 14 at Education First on Carroll Ave., DDOT officials shared details of their progress. The meeting was the second of two meetings that have been conducted to keep the public up-to-date on the latest designs and revisions, said Maura Danehey, public affairs specialist for the DDOT.

“We had the first public meeting in December 2016 after the design was nearly complete.”

DDOT officials shared at the second meeting that the design is nearly complete, with the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists not foremost in their minds.

When it comes to addressing these issues, however, action is a more deliberate process, involving public hearings and design revisions. It is a process focused on the long-term and one that takes the safety of pedestrians and bicyclists (along with many other considerations) into account.
The City Council awarded a contract for
lobbying services at the County level to
Alexander & Cleaver on Sept. 6, 2017 by
Ordinance 2017-43. The amount for the initial
year is $20,000. The contract may be renewed
for four additional years depending on
performance and the availability of funds.
On Sept. 13, 2017, the Council adopted
Ordinance 2017-44. The ordinance sets forth
details about the 2017 City Election, including
early voting dates and payment rates for
election judges and workers.
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 (search
“resolutions” or “ordinances”).

Stay informed about City
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list. You’ll find the subscription
form on the Council agenda
takomaparkmd.gov
page: takomaparkmd.gov/

Keep an eye on City
Council meetings and agendas!

Want to participate?
City Council meetings
are open to the public
unless noted otherwise.
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 (search
“resolutions” or “ordinances”).

As of TBD, there are vacancies or expiring
terms* on the following:
Board of Elections
Commemoration Commission
Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs
Committee on the Environment
Ethics Commission
Facade Advisory Board
Grants Review Committee
Noise Control Board
Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee
Recreation Committee
Safe Roadways Committee

City Board, Commission and Committee Descriptions

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

Commemoration Commission: documents, maintains, and preserves past, present, and
future memorials, commemoratives, and
recognition in the City; recommends to the
City Council procedures and programs to honor
and commemorate individuals, organizations
and businesses that have made significant
cositions to the Council.

City Clerk: oversees implementation and adherence to
the Ethics Ordinance.

Grants Review Committee: 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 or 301-891-7131).

Noise Control Board: assists and advises the
City on noise control issues, including
administration and enforcement of the Noise
Control Ordinance, and adjudicates two-party
noise disturbance complaints.

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee: oversees implementation and adherence to
the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act and
provides public information and issues related to
the Ordinance.

Recreation Committee: advises the City Council on how best to serve the diverse recreation
needs of Takoma Park residents.

Safe Roadways Committee: advises the City Council on transportation-related issues
including, but not limited to, pedestrian and
bicycle facilities and safety, traffic issues, and
transit services.

Are You Using Neonicotinoids?
This class of pesticide has been banned for sale or use in certain circumstances by the
Maryland Pollinator Protection Act, which was passed by the General Assembly in 2016.
The Act becomes effective Jan. 1, 2018. It does not prohibit use by certified pesticide
applicants, such as lawn care companies.

In order to protect bees and other pollinators, the City Council will discuss adding
neonicotinoids to the list of banned pesticides for use on lawns under the City's Safe Grow
Act. The work session is scheduled for Oct. 4. An ordinance amending the Act is tentatively
scheduled for Oct. 18 and Oct. 25. The Council welcomes comments on this and other
matters. Email comments to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.
Nuclear Free Takoma Park Committee as relevant as ever

By Sean Gossard

With North Korea grabbing headlines recently for expanding and testing its weapons program, the threat of nuclear war hasn’t weighed so heavily on American minds since the end of the Cold War, and the mission of the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee is as pertinent as ever.

“The consequences of nuclear war, even limited to a regional conflict, will have global consequences including climate change,” says committee member Paul Gunter.

Takoma Park is one of several dozen municipalities in the United States that makes a concerted effort to remain nuclear-free and to educate the public on the dangers of using nuclear energy.

Started in the early 1980s, the committee enforces the City Ordinance (Chapter 14.04 of the Takoma Park Municipal Code) to remain nuclear-free. The ordinance does not allow the producing, storing or transporting of nuclear weapons in the city nor does it allow the city to do business with companies that benefit from the nuclear industry.

While the committee offers recommendations on which companies the city can and can’t deal with regarding nuclear weapons, it is possible too for a waiver to be issued under certain circumstances. The city previously granted a waiver to purchase police scanners from Motorola, a company on the no-buy list. A waiver was also approved in 2012 after the library purchased computers from Hewlett-Packard without knowing of its ties to the nuclear industry.

For members of the committee — who are all volunteers — the passion to educate and make the world free from nuclear weapons goes deep. Julie Boddy has been on the committee for well more than 20 years and was motivated to help create a nuclear-free world after childhood bouts with radiation sickness and years of activist work in college. “I came to see the Takoma Park Nuclear Committee as a wonderful gift for addressing world-wide and heartfelt issues posed by nuclear weapons,” Boddy said.

Paul Gunter says his memories of nuclear war date back to the early ’60s. “I am old enough to recall the ‘duck-and-cover’ drills under my desk at school and the threat of nuclear war that the entire world faced during the Cuban Missile Crisis,” Gunter said.

Despite its Cold War-era roots, the committee has remained up-to-date — and even ahead of the curve — on current trends in nuclear advancement. “Our stated mandate is to help the City make socially responsible investments,” says Jay Levy, the chair of the committee.

In addition to divesting the City’s finances from nuclear weapons manufacturers, the committee hopes to extend that ordinance to include financial institutions that help fund the nuclear industry. That includes Sun Trust Bank, which the committee says currently has upward of $1.72 billion tied to investments in corporations that help fund the nuclear industry. “We are working with Mayor Kate Stewart and the City Council to accomplish this, which may be ground-breaking in terms of municipal government and socially responsible investing,” says Kevin Martin, a member of the committee and president of Peace Action and Peace Action Education Fund.

As for the threat of nuclear war with North Korea, the committee says it acts more locally than trying to lobby the federal government. “The Nuclear Free Takoma Park Zoning Act is an excellent example of ‘Think Global, Act Local’ approach to avoiding nuclear war,” Gunter says.

Martin does say it adds urgency to the committee’s work. “We are planning at least one educational forum on the United Nations treaty banning nuclear weapons — agreed to by 122 countries in June — and the North Korea situation this fall,” he says.

The educational forums are a huge part of the committee’s goal in increasing public awareness to the nuclear industry. “Our mandate from the City includes educating the public about these problems, what is being done to resolve them and what we in Takoma Park can do,” Boddy says.

And that can be a huge job for the committee of volunteers (as of September there was one seat open on the seven-member committee), who work without a budget. “We’ve really valued outside support and look forward to more of it, from committee members, as well as interns and volunteers,” Boddy says.

For now, the committee is reaching out to the public and always seeks input for educational programs it hosts. Residents interested in learning more about divesting themselves from companies linked to nuclear weapons can visit www.dontbankonthebomb.com, a database of companies that invest heavily in the nuclear industry and also those that limit such investments.

For more information about the committee, visit the boards and committees section of the City’s website. This committee meets monthly, and its next meeting will be on Tuesday, Oct. 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the TPCC Lilac Room.

Jay Levy, co-founder of the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee, stands with participants in a cross country march to the UN nuclear disarmament conference in 2010.
Grand Opening of the Takoma Park Silver Spring Community Kitchen

By Helen Lyons

Aspiring entrepreneurs mingled with politicians and community members over tasty food and drink at the Takoma Park Silver Spring Community Kitchen's grand opening celebration last month. "It's finally open and we're so excited," said Mayor Kate Stewart. "What makes me really happy is that this is the beginning of this launch of all these folks' businesses. These people are so talented. They're so dedicated, they're so skilled, and their food is so delicious. I'm glad that we've created this infrastructure that really helps them get their businesses off the ground."

The project, several years long in the making and the result of immense community collaboration, finally came to fruition, and plenty were on hand to mark the official beginning of the unique partnership on Sept. 16. "It's absolutely great," said Cheryl Sloan, whose previously home-based business of selling candied nuts was founded in 2004 after family members encouraged her to monetize what she baked for her traditional and delicious Christmas gifts. "This kitchen gives me the capability to make products for commercial shelves, for grocery stores."

The commercial grade kitchen, located in the basement of Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, will serve as a resource for graduates of Crossroads Community Food Network's (CCFN) Microenterprise Training program, which provides free and bilingual business training to locals who would like to start a food-related business — whether that means selling freshly prepared mason jar salads with a Caribbean and Southern flair to grocery stores (like Beverly Coleman's Gypsy Diva Fresh) or catering quinceañeras with authentic Guatemalan flavor (like Nancia's Antojitos by Nancia Sical). "The kitchen makes a big difference," said Mona McKenzie, who began Capital City Sweets and Treats after her son's gluten allergy inspired her to find ways to make eating his favorite treats possible. With some help from CCFN and Empowered Women International, she turned her tasty home baking into a profitable enterprise. McKenzie has been waiting for an opportunity like the TPSS Community Kitchen, and even petitioned for it. "I have people who help me grow my business now," she said.

The kitchen is over 1,100 square feet and features state-of-the-art commercial equipment, including a 20-quart industrial mixer, convection ovens that cook 30 percent faster than standard ovens, a six-burner range and a three-compartment commercial sink. The grand opening event featured an appearance by Representative Jamie Raskin (MD-08), who helped debut the first official salsa of Takoma Park, Sicai's District 20 Salsa, which is made primarily from fresh ingredients grown on the farm of local Jose Montoya. Montoya grew up in El Salvador and has been selling his produce at the Takoma Park Farmer's Market for years, and the label for the salsa was designed by Takoma Park graphic artist Laura DiCurcio. "Anything great is worth waiting for and fighting for," said Rep. Raskin, referring to the years it took for the project to become fully realized. "Everything about the project is stronger and better because of community input. People want to reclaim their food sources. People want local food, they want to know what farms it came from, and they want to make sure they're not supporting huge conglomerates a world away."

Rep. Raskin told the crowd of entrepreneurs and neighbors that the TPSS Community Kitchen makes Takoma Park "an even more special place."

"There's amazing support and solidarity," said Rep. Raskin. "It's a triumph."

To learn more about Crossroads Community Food Network and the Takoma Park Silver Spring Community Kitchen, including how to start a food-based business of your own, visit crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org. While the next session of the Microenterprise Training Program training is full, those who are interested in participating in a future session can send an email to kitchen@crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org. Residents with feedback about the operations of the kitchen are invited to submit their comments through the website.
SHAHNAMEH! Adventures from the Persian Book of Kings
With The Silk Road Dance Company
Saturday, Oct. 21, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Donations are welcome
A magical bird, an evil dragon, a clever princess, and a valiant hero bring to life the Shahnameh, an ancient masterpiece written over a thousand years ago. With vivid choreography and ornate costumes, Silk Road Dance Company presents fantastical tales from ancient Persia. Kid-friendly event.
Founded in 1995 by Artistic Director Dr. Laurel Victoria Gray, the award-winning Silk Road Dance Company presents traditional and contemporary women’s dances from Central Asia, the Middle East, and the Caucasus, offering a unique glimpse of the life and art of little known cultures, especially the Islamic world. The ensemble has performed internationally in Uzbekistan, Qatar, Singapore, United Kingdom, and Canada and throughout the United States dancing at some of the most prestigious venues in the area, including the White House, Kennedy Center, Library of Congress, and many embassies.

All events are free.

How Did We Get Here?
Marijuana’s Past, Present, and Potential Future
With Dr. Emily Dufton
Thursday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Recreational marijuana use is currently legal in eight states and the District of Columbia, and medical marijuana use is legal in 28 states and D.C. However, the country was not always so accepting of marijuana or its users. This talk will outline the history of marijuana activism, from the first pro-legalization protest in 1964, to widespread activist-passed decriminalization laws in the 1970s, to the rise of a national anti-marijuana parental movement in the late 1970s and ‘80s, to the slow rise of medical, and now recreational, marijuana laws passed over the past twenty years. Showing how grassroots activists have consistently been at the forefront of new marijuana laws, Dr. Dufton will discuss how marijuana has long been a symbol of larger debates over American rights, as well as a vehicle for activists’ evolving concerns and passions.
Dr. Dufton, a resident of Takoma Park, received her Ph.D. in American Studies from George Washington University in 2014. She has served as an ACLS Public Fellow at the Center for Public Integrity, and her writing has appeared in the Atlantic, the Washington Post, and History News Network. Her first book, Grass Roots: The Rise and Fall and Rise of Marijuana in America, will be released by Basic Books in December 2017.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading
With Indran Amirthanayagam, Nancy Naomi Carlson and Joanne Rocky Delaplaine
Thursday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

The World of Tomorrow: Vintage Movie Night with Richard Hall
Thursday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
We are Takoma is pleased to welcome Takoma Park resident Richard Hall back to our monthly film series offered in partnership with Docs in Progress. Please join us when Hall re-opens the archival vaults of educational and industrial films from the 1920s - 1970s to take us “back to the future.” These films offer a sometimes humorous, sometimes eye-opening, sometime cringe-worthy window into society and attitudes of other earlier eras.
Richard Hall is a documentary shooter, editor, producer and history buff. He is an editor for C-Span’s American Artifacts program and co-host of Docs in Progress’ Documentary Roundtable. His documentary on liberalism and conservatism in the United States, “American Feud,” which he co-produced with Simone Fary, was one of the first films screened by We are Takoma.

Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale
Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
Takoma Park’s 12th annual Holiday Arts Sale will be held this year on Saturday, December 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This popular annual event features work from 30 plus painters, potters, jewelers, crafters, photographers, and more. A juried sale, only original, hand-made work by local makers, artists and craftspersons is sold.

The Arts
**RECREATION**

**YOUTH**

**EXTENDED CARE**

After The Bell Childcare 2017-2018 School Year

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 in 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, pets, 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
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Kindergarten-5th Grade
10 months
MCPS school year
$1,250

**SPORTS**

Basketball Skills Clinic

Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of this skills clinic. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching which allows each person to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. This is a basketball class, not league play.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
6-12 years
7 weeks
Saturday, October 21 - December 16
$70

Futsal League 2018

Futsal, a sport that is similar to soccer, offers the perfect combination of learning and fun. It is designed to improve fundamental technique and skill development during the winter months. It’s also a great opportunity to meet new friends, stay in shape and prepare for the upcoming season. Please note that program registration is first come first serve and space is limited to 80 participants. Parents are encouraged to volunteer as coaches.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
6-12 years
8 Week Season
Saturdays, January 13
Resident: $70 / Non-resident: $80

Winter Basketball League 2018

The Winter Basketball League is a non-competitive, developmental, community league. Program goals are to: introduce boys and girls to the fundamentals of basketball - emphasize that playing the game and being a member of a team are more important than winning by not establishing league standings or having playoffs/championship games but rather encourage personal improvement, sportsmanship, and fun - provide comparable playing time for all participants - meet new kids from community and surrounding areas. Practice times (1 hour per day) throughout the week at each local school. Games are held on Saturdays, times vary.

Volunteer coaches wanted. Specific details regarding each league will be available at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation sports/winter basketball league.

Team Assignments: Co-ed divisions will reflect gender equity based on number of participants.

Special Requests: Requests must be submitted through ActiveNet at time of registration.

Various Local Schools
Gymnasiums
Kindergarten-8th Grade
8 Week Season
Games starting Saturdays, January 13
Resident: $70 / Non-resident: $80

**TEENS**

**DROP IN**

Teen Lounge
at the Community Center
Open Monday-Friday 3 – 7 p.m.
Closed on weekends

Power Hour
NEW DAYS
Monday - Thursday
4 – 5 p.m. in the Teen Lounge

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

First of Many

There’s something special about being the first, especially being the first in your family to attend and graduate from college. First of Many is a series of informative workshops to help you discover and take advantage of the possibilities offered for first-generation students. Find answers to your questions about college and receive guidance on the road to applying and getting the most out of college.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
8-12 years
Saturday, October 21
1 – 4 p.m.
Resident: $20 / Non-Residents: $30

**ADULTS**

Check out our Art classes online!

**FITNESS**

Cardio Kickboxing
Don’t miss out on the fun! We have a class that is in full swing. Join us at Takoma Park Recreation Center. Cardio Kickboxing is a great class to help you maintain your summer beach body. This class will improve your strength, aerobic fitness, flexibility, coordination and balance. Great music and a professional instructor will move you through the workout. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness

Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 and older
7 Week Session
November 2-December 21
Thursdays, 7:45 – 8:45 p.m.
Saturday, 9:15 – 10:15 a.m.
$75

Drop in: $10 each day

Gi Gong - Five Animal Play

This form of Gi Gong is one of the most ancient continuously practiced healing exercise systems in the world. Enjoy peaceful movements modeled on the crane, bear, monkey, deer and tiger. Participants will develop more strength, grace, flexibility, balance and healing in a relaxed group setting. You will feel the effects in your body, mind and spirit as you find more harmony with nature and yourself. No experience necessary. Instructors: Patrick Smith and Joanne Malone

Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 and older
8 Week Session
Tuesdays, October 10-December 5
(No class 11/7)
7 – 8 p.m.
Resident: $85 / Non-resident: $105
Drop-in: $15 (Check or credit card only; No cash)

Qi Gong - Waking Up Together

This class is a mindfulness based approach to relationships that deepens awareness of ourselves and our partners, fosters communication and awakens joyful energy. By utilizing mindfulness meditation practices and simple Qi Gong exercises, couples will learn ways to nourish the positive elements in themselves and one another. We will offer exercises in listening and compassionate speech. The class will meet for four sessions, every other week. No experience necessary, just an open heart. Wear comfortable clothes as there will be simple movements offered. Instructors: Patrick Smith and Joanne Malone

Takoma Park Community Center
Azalea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
16 and older
4 Week Session
Every other Wednesday
October 18-November 29
7 – 8:30 p.m.
Resident: $75 / Non-resident: $85

55+

TRIPS

Gaver Farm Trip

It’s a half day of school so why not have a little fun? Join us as we head out to Gaver Farm to pick your own Pumpkins. Gaver Farm’s Harvest Mania has a corn maze and over 55 farm attractions! We’ll take a hayride to pick your own pumpkins and apples! The market is also full of pumpkins, apples, mums, fall decor, cider, straw, corn stalks and squash. Also who doesn’t love apple cider donuts? Space is limited, so register today! Bring spending money.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Friday, October 6
1 – 5 p.m.
Free

Field of Screams Trip

Love being scared? Well plan to be terrified as you scream your way through the scariest haunted house in Maryland. Trip package includes the terrifying Haunted Trail, Slaughter Factory Haunted House, and the Hades’ Hayride. The Haunted Trail is themed as a Camp Fear where a group of 20 year-old campers once laughed, played and brutally died. Good luck surviving it! The hayride will take you through the dark and damp cornfield of this old farm which is haunted by several of the evil spirits that remain after the deaths of those who once lived here. Are you brave enough to make it through? Space is limited, so register today!

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
13-18 years
Saturday, October 21
6 – 10 p.m.
Residents: $20 / Non-Residents: $30

**FITNESS**

Tennis Fun and Fitness

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

**RECREATION**

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October 2017
Voter registration up to and including Election Day

If you are already registered at an address in the City, you need not register again.
If you are not registered, you may register to vote in Takoma Park elections if you:
- are a resident of the City of Takoma Park for at least 21 days prior to the election;
- will be at least 16 years old on election day; and
- do not claim the right to vote elsewhere.

U.S. citizenship is not a requirement for voting in Takoma Park elections.

Not everyone who registers to vote in City elections will be eligible to vote in county, state or national elections. Review the registration form carefully to understand the requirements for voting in the State of Maryland.

An individual is not eligible to be a registered voter of the City if the individual:
- has been convicted of a felony and is actually serving a court-ordered sentence of imprisonment for the conviction; (2) is under guardianship for mental disability and a court of competent jurisdiction has specifically found by clear and convincing evidence that the individual cannot communicate, with or without accommodations, a desire to participate in the voting process; or (3) has been convicted of buying or selling votes.

What's on the ballot?

There will be limited time for voters out of the country to receive and return a ballot by mail. Takoma Park residents temporarily out of the United States should apply as early as possible. Any registered voter may request to receive a ballot by mail. If residing locally, complete and submit in person after that date. There will be special pull-out sections for voting on Election Day.

Elections are held for the following offices:
- City Council
- Mayor

No puede votar en las elecciones de Takoma Park si: (1) ha sido condenado por un delito y está actualmente encarcelado por orden de la Corte; (2) este bajo custodia por discapacidad mental o, si lo estuviere, no ha sido determinado por la corte que usted no puede comunicar su deseo de votar; o (3) ha sido condenado por la venta o compra de votos.
Voting by Mail

Any registered voter may vote by mail – but don’t wait to apply if you will be away at college or out of the country!
If residing locally, complete and submit an application to the City Clerk no later than Oct. 31. Emergency requests may be submitted in person after that date.
Takoma Park residents temporarily out of the United States should apply as early as possible. There will be limited time for voters out of the country to receive and return a ballot by mail.
To be counted, vote by mail ballots must be received by the City Clerk before the polls close on Nov. 7. Applications are available online and at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Cualquier votante capacitado puede votar por correo – pero no espere para solicitar si está fuera de la ciudad asistiendo a una universidad o si está fuera del país. Para residentes de Takoma Park que se encuentren en el área, completa y somete una aplicación a la Secretaría Municipal para el 31 de Octubre. Se puede someter solicitudes de emergencia después de esa fecha pero puede que no haya tiempo de recibir y someter la boleta electoral para el 7 de Noviembre.
Residentes de Takoma Park que se encuentren fuera del país temporalmente deben solicitar ahora. Habrá tiempo limitado para votantes fuera del país para recibir y retornar una boleta electoral por correo.
Para que cuente un voto por correo, la boleta electoral debe ser recibido por la Secretaría Municipal antes que cierren las urnas electorales el 7 de Noviembre.

CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

KATE STEWART

It is an honor to be Mayor of Takoma Park. We have accomplished a great deal and laid the foundation for still more! Now more than ever, we must maintain what is special about our community and remain true to our values. To this end, we have proudly defended our Sanctuary City status and worked to keep ourselves a welcoming City that supports the rights of all people to live with dignity and respect. We have committed to upholding the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. We added a racial equity framework to the development of polices, practices and investments to address racial disparities and begin to dismantle institutional racism. We created an affordable housing fund and piloted the Home Stretch program, a down payment assistance program for first-time homebuyers. And, we are just getting started! I look forward to continuing the work we have begun together.

www.KateStewartforTakoma.com
KateStewartforTakoma@gmail.com

WHAT’S ON THE BALLOT?

√ Vote for mayor.
√ Vote for a city councilmember to represent your ward.

¿QUÉ HAY EN LA BOLETA?

√ Voto por el alcalde
√ Voto por un miembro del concejo de su distrito electoral

This Information Will Appear on All Ballots

Instructions
• Vote for candidates by marking your first choice, your second choice, and so on. You are free to rank only a first choice. Ranking additional candidates will not affect your first-choice candidate.
• Do not mark more than one box in a column.
• Do not mark more than one box for any candidate.
• To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, print the name in the space provided and mark the box that shows your ranking of the write-in candidate.

Esta Información Se Encuentrará En Todas Las Boletas

Instrucciones
• Vote por candidatos en orden de preferencia indicando su primera opción, segunda opción, y así sucesivamente. Puede clasificar solamente un candidato como primera opción. Eligiendo otros candidatos no afectará su primera opción de voto.
• No llene más de una casilla por columna. No llene más de una casilla por candidato.
• Para votar por una persona que no está nominada en la boleta, escriba el nombre de la persona en el espacio asignado y llene la casilla en la columna que corresponde con el orden de preferencia.

Each Ward Will Have A Different Council Contest

CITY COUNCIL - WARD 1
MIEMBRO DEL CONCEJO DEL DISTRITO 1

1st Choice Opción

PETER KOVAR

Write-in Candidate / Candidato Autonominado

CITY COUNCIL - WARD 2
MIEMBRO DEL CONCEJO DEL DISTRITO 2

1st Choice Opción

CINDY DYBALLA

Joe EDGELL

ASHLEIGH NUGENT

Write-in Candidate / Candidato Autonominado

CITY COUNCIL - WARD 3
MIEMBRO DEL CONCEJO DEL DISTRITO 3

1st Choice Opción

KACY KOSTIUK

Write-in Candidate / Candidato Autonominado

CITY COUNCIL - WARD 4
MIEMBRO DEL CONCEJO DEL DISTRITO 4

1st Choice Opción

TERRY SEAMENS

Write-in Candidate / Candidato Autonominado

CITY COUNCIL - WARD 5
MIEMBRO DEL CONCEJO DEL DISTRITO 5

1st Choice Opción

AMEE BEARNE

JARRETT SMITH

Write-in Candidate / Candidato Autonominado

CITY COUNCIL - WARD 6
MIEMBRO DEL CONCEJO DEL DISTRITO 6

1st Choice Opción

TALISHA SEARCY

JASON SMALL

Write-in Candidate / Candidato Autonominado

Voting by Mail

Any registered voter may vote by mail – but don’t wait to apply if you will be away at college or out of the country!
If residing locally, complete and submit an application to the City Clerk no later than Oct. 31. Emergency requests may be submitted in person after that date.
Takoma Park residents temporarily out of the United States should apply as early as possible. There will be limited time for voters out of the country to receive and return a ballot by mail.
To be counted, vote by mail ballots must be received by the City Clerk before the polls close on Nov. 7. Applications are available online and at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Cualquier votante capacitado puede votar por correo – pero no espere para solicitar si está fuera de la ciudad asistiendo a una universidad o si está fuera del país. Para residentes de Takoma Park que se encuentren en el área, completa y somete una aplicación a la Secretaría Municipal para el 31 de Octubre. Se puede someter solicitudes de emergencia después de esa fecha pero puede que no haya tiempo de recibir y someter la boleta electoral para el 7 de Noviembre.
Residentes de Takoma Park que se encuentren fuera del país temporalmente deben solicitar ahora. Habrá tiempo limitado para votantes fuera del país para recibir y retornar una boleta electoral por correo.
Para que cuente un voto por correo, la boleta electoral debe ser recibido por la Secretaría Municipal antes que cierren las urnas electorales el 7 de Noviembre.

CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR

KATE STEWART

It is an honor to be Mayor of Takoma Park. We have accomplished a great deal and laid the foundation for still more! Now more than ever, we must maintain what is special about our community and remain true to our values. To this end, we have proudly defended our Sanctuary City status and worked to keep ourselves a welcoming City that supports the rights of all people to live with dignity and respect. We have committed to upholding the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement. We added a racial equity framework to the development of polices, practices and investments to address racial disparities and begin to dismantle institutional racism. We created an affordable housing fund and piloted the Home Stretch program, a down payment assistance program for first-time homebuyers. And, we are just getting started! I look forward to continuing the work we have begun together.

www.KateStewartforTakoma.com
KateStewartforTakoma@gmail.com

WHAT’S ON THE BALLOT?

√ Vote for mayor.
√ Vote for a city councilmember to represent your ward.

¿QUÉ HAY EN LA BOLETA?

√ Voto por el alcalde
√ Voto por un miembro del concejo de su distrito electoral

This Information Will Appear on All Ballots

Instructions
• Vote for candidates by marking your first choice, your second choice, and so on. You are free to rank only a first choice. Ranking additional candidates will not affect your first-choice candidate.
• Do not mark more than one box in a column.
• Do not mark more than one box for any candidate.
• To vote for a person whose name is not on the ballot, print the name in the space provided and mark the box that shows your ranking of the write-in candidate.

Esta Información Se Encuentrará En Todas Las Boletas

Instrucciones
• Vote por candidatos en orden de preferencia indicando su primera opción, segunda opción, y así sucesivamente. Puede clasificar solamente un candidato como primera opción. Eligiendo otros candidatos no afectará su primera opción de voto.
• No llene más de una casilla por columna. No llene más de una casilla por candidato.
• Para votar por una persona que no está nominada en la boleta, escriba el nombre de la persona en el espacio asignado y llene la casilla en la columna que corresponde con el orden de preferencia.

Each Ward Will Have A Different Council Contest

CITY COUNCIL - WARD 1
MIEMBRO DEL CONCEJO DEL DISTRITO 1

1st Choice Opción

PETER KOVAR

Write-in Candidate / Candidato Autonominado

CITY COUNCIL - WARD 2
MIEMBRO DEL CONCEJO DEL DISTRITO 2

1st Choice Opción

CINDY DYBALLA

JOE EDGELL

ASHLEIGH NUGENT

Write-in Candidate / Candidato Autonominado

CITY COUNCIL - WARD 3
MIEMBRO DEL CONCEJO DEL DISTRITO 3

1st Choice Opción

KACY KOSTIUK

Write-in Candidate / Candidato Autonominado

CITY COUNCIL - WARD 4
MIEMBRO DEL CONCEJO DEL DISTRITO 4

1st Choice Opción

TERRY SEAMENS

Write-in Candidate / Candidato Autonominado

CITY COUNCIL - WARD 5
MIEMBRO DEL CONCEJO DEL DISTRITO 5

1st Choice Opción

AMEE BEARNE

JARRETT SMITH

Write-in Candidate / Candidato Autonominado

CITY COUNCIL - WARD 6
MIEMBRO DEL CONCEJO DEL DISTRITO 6

1st Choice Opción

TALISHA SEARCY

JASON SMALL

Write-in Candidate / Candidato Autonominado
**WARD 1**

**PETER KOVAR – INCUMBENT**

As a Councilmember, I’ve seen firsthand how Takoma Park rejects the cynical idea that government doesn’t work. I believe government can have a positive impact, and over the last two years, I’ve focused on providing proactive communication with Ward 1 neighbors; addressing individual residents’ concerns and seeking solutions to local challenges that require unnecessary divisiveness.

My priorities include making sure economic growth and development projects are compatible with our neighborhoods; promoting inclusiveness so everyone can participate fully in City life; keeping Takoma Park affordable for homeowners, renters and businesses; advancing sustainability by continuing our leadership on climate change at the local level, and improving quality of life through community-oriented crime prevention and more responsive local government.

I’d be honored to have the support of Ward 1 voters on Election Day, so I can continue working collaboratively with residents to keep Takoma Park the unique, welcoming, diverse City we all love.

www.peterkovarforcitycouncil.org
www.councilmemberkovar.com

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**CINDY DYBALLA**

As your councilmember, I will bring values I believe we all share: an inclusive community—ages, incomes, cultures, races; a sustainable community (environment, energy, local economy); and effective and efficient participatory government.

I have proven skills developed with city committees, community groups, and my professional work: current Committee on the Environment co-chair, Recreation Committee co-chair, Takoma Foundation board, Dorothy’s woods organizer and more.

I will listen carefully, engage all types of residents, broker consensus, and create practical solutions to our current challenges: affordable housing, policing, development, sustainability. I’ll expand outreach, host regular ward chats, share information and be accessible to all parts of our ward.

Whether you’ve lived here two years or 20 or more, you deserve a councilmember with the skills, relationships and practical experience to represent you and work as a team to keep Takoma Park the special place that brought us all here.

www.cindy4ward2.com
FB @friendsforcindy
indy4ward2@gmail.com

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**JOE EDGELL**

Experience, accountability, responsiveness and strong commitment to you and Takoma Park; all essential councilmember qualities I bring to the job. I believe in building consensus and getting things done. I support a clean environment, safe routes for our children to school, accountable government, and thoughtful, careful use of your taxes.

As co-chair of the Task Force on Environmental Action, a city committee, our unanimous recommendation ensured walkable, safe community; more walkable, safe community; more equitable, thriving, engaged, environmentally responsible and diverse.

www.joe4ward.com
twitter.com/electjoeedgell
Joe Edgell on Nov. 7!
Let’s make a difference, together. Vote for Joe Edgell.

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**ASHLEIGH NUGENT**

I am running for Ward 2 City Council with a commitment to affordability, responsible development, social justice, environmental sustainability and safety. I will provide a voice for all residents as we work to ensure that community planning and decision-making reflects the values, interests and needs of our diverse neighborhood.

We live in a city at the forefront of progress - where a great idea impacts thousands and inspires other communities, and to continue, it is critical that our Council looks and feels like the community it represents. Currently, there are no female councilmembers, and for Takoma Park to champion progress, the Council needs strong female leaders that can bring new perspectives and creative ideas to the conversation.

As a public interest attorney and advocate for underrepresented populations, I will bring a nonpartisan, persistent and passionate voice to the Council.

www.ashleighforward2.com
ashleighforward2@gmail.com

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**WARD 2 CANDIDATES**

**WARD 3**

**KACY KOSTIUK**

I have been active in the Takoma Park community since moving here seven years ago. I’m proud of our progressive values, diversity, environmental initiatives, art and music and just plain “funkiness.” I want to do my part to maintain and build upon these values.

I am a former member and chair of the Safe Roadways Committee, volunteer for Let’s Play Takoma, Returned Peace Corps Volunteer, international education professional and parent of two small children. As a city councilmember, I would increase community engagement, create a cohesive community, one in which we continue to have strong leaders into the future. I look forward to the campaign season and the community discussions of how we can continue our history of being a progressive, engaged and caring city. Thank you for your support and involvement.

www.kacyfortakomapark.com
facebook.com/KacyFortakomaPark
twitter.com/kacykostiuk
kacyfortakomaPark@gmail.com

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**WARD 4**

**TERRY J. SEAMENS – INCUMBENT**

I feel fortunate to have been part of bringing improvements to city services through the years since I joined the City Council in 1999. I look forward to continue serving city residents for another three years. I will work with my colleagues to bring sensitive development to our business districts, while maintaining the unique character, while doing more to ensure we build a community that is truly equitable, thriving, engaged, environmentally responsible and diverse.

www.ameebearne.com
Twitter: @ameebearne
Facebook: @ameefortakomaPark
Instagram: @ameebearne

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**WARD 5 CANDIDATES**

**AMEE BEARNE**

My husband and I moved to Takoma Park six years ago because of its progressive ideals, diversity and social consciousness. We also loved the farmers market.

I have been an active member of the community. I worked as the planning intern for the City, sat on the County’s Transit Advisory Board, and was a Takoma Junction advisory committee member.

As a renter I know how it feels to be forgotten. I organized a tenant association and host movie nights for the community so that everyone feels welcome.

www.ameebearne.com

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**JARRETT SMITH – INCUMBENT**

A graduate of Howard University in 1994, Jarrett was raised by parents who served the United States as career military and career government employees. Jarrett is running for his 4th term on the Council. Jarrett was involved with the Takoma Park community before his tenure as a councilmember, from being Chairperson of the Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs until his election to City Council in 2012, to being on the Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee (WAH-LUC).

Accomplishments this Term:
- Established the Old Town Historic Preservation Ordinance
- Led the creation of a Montgomery College Student Membership
-Led the creation of a Montgomery College Student Membership Growth & Development Fund for the City of Takoma Park
- Passed first legislation on affordable housing, policing, development, sustainability.
- Led the creation of a Montgomery College Student Membership Growth & Development Fund for the City of Takoma Park
- Passed first legislation on affordable housing, policing, development, sustainability.
- Secured SIM municipal bond funding for the Flower Avenue Green Street.

Passing the first Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance in Maryland banning plastic bags and advocating alternatives.
- Passed first Plastic Bag Ban Ordinance in Maryland banning plastic bags and advocating alternatives.
- President, Maryland Municipal League, Montgomery County Chapter.
- Passed first legislation on measuring the racial equity impact in Maryland.
- Led the creation of a Montgomery College Student Scholarship Fund for the City of Takoma Park.

Councilmember Smith is married and a devout Roman Catholic.

Twitter: @Jarrettsmith
Facebook: SmithforTakomaPark
SmithforTakomaPark.com
**WARD 6 CANDIDATES**

**TALISHA SEARCY**
Hello, my name is Talisha Searcy, and I want to be your next Ward 6 Takoma Park City Councilmember. As the former President of the New Hampshire Gardens Community Association, I learned that it takes residents and city staff working together to get things done. I look forward to listening and learning from all Ward 6 residents about what you would like to see in our community. Most importantly, I want to turn your wants into reality by developing strategies to:

- Champion the redevelopment of the Takoma Park Recreation Center.
- Drive smart economic growth in the Takoma/Langley business district.
- Prioritize the development of high quality affordable housing in Ward 6.
- Fight for lower taxes.
- Ensure state, county and city coordination.
- Manage the impact of Purple Line construction on Ward 6 residents and businesses.

Vote for me. Together, we can create the change needed to move Ward 6 forward.

TalishaSearcy.com
Talisha@TalishaSearcy.com

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**JASON SMALL**
I have lived in Takoma Park for over a decade, the past nine years in Ward 6 with my wife and now our two sons. I moved here because I appreciate the kindness and civility of the community. There are so many sincere and authentic people, mixing cultures and characters to make this place groovy.

More than any other reason, I am running because I would like it to stay that way. Ward 6 is the economic engine of the city and the centerpiece of its diversity. I am well equipped to represent both the changes that development will bring and the legacy that makes us special. In these times where our way of life feels under attack, and the world has become an uncertain place for so many, I want Takoma Park to remain a place that values all of us.

Dream big – vote Small.
smaljih@gmail.com
Facebook @dreambigvotesmall

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**Problems getting to the polls?**

The Board of Elections and staff will work to accommodate your special needs. You have options:

- Vote by mail. Complete an application for a mail-in ballot and submit it to the City Clerk.
- Check voting hours and locations. There are a number of options for early voting. All locations are accessible.
- Emergency absentee ballots can be arranged for a homebound voter.
- If language assistance is needed, contact Irma Nalvar te at 301-891-7214 or irmam@talomparkmd.gov. Call Jessie Carpenter at 301-891-7267 or email her at jessie@talomparkmd.gov for further information about emergency absentee ballots.

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**Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) is used in Takoma Park municipal elections:**

- The City Council amended the City Charter in 2006 after 84% of voters supported changing to IRV when the question was put on the ballot in the 2003 City Election.
- It accommodates voter choice to elect legitimate winners when there are three or more candidates.
- IRV discourages negative campaigning because victories may require candidates to be the second or third choices of the supporters of some of their opponents.

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**Sample Election with Three Candidates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank candidates in order of choice. (1 box per candidate, 1 box per choice)</th>
<th>1st Choice</th>
<th>2nd Choice</th>
<th>3rd Choice</th>
<th>4th Choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALEXANDER HAMILTON</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABIGAIL ADAMS</td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BENJAMIN FRANKLIN</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Write-in Candidate)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advice for Voting**

Mark your favorite as your 1st choice, followed by your compromise choices. Ranking compromises will not hurt your favorite. During the count, your lower rankings count only if your top choice loses.

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**Election Results and Swearing in of the New Council**

On the night of the election, ballots will be counted and results will be announced. The results will not be final until reported to the City Council at the certification meeting on Thursday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m. The new City Council will be sworn in on Wednesday, Nov. 15.

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**Instant Runoff Voting in City Elections**

**Segunda Vuelta de Elecciones Inmediata en las Elecciones Municipales de Takoma Park:**

- El Concejo de la Ciudad de Takoma Park enmendaron la Carta Constitucional en el 2006 después de que 84% de los votantes apoyaron el uso del sistema de segunda vuelta de elecciones inmediata cuando la pregunta fue incluido en boleta electoral en las elecciones del 2015.
- El sistema les permite a los votantes clasificar a los candidatos según su orden de preferencia cuando hay más de un candidato postulando por un cargo.
- El sistema desamina campaña negativa en la manera que una victoria puede requerir que los candidatos sean la segunda o tercera opción de los partidarios de algunos de sus adversarios.

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**Muestra de una Boleta Electoral con Tres Candidatos**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clasifique los candidatos en orden de preferencia (una casilla por candidato, una casilla por opción)</th>
<th>1st opción</th>
<th>2nd opción</th>
<th>3rd opción</th>
<th>4th opción</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>X</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Candidatos Autonominados)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Consejo para Votar**

Elige a su candidato favorito llenando el ovillo en la columna de 1ra opción al lado de l nombre de tal candidato. Luego elige el candidato de 2da opción y 3ra opción y así sucesivamente. Seleccionando más de un candidato en orden de preferencia no ayuda a derrotar su candidato de 1ra opción.
Meet the new Director of After the Bell: Q&A with Ranisha Harris

The Recreation Department has a great after school program call After the Bell at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave). We are pleased to have Ranisha Harris join us as the program director this year. Get to know her a little and stop by and say hello!

What previous experiences will help you as the new the After Bell Director?

I attended University of Maryland for psychology and was an advocate for children scholars program. While in school, I worked at Springhill Lake Elementary School as a reading mentor for two years. I was a summer camp leader and counselor in various summer camps over the years. This past year, I was a Project Change AmeriCorps member working with YMCA Youth and Family Services of Silver Spring. During the school year, I was a program leader for the YMCA Community Rec Zone Program at Albert Einstein High School. In the summer, I led a STEM summer camp in Northwest Park YMCA Community Center. I have always enjoyed working with kids in both academic and recreational settings, and I think that you can be very impactful and influential whether it be in a school setting or in a gym.

What are your long-term goals for the After the Bell Program this year?

Over the course of the school year, I want to create a fun and welcoming culture for the kids and make the After the Bell Program one to which they will always want to return. I would like to introduce new components and activities to the program. I am being brought up to date on how the program was before, and I am making sure I maintain the same level of enthusiasm from the previous years.

What made you want to become the After the Bell director for Takoma Park Recreation Department?

My first job ever was working as a camp counselor at a recreation center in Baltimore County, which is where I am from. I did that during the summer of my 10th and 11th grade years, and it pretty much solidified my career path in working with children. I was still practically a kid myself, so it felt very natural, and it was highly enjoyable. However, as I gained more experience working with kids of all ages and in different settings, I begin to see the underlying importance of being a leader for children, teaching them, guiding them, and protecting them. I pride myself in being a youth worker, and being the After the Bell Director is another role that gives me the opportunity to do so.

Monster Bash is Coming!

The City of Takoma Park Recreation Department will host our annual Monster Bash on Saturday, Oct. 28, 2017. Our events will commence with a Bash Kick-off at 1 p.m. in the public parking lot next to the TPSS Co-op. The Bash Kick-off is a great opportunity to visit with neighbors, family and friends while having fun playing games and experimenting with the Mad Scientist Lab. This will be followed by the Costume Contest and Parade down Carroll Avenue, and we will end our program with an Awards Ceremony and Celebration in Old Town Takoma Park. The parade will begin at approximately 2:15 p.m. on Carroll Avenue in front of the TPSS Co-op, and judging will occur during the parade itself. We will then walk down Carroll Avenue to Old Town Takoma Park to the intersection of Carroll & Laurel Avenues for the Awards Ceremony and a fabulous concert.

In order to hold the event and ensure patron safety, we will have the following anticipated road closures:

- The public parking lot next to the TPSS Co-op will be closed from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- The intersections of Carroll Avenue/ Ethan Allen, Philadelphia Avenue/Holt Avenue, Spruce Avenue/Park Avenue and Carroll Avenue/Philadelphia Avenue will be closed from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Rolling road closures will be at the following intersections: Park Avenue/ Carroll Avenue, Columbia Avenue/ Carroll Avenue & Tulip Avenue/Carroll Avenue from 1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
- There will be continuous road blocks at the following intersections: Westmo reland Avenue/Carroll Avenue, Carroll Avenue/Laurel Avenue, Laurel Avenue/ Willow Avenue & Laurel Avenue/Eastern Avenue from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.
- Ride-On and Metro bus service will be interrupted on the aforementioned streets from approximately 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Please check with the specific bus service to determine detour routes.
- We are expecting to re-open the streets by 7 p.m. During the time of the street closures, you will not be able to enter or exit your driveway.
- No parking will be permitted on both sides of the street of Lee Avenue from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
- No parking will be permitted on both sides of the street for Tulip (400-599) and Willow (700-7130) Avenues.

Please follow up with a visit to our website takomaparkmd.gov/政府部门/recreation/monster-bash to see the up-to-date information (including street closures) for Monster Bash.

If you live or work along the parade route, we encourage you to participate in the festivities by decorating your front doors and/or windows and dressing up in a costume.

In the event of inclement weather, the Monster Bash will be moved to Piney Branch Elementary School and the road closures will be lifted. To receive an update on weather conditions, please call our inclement weather line at 301-891-7101, ext. 5605.

The Recreation Department is looking for volunteers to help with both set up and breakdown of the event, costume judging for various age groups, barricade attendants, parade route coordinators and game booth attendants. Adults and teens are welcome to register at montgomeryserves.org (SSL hour approved). If you have any questions about the event, please contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290.

RECREATION

provided, but you can bring your own racket.

Instructor Coach SJ

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 and older
Thursdays, until November 16
12 – 130 p.m.
Free

Zumba Gold

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

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
750 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Saturdays, until December 2
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Free

TRIPS

Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park Tour
Sandy Spring, MD
Wednesday, October 11
8:45 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
For more information on trips contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, at 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov. Registration is required. For trip details and procedures please see the Forever Young Fall 2017 newsletter online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/news/forever-young-newsletter.

October 2017

Takoma Park News | Page 11
Book Sale Returns!

The Fall Friends of the Library used book sale will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the library lawn. In case of rain, the sale will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center. These sales continue to draw book lovers throughout the area. So come early for your choice of the best in children’s books, adult fiction and nonfiction in great condition – and at bargain prices! All proceeds from the Friends book sales are used to support Library services.

The library will accept book donations during open hours until Oct. 16. Donations must be in very good condition, of general interest, and more than three boxes must be brought by prior arrangement.

Authors Galore

This month, we have five wonderful events featuring a diverse group of top kids’ authors, thanks to our partnership with Politics & Prose bookstore. Politics & Prose will be selling copies of the authors’ books at each event, but the programs are free, and no purchase or registration is required to attend.

Our first event takes place on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m., when author Emma Otheguy will talk about her picture book biography of Cuban Freedom Fighter Jose Marti, Marti’s Song of Freedom.

Graphic Novelist Nidhi Chanani

Thursday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Chanani presents her new graphic novel, Pashmina.

Picture Book Creators Julie Segal-Walters & Brian Biggs

Monday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.
Segal-Walters & Biggs spotlight their new book, This Is Not a Normal Animal Book.

Authors Jeanne Walker Harvey

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m.
Harvey discusses her new picture book biography, Maya Lin, Artist-Architect of Light and Lines.

Winter Solstice Celebration

On Thursday, Dec. 21, join us to celebrate the Winter Solstice. Drummer Bill Jenkins will kick off our program with a drumming circle at 6:30 p.m. Then the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will swoop in at 7:30 p.m. with their songs, stories and dances.

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, Oct. 1, 1:30-3 p.m.
Building fun for ages 3-6.

Caldecott Club
Monday, Oct. 2, 7 p.m.
Come read some great possibilities for the 2018 Caldecott Medal.

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time
Saturday, Oct. 7, 10:30 a.m.
Madame Marie leads rhymes and songs in French.

Author Emma Otheguy
Tuesday, Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Otheguy talks about her new picture book biography of Cuban Freedom Fighter Jose Marti, Marti’s Song of Freedom.

Graphic Novelist Nidhi Chanani
Thursday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Chanani presents her new graphic novel, Pashmina.

Picture Book Creators Julie Segal-Walters & Brian Biggs
Monday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m.
Segal-Walters & Biggs spotlight their new book, This Is Not a Normal Animal Book.

Friends of the Library Big Book Club
Wednesday, Oct. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Our book is Our Mutual Friend by Charles Dickens; opening lecture by University of Maryland Professor William Cohen, followed by a reception

Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park, Md.
Note: Additional discussions will take place on Nov. 1, 15 & 29 – all at 7:30 p.m. – in the Takoma Park Community Center. All are welcome!

Author Chris Grabenstein
Thursday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Grabenstein presents his newest kids’ novel, Mr. Lemoncello’s Great Library Race

Friends of the Library Book Sale (see article)
Saturday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m. –3 p.m.
Library Lawn (Rain location: Community Center)
To volunteer to help at the sale, contact Pat Hanrahan at pat@pathanranhan.com

Kids Art
Sunday, Oct. 22, 2-3 PM

Scary Stories with Master Storyteller Candace Wolf
Monday, Oct. 23, 7-7:45 p.m. (ages 5-7);
7:50-8:50 p.m. (ages 8-13)

Mr. Lemoncello's Great Library Race

Our first event takes place on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at 7:30 p.m., when author Emma Otheguy will talk about her picture book biography of Cuban poet and political activist Jose Marti. In the book, titled Marti’s Song of Freedom, Otheguy details — in both Spanish and English — how Marti was inspired by the U.S. Civil War to lead an effort to free Cuba from Spanish rule. Reviewing the book, Kirkus noted: “In bringing an important life back into the conversation during divided political times, this book spotlights a steadfast hero and brilliant writer still worth admiring today.”

Next up, on Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7:30 p.m., graphic novelist Nidhi Chanani discusses her critically-acclaimed new book, Pashmina. In the book, Chanani tells the story of a girl named Piyanka, known as Pri, who is desperate to learn why her mother left India and moved to California years ago. But her mother refuses to discuss her flight, stating tersely that it is a “closed subject.” In its review of the book, School Library Journal stated: “This dazzling blend of realistic fiction and fantasy is perfect for fans of characters who have to overcome obstacles on their way to growing up.” Kirkus, meanwhile, noted: “An original graphic novel, the first written and illustrated by an Indian-American creator, this is both a needed contribution and a first-rate adventure tale.”

On Monday, Oct. 16 at 7 p.m., author Julie Segal-Walters and illustrator Brian Biggs will talk about their zany new picture book, This Is Not a Normal Animal Book. While the book is supposed to be about different kinds of animals, it ends up being a hilarious battle between the author and the illustrator over their Apache and Xicano cultures.
Safe Routes to School: Pop Up Event

The Pop Up Infrastructure event is one way in which SRTS engages with the community on the important task of keeping our students safe. Parents are invited to comment on the Pop Up and other SRTS programs by contacting the SRTS Coordinator at 301-891-7119.

For over 10 years, Safe Routes to School has worked with area schools, parents, and the Takoma Park Police to ensure that Takoma Park youth can travel to school safely on foot or by bike. Takoma Park SRTS has been awarded federal funding consistently to use for infrastructure improvements, programs and events that enhance our walkable, bike-able community. Education and encouragement form the basis for SRTS programing. Students enjoy bike rides, crosswalk activities and participation in Walk to School Day and Bike to School Day and more. The Takoma Park 5K Challenge brings it all together in a fun-filled family race in early May each year.

On Wednesday, Oct. 4, school staff, parents and students are invited to participate in Walk to School Day. Please check with the school administration or PTA to find out how your school plans to celebrate this year. Families are encouraged to walk on Oct. 4 and every day! Not only is walking to school fun, it is good exercise. Leaving the car at home produces less stress, less congestion around the schools and reduced emissions.

New solar streetlights unveiled

Last month the City held an unveiling ceremony for two newly installed solar streetlights outside of the Takoma Park Community Center and eight solar-powered crosswalk lights at Grant and Maple Avenues.

The City is thrilled to participate in a pilot program in partnership with UNO, a South Korean business, and the Korean Institute for Energy Technology Evaluation and Planning. The City’s ongoing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also will illuminate a footbridge, which will increase overall pedestrian safety. Takoma Park is committed to fostering an environmentally sustainable community, and this addition furthers that commitment.


AUTHORS GALORE

who’s actually in charge of the story. In its review, Publishers Weekly called This Is Not a Normal Animal Book “a knowing and witty examination of...”

As before, Gra- benstein blends suspenseful adventure, humor, and wishful thinking. He makes some political statements, too. At one point, Lemongello’s lawyer reminds the researchers that “public opinion can often be swayed by emotion with little regard for facts.” Good entertainment with some meaningful messages.”

INSTANT RUNOFF

From page 1

have the freedom to rank the candidates in order of choice. It’s used in more than a dozen cities and was adopted last year for Maine’s elections for U.S. Senate, U.S. House and state offices.

All first choices are counted. Any candidate with a majority of votes wins, just like in any other election. If not, the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and voters of that candidate have their ballot instantly counted for their next choice. This process continues until a candidate wins with a majority of votes.

In Takoma Park’s first use of RCV in 2007, Reuben Snipper won a special election for Ward 5. He later wrote that “because candidates in a crowded field are unlikely to earn a majority of first choices, they need to reach out to opponents’ supporters in order to earn second and third choice rankings. Negative campaign tactics make it almost impossible to do this effectively. [RCV] meant that when I knocked on a door, if a person indicated they were going to vote for another candidate, I didn’t just leave right away. I tried to persuade them I would be a good second choice.” That’s consistent with academic studies of RCV’s impact in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Oakland and San Francisco.

This fall Ward 2 has three candidates working hard for votes: Cindy Dybalia, Joe Edgell and Ashleigh Nugent. Keep in mind that your second choice never counts against your first choice, but it may help defeat your last choice. That means you have every incentive as a voter to pick a first and a second choice as a backup. And the candidates have every incentive to look for common ground with backers of other candidates.

Of course someone might win outright in the first round by being ranked first by more than half the vote. But the incentives of RCV will still have encouraged candidates to engage with more voters. As we look ahead to big field races in Maryland -- like next year’s Democratic primaries for governor, county executive and the at-large county council seats and the 2020 election for president -- many voters may wish that RCV was simply how we always voted. The case for change is as easy as 1-2-3.

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“Being chosen as a testing site for this new solar streetlight driver technology is really exciting,” said Gina Mathias, sustainability manager. “Takoma Park will be able to provide feedback which will help the company develop better, more efficient, more sustainable products to cities around the world.”

The project not only compliments the City’s ongoing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but also will illuminate a footbridge, which will increase overall pedestrian safety. Takoma Park is committed to fostering an environmentally sustainable community, and this addition furthers that commitment.


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Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported that as of Sept. 27, 51 people have died in fires compared to 38 in 2016.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of Sept. 27, 39 children have died across the country in hot vehicles. It’s a must that when you leave your vehicle, everyone leaves with you. Check the back seat, and don’t forget to lock your vehicle.

Fire safety message

When using an “emergency generator,” it must never be operated anywhere in your home. This includes in the garage.

Fire safety presentation “Fire Safety in the Home”

The Takoma Park VFD will again present this very special presentation. We’ll discuss very important information that you and your family need to know in the event of an emergency, especially if it is a fire. It will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 10 from 7:30–9 p.m. in the meeting room in the rear of the Takoma Park fire station. You must register, call 240-773-8954. It’s free.

STAY CONNECTED!

The City of Takoma Park strives to keep residents engaged and informed in a number of ways including social media, the City website, and public safety notifications via email and text, to name a few. Here are 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 @TakomaParkMD and on Instagram.
- 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

COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED

The Takoma Park Committee on the Environment has room for new members. Several positions are open, primarily due to term limits. The COE focuses on environmental, sustainability and energy issues in the City, both policies and practical programs. Since its creation by the City Council six years ago, the COE has contributed in such varied areas as the citywide home energy challenge, polystyrene and plastic bag ordinances, a proposed tree canopy goal, and establishing a sustainability city program.

The COE wants to broaden membership by adding members from wards 3, 4 and 5, as well as small business and nonprofit members and residents from underserved groups. To learn more, attend a meeting, or contact one of the co-chairs, Satjiwan (satjiwan_lhalsa@hotmail.com) or Cindy (c_dyalb@yahoo.com). The City Council appoints all COE members. The application for committee membership is on the City website: takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees.

Limiting Post-Disaster Emergencies

By Claudine Schweber, Co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

You’ve read about the devastation and seen families in rowboats and at shelters in Texas and Florida. Here in Takoma Park we’ve experienced blizzards, tornadoes, rainstorms and flooding, power outages, hail storms, and the side effects of hurricanes. As you watched the situations in Texas and Florida, were you thinking “Whew, I’m glad that I’m not there right now!” or “What would I do?” The recent hurricanes remind us to take care now to limit post-disaster emergencies.

Need to make a quick get away? Separated from others?

- Make a communications plan that includes where to meet again, phone numbers for contact people, who contacts whom, and contact numbers for emergency personnel in your area.
- Designate an out-of-area contact person.
- Buy a battery-operated cell phone charger.

Stuck indoors with no power?

- Keep the following items on hand: battery- or solar-powered radio, extra batteries, and canned food with water inside and pull-up openers.
- Do not light candles or turn on gas stoves, which can lead to post-disaster disasters, such as fires or gas inhalation.
- Have an emergency supply kit: food for three days, safe drinking water, first-aid kit, and more. These supplies will also help if you must evacuate. For more information about what to include in your kit, visit www.ready.gov/build-a-kit or get flyers from the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Love your dog/cat and refuse to be separated?

- Now, while it’s calm, check which shelters that take pets, not all do; the same with hotels. You and your pet may be inseparable, but do you want to stay together until death?
- Also, you will need an emergency preparedness kit for your pet. The short video, “Emergency Preparedness for Pet Owners,” explains how to create one: www.youtube.com/watch?v=98dPpNEEd.

Concerned about your neighbors?

- Check in with them before the disaster and check to see how well prepared they are. Whether the person is elderly, disabled or scared, this is Takoma Park, where we know our neighbors and care about each other.
- Take a look at this Takoma Park video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEdlbfPfJql.

Worried about having enough medicine?

- Get an extra supply of medication as soon as you hear there may be a natural disaster.
- Make a copy of the prescription and keep it in a safe and easily accessible place and a list of doctors, medications, and health insurance information. Give a copy to your out-of-area contact.

Feeling overwhelmed?

- Check out Do It, a website that offers once-a-month suggestions and ideas: dolishing.com
- Finally, have some fun—really! While it’s calm, play the Stop Disasters Game created by the United Nations: www.stopdisastersgame.org/en/home.html
- Questions, ideas, concerns? Contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126.

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.
in 1978 as a fundraiser organized by Sam Abbott (who later became Takoma Park’s mayor) to save the Takoma Theater. An exhibit in the hallway at Takoma Park Middle School, where the outdoor festival was hosted, paid homage to the celebrations of years past and displayed memorabilia.

The festival is the sum of countless volunteer hours made by dozens of people, including Festival co-chairs Sarah Lanning and Robin Steam. From constructing and then tearing down the stages to designing and printing brochures, it’s a process that takes months of hard work.

“Seeing everybody out here, having a good time, it’s all worth it,” said Lanning. George French has been volunteering for the Folk Festival for 15 years. “It’s nice to contribute to the folk scene,” said the festival veteran. “It’s given us so much, it’s good to be able to give something back.”

Some festival-goers were marking their tenth, twentieth or thirtieth celebration of the local music scene. Children with ice cream cones and bicycles were enjoying their first.

“The idea is that this folk festival allows things that aren’t the stereotype of folk,” said Hinkal. “We’ve got storytellers of all sorts, including a 20-person West African djembe band.”

Because of the D.C. area and what it is, all these people are a part of our community, which is really stunning. And Takoma Park Folk Festival isn’t turning any of that away because it doesn’t look like or sound like what people expect folk music to look like or sound like. This is our folk music. These are our folk.”

Takoma Park Youth Council: Applications Open!

In Takoma Park, we believe that everyone should be able to have their voices heard, no matter their age! Keeping to this idea, the City Council has newly established a Takoma Park Youth Council to provide an opportunity for the youth in our community to actively participate in their government.

The Youth Council will serve their fellow youth by:

• Informing the Takoma Park municipal government of the needs and wishes of youth
• Planning and implementing social, educational, cultural and recreational activities for the youth;
• Working with the Mayor, City Council, City department heads, schools, civic clubs and service organizations to provide service and leadership opportunities for the youth of the City; and,
• Helping to instill a feeling of positive self-worth and esteem, teaching respect for the rights of others, and promoting community pride.

Who are we looking for?

The Youth Council will consist of nine members in grades 7 through 12, with at least one member representing each of Takoma Park’s six wards. Additionally, members must meet the following qualifications:

• Remain residents of the City and the ward they may represent;
• Attend at least 75 percent of Youth Council meetings;
• Maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average for the current school year;
• Fulfill the responsibilities of the office held; and,
• Set an example for youth in the community.

How can youth apply?

We’re so excited that you’re ready to be the voice for your friends and peers! Applications can be completed and submitted to the City Clerk by Friday, Oct. 13, 2017.

We’re thrilled to begin this new initiative and can’t wait to see the Youth Council in action. For a complete overview of the expectations, duties, and responsibilities, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/takoma-park-youth-council.

Takoma Park Recreation Department
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912
(301) 891-7409 • www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation

TKPK Teen Talk: Election

ONE DECISION CAN CHANGE THE FUTURE!

THURSDAY, NOV. 2ND
6:30 P.M.- 8:30 P.M.
TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER, AZALEA ROOM

Residents ages 16 and over can register to vote in Takoma Park municipal elections for Mayor and City Council members. Teen and Young Adults: Join us to learn more!

MEET THE CANDIDATES
Q&A Forum for teens & young adults

YOUR VOTE YOUR VOICE

For more information visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation
**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

**Circle Time**  
Tuesday, 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**  
Wednesday, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Therapeutic recreation class for Takoma Park residents 17 and older. This class is designed for adults with developmental/neurologic challenges. For more information, contact Jared Ciner at jciner@spiritclub.com  
202-483-3834

**TPCC Ucc Room**  
Free

**Spanish Circle Time**  
Thursday, 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.  
Join Senora Gea 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

**Teen Night**  
Second and fourth Fridays, 7-15 – 8:30 p.m.  
Takoma Park Recreation Center

**Takoma Park Farmers Market**  
Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Year-round  
Laurel and Carroll avenues in Old Town

**Crossroads Farmers Market**  
Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
Flexible schedule

**Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry**  
First Saturdays, noon – 3 p.m.  
Grace United Methodist Church, 2001 New Hampshire Ave.

**Free and open to all**  
**Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**  
TPCC Church Community Center

**African American Voting Rights Lecture**  
Wednesday, Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, 310 Tulip Avenue Dr. Susan Strasser, award-winning historian, author, and Richards Professor of History Emeritus at University of Delaware, will speak on African American voting rights from the promise of Reconstruction through Jim Crow and the Civil rights movement to the issues in today’s news. This talk is the third in Dr. Strasser’s series, “A White Historian Reads Black History.” Her previous talk addressed slavery and lynching.

**Lunch with the Mayor**  
Friday, Oct. 13, noon – 1 p.m.  
Tijuana’s Mexican Café, 499 University Blvd. E.  
You are invited to join Mayor Kate Stewart as she hosts lunch at the restaurants in the Takoma Langley Crossroads – Takoma Park’s neighborhood of international food, shopping and culture.

**Suburban Deer Management Presentation**  
Monday, Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m.  
TP Community Center, Auditorium

Members of the public are invited to a discussion on suburban deer management. George Timko, deer management expert from Maryland DNR, will conduct the presentation. The presentation will last about 30 minutes and will conclude with a Q&A session. For questions please contact Rick Barovich at duane@takomaparkmd.gov.

**Second Annual Discover Long Branch 5K Walk/Run**  
Sunday, Oct. 15, 7:30 a.m.  
To sign up as a participant, go to my.racewire.com/event/9423. To volunteer, contact John Angel at john21309@yahoo.com. Funds raised will be used to support youth programming in Long Branch.

**Friends of the Library Book Sale**  
Saturday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
Takoma Park Library

**Monster Bash 2017**  
Saturday, Oct. 28, 1 – 6 p.m.  
Starting in front of the TPCC Co-op and walking down Carroll Avenue to Old Town Takoma Park

**With Monster Bash right around the corner the Takoma Park Recreation Department staff is preparing for a host of events that are designed for the entire family. Enjoy games, activities and music in front of the Co-op, followed by the costume parade down Carroll Avenue. We will end the festivities with the costume award ceremony and celebration in Old Town Takoma Park. For additional information call 301-891-7948. If you would like to volunteer for this event, register online at montgomerycountymd.gov. Due to the nature of this event walk is encouraged.**

**Aging Well Network**  
Tuesday, Oct. 31, 7 a.m. – noon  
TP Community Center, Azalea Room

Emily Young, LSW, LGSW, Bennett Coordinator, Holy Cross Home Care and Hospice will lead a discussion on dealing with grief in the wake of a loved one. Free and open to all; no pre-registration required. Refreshments provided. For more information, please visit villageoftakomapark.com.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

**VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENTS**

**Friendly Visitors Volunteer Orientation**  
Monday, Oct. 16, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
TP Community Center, Rose Room

Orientation session for those interested in visiting a TP senior once a week for an hour. Please register by calling The Village of Takoma Park at 301-649-2109 or email sandysveganretired@gmail.com.

**Village Rides Volunteer Orientation**  
Tuesday, Oct. 17, 7 – 9 p.m.  
TP Community Center, Rose Room

Orientation session for those interested in driving TP seniors once a month or more. Please register by calling The Village of Takoma Park at 301-649-2109 or email sandysveganretired@gmail.com.

**Second Annual Discover Long Branch 5K Walk/Run**

Make a Difference - Plant a Tree

The season is right to plant trees, and in Takoma Park that means residents can help revitalize the aging tree canopy in the city. The city offers added incentive by reducing the cost of the first tree purchased by $100 (unless it is a replacement tree as part of a Tree Removal Permit). That means residents can add a $395 tree to their yards for just $95 plus 6 percent sales tax, a total of $100.70. Add a second tree and the bill is still only $307.40, planted and guaranteed for one year.  
Established discounts still apply as well, through the city’s annual bulk buy tree sale. As a purchasing agent with Arbor Landscapers, the city is the leading supplier available at wholesale prices. Swamp white oak, Princeton elm, bald cypress, black gum and American linden— all native shade trees—are usually restocked for about $350—available to residents at $195, installed.

**Halloween Tree Walk**  
Sunday, Oct. 29, 1:30 p.m.

The Takoma Park Tree Commission invites the community to a Halloween Tree Walk with Jan van Zutphen, the City’s new urban forest manager. The festive walk will begin at 1 p.m. at the entrance to Takoma Park’s Public Works Department at 31 Oswego Avenue, which is off Fitchie Avenue and down the street from Heffner Park. It will continue through the nearby neighborhoods of Ward 4, as Jan and tree commissioners share helpful information about tree planting and care and discuss the greatest trees along the way.

No tricks are planned, but seasonal treats will be served at the walk’s end around 3 p.m. at the Heffner Park Community Center. Costumes are by no means required or expected. But for those so inclined, costumes are welcome, especially ones that celebrate the diversity of life in our urban forest. For inspiration, consider everything leafy and the variety of feathered, furry, buzzing, crawling and otherwise gifted creatures who would all love to have a tree to live in. Toddlers and children are welcome. For more information, email treecommission@takomaparkmd.gov.