City Manager Suzanne Ludlow will present the Proposed FY 2019 Budget to the City Council and the public on April 4. Her draft budget proposes to increase the tax rate by 1.02 cents and phase in five new staff positions to address the priorities recently set by the City Council (see page 9) and the need to be proactive as regional changes occur.

Ludlow proposes to increase the tax rate from $0.5348 to $0.545 per $100 real property valuation. Because property assessments have increased over the past year, keeping the rate the same will increase real property tax revenue by about $653,000. The additional 1.02 cent rate increase would add about $244,000.

“We are in a time of transition in Takoma Park right now,” said Ludlow. “It’s both exciting and challenging. We have the Purple Line coming in, we have a housing and economic development strategic plan to implement, we have three large projects that are moving into the construction phase all at once, and we need to make sure what it takes to get something done.”

City Manager proposes new staff, tax increase to advance priorities

By Helen Lyons

Students walked out of Montgomery Blair High School twice last month to advocate for gun control following the shooting at a Parkland high school in Florida this February.

Chanting slogans like “enough is enough” and “our blood, your hands,” demonstrators marched from Blair to the nearest metro station and then took trains into downtown D.C. where they protested in front of the Capitol and White House.

“We have a serious gun issue in this country that our policy making institutions aren’t addressing,” said Blair student Ben Miller, “and when problems like that are occurring, popular outcry is typically what it takes to get something done.”

Rallying to raise awareness


Photo: Helen Lyons

Students at Montgomery Blair High School walked out to protest gun violence

Time for T-Ball! Details on page 6.

FY2019 BUDGET ☐ Page 8

Budget Highlights

- Budget structured to implement City Council Priorities
- Increase of tax rate from $0.5348 to $0.545 per $100 valuation
- No increase in stormwater fee
- Creation of economic development division in Housing and Community Development department, with two new staff
- Better aligning of structure of police department to meet community policing vision, with two new officers
- Add staff person to Human Resources division
- Make $200,000 contribution to housing reserve
- Major street and library projects underway
- Continued work on sustainability and youth outreach efforts

FY 2019 Budget and Public Hearing Schedule

Wednesday, April 4 – 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium
Presentation of the City Manager’s Recommended Budget

Saturday, April 7 – 2 to 5 p.m. in the Azalea Room
Budget Open House (Learn about the proposed budget and ask questions. Child care will be provided during the open house.)

Wednesday, April 11 – 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium
Public Hearing on the Proposed Budget

Monday, April 16 – 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium
First Budget Work Session (Council Priorities)

Monday, April 23 – 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium
Second Budget Work Session (Capital Projects)

Wednesday, April 25 – 6:30 p.m. in the Auditorium
Public Hearing on the Constant Yield Tax Rate
Public Hearing on the FY 2019 Budget

Monday, April 30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium
Third Budget Work Session (Overview of Departmental and Non-Departmental Budgets)
Budget Reconciliation

Wednesday, May 2 – 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium
Final Budget Reconciliation

SCHEDULE ☐ Page 8
On Feb. 21, 2018, the City Council adopted Resolution 2018-12 and 2018-13. Resolution 2018-12 authorized submission of the proposed FY 2019 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. The City anticipates receiving $91,000 from the CDBG program and proposes to use it for streetscape and ADA improvements. Resolution 2018-13 endorsed FY 2019 Living Wage Rate Established Every contract for the provision of services awarded after a competitive bid or proposal process requires the contractor and any subcontractor to pay each employee assigned to perform services under the City contract a living wage rate of $14.75 per hour. Effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, the Takoma Park living wage rate will be $14.75. Certain contracts are exempted from this requirement. Additional information can be found at https://takomaparkmd.gov/services/bids-contracts.

City Council Action

State legislation – HB 988 – 2020 Census Grant Program – Establishment and Funding. At the City Council meeting on March 7, 2018, the City Council adopted its Priorities by Resolution 2018-14. The priorities inform the development of the City Manager’s Recommended Budget and, more generally, indicate the strategic direction the Council intends to move the City during its term. Also on March 7, 2018, the Council adopted Resolution 2018-15 requesting that Montgomery County Public Schools consider a new school site in the Takoma Park area and that MCPS study the feasibility of using the Washington Adventist Hospital campus as a school site. The Council adopted two procurement ordinances on March 7, 2018. Ordinance 2018-9 awarded a contract for a stormwater rate study to Black & Veatch. The first phase

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS
TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
Wednesday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.
All in the TPCC Auditorium

CITY COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSIONS
Monday, April 16, 7:30 p.m. (Budget Work Session)
Monday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. (Budget Work Session)
All in the Takoma Park Auditorium

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Monday, April 9, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Monday, April 9, 7:15 p.m.
TPCC Lisas Room

ETHICS COMMISSION
Wednesday, April 4, 7 p.m.
TPCC Atrium Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 26, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 10, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lisas Room

POLICE EMPLOYEES’ RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE
Tuesday, April 2, 8:30 a.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, April 19, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION
Tuesday, April 10, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

YOUTH COUNCIL
Monday, April 9, 6 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. Schedule changes can occur after the Takoma Park Newsletter deadline. For the most up to date information, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on “Events and Meetings.” Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens Center, 7900 Maple Avenue (TPCC).

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 Jesse Carpenter at jessie@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 or your City Councilmember with questions.
**Students stand in solidarity**

*By Rick Henry*

March 14 was a day of activism for area students, as hundreds of them at middle and high schools marked the one-month anniversary of the tragic shootings at Marjory Stoneman High School in Parkland, Fla. by demonstrating their opposition to gun violence through a variety of protests and vigils. At Takoma Park’s Don Bosco Cristo Rey (DCBR) High, a private catholic school affiliated with the Archdiocese of Washington, members of the senior class felt compelled to act.

“We felt it was important to take part in something that was happening nationwide, and the issue of gun control affects everyone,” said Student Government Association President Ada Gonzalez, 18.

Harry Christian, DCBR’s assistant director of development and communications said the school staff and administration stood behind the student’s organizing efforts. “The Class of 2018 felt that this was an opportunity for students to show a collective voice, something that was happening nationwide.”

The City Council will soon be considering a safe haven ordinance to allow anyone to seek assistance in a gun-related emergency. The City Council voted 4-1 on a resolution during its March 14 meeting to move forward with a safe haven ordinance, after a public hearing was held on the same resolution at the January 31 meeting.

The resolution was introduced by Council member Julie Boddy, a candidate for the Maryland House of Delegates in District 17, in honor of the victims of the Parkland, Florida, school shooting. Council member Charles Ludlow was the lone dissenting Council member at the March 14 meeting. The ordinance is currently in the development stage.

The committee has proposed switching to any locally-based bank that does not have ties to the nuclear industry. “We’d like to do it locally because we like to keep our money in the neighborhood,” Boddy said.

The Committee on the Environment has also sought to re-examine the city’s investments to see if there are more Earth-conscious areas in which it could be putting its funds.

“Takoma Park looks to re-examine its Socially Responsible Investing policy”

*By Sean Gossard*

Takoma Park officials say they want to re-examine the city’s Socially Responsible Investing policy, including its Nuclear-Free ordinance, environmental goals, racial equity goals and affordable housing goals, among others.

Takoma Park City Manager Suzanne Ludlow announced in a press release that the City Council will be investigating the issue over the coming months, with planned input sessions from members of the public.

Part of the effort will include a presentation in the coming months from an expert on socially responsible investing, including investing in entities that align with the City Code and reflect the spirit of Takoma Park and avoiding investment from those that the Council does not wish to support. The Council will also be updated on the extent Takoma Park funds are being held in cash banks.

“The goal is to come to the Council and speak on socially responsible investing and what it can mean,” Ludlow said.

Public input on the investments will be a major part of the process. According to the press release, "This will be a good opportunity for those who wish to help direct investments to or away from certain entities to weigh in on what they would like to see the Council do.

The Council will then weigh the risks, costs, opportunities and benefits of advancing Takoma Park’s Socially Responsible Investing goals. This includes the city’s goal of fiscal responsibility and the understanding that it is using money from taxpayers. ‘It’s a very careful balance because we want to make sure we’re responsible investing tax-payer money,’ Ludlow said.

Non-permanent steps, like investing in short-term options that align with the city’s mission, are also available. Long-term options may include changing investments and retaining an advisor for investments and beginning the process of finding a new bank to do business with.

The Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee is a major proponent of the city’s disinvestment from Sun Trust Bank, which they say has loaned more than $1 billion to the nuclear and weapons industries, and instead invest in a local bank with no ties to the industry. “The Nuclear-Free group has been very active in getting the city to relook at its funds and where they are,” Ludlow said.

The Nuclear-Free Committee also recommends having an ongoing representative to be present during discussions between the Council and financial officials regarding Takoma Park’s steps toward reinvestment. “Ongoing representation at these discussions would be very helpful to the committee in carrying out our responsibilities,” said Julie Boddy, a member of the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee.

“That’s the conclusion we came to at our most recent meeting.”

Since the 1980s, the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee has enforced the city ordinance (Chapter 14.04 of the Takoma Park Municipal Code) to remain nuclear free. That also bars Takoma Park from contracting 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 to for Takoma Park to get a waiver under certain circumstances.

The committee has proposed switching to any locally-based bank that does not have ties to the nuclear industry. “We’d like to do it locally because we like to keep our money in the neighborhood,” Boddy said.

The Committee on the Environment has also sought to re-examine the city’s investments to see if there are more Earth-conscious areas in which it could be putting its funds.

“Takoma Park looks to re-examine its Socially Responsible Investing policy can be done in different ways.”
**Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Project construction begins**

The City of Takoma Park is beginning construction of the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape project. The project will create an attractive streetscape for local residents and shoppers at the intersection of Ethan Allen/East-West Highway and New Hampshire Avenue. The project employs Complete Streets principles, promoting walking, biking, and public transportation, while adding green space and improving water quality with stormwater management facilities. Improvements will include increased pedestrian safety, new crosswalks, curb extensions, new sidewalks and widened sidewalks, bio-retention facilities, bike lanes and racks, trees and greenery, upgraded streetlights to LEDs, and decorative light poles.

The Streetscape project will take six months to complete with four phases, ending in September. The project will be managed by the City’s Special Projects Coordinator Nima Upadhyay, who will be in contact with the construction inspector on the job daily. Construction will be done from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. daily and on some weekends.

**Construction overview**

**Phase 1.** Traffic control devices and sediment and erosion control devices will be installed along Ethan Allen Avenue, East West Highway, and New Hampshire Avenue. Left turn lanes from Ethan Allen Avenue to north-bound New Hampshire Avenue, and from East West Highway to south-bound New Hampshire Avenue, will be closed. Drainage structures and pipe connections and median curb and gutter will be constructed.

**Phase 2.** The north and southwest traffic islands will be reconstructed and the permanent traffic signal head modifications will be performed.

**Phases 3 and 4.** Curb and gutter, and sidewalk will be installed and the bus pad will be relocated. During the project construction, access to all roadways and driveway entrances will be maintained at all times.

**For more information**

For questions regarding this project, please contact Nima Upadhyay (project manager) at nimau@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7621. To review construction plans, please visit Takoma Park website at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/ethan-allen-gateway-streetscape.

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**First-Time Home Buyers Seminar**

**Saturday, May 12, 2018 • 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**Takoma Park Community Center**

7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD

Make a well-informed decision when you purchase your first home. Come and join us for this free, first-time home buyer seminar led by the Latino Economic Development Corporation (LEDC), a HUD certified housing organization. This seminar is the opportunity to get answers to your many questions from the professionals involved in the home buying process. Attend the entire session and receive a Certificate of Completion, allowing you access to low interest loans. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required. To register, please contact the Housing & Community Development Department at (301) 891-7119 or sign up at http://bit.ly/2BWg0Lq

Continental breakfast and light lunch will be provided.

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**Love Takoma!**

Love Takoma! will take place on Saturday, April 14, from 2–4 p.m. at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue. This new event, hosted by the Takoma Foundation’s racial equity committee, aims to show Takoma Park, and its families, some love, by providing an opportunity for exchanges of information on local programs, free services, and volunteer opportunities while sharing light refreshments and having some fun.

This free afternoon event is for everyone. Volunteer Spanish, French, and Amharic translators will be on hand. A supervised play area for children will be set up, so parents can browse the community tables. Community groups from Ayuda to the Village of Takoma will be on hand to explain their services and recruit volunteers.

And Let’s Play America activities will give young and old a chance to enjoy a fun afternoon.

Takoma Park Councilwoman Searcy (Ward 6) says, “I am excited to be a part of this effort. I hope it is just the first of many future events that engage all Takoma Park residents, especially recent immigrants, low- and moderate-income households, and families in need.” Takoma Park Councilwoman (Ward 2) Cindy Dyballa noted, “It’s so important to connect folks who’ve just joined our community, such young families or new tenants, to the various programs for youth that we have.”

**Theme announced for Takoma Park 2018 Independence Day celebration**

“A City of Dreamers” is theme for this year’s July 4 celebration in Takoma Park. Dreamers have played an important role in shaping Takoma Park into the progressive, diverse community we love today. Starting with B.F. Gilbert’s vision of a healthy resort town in the forest outside Washington, D.C., farsighted dreamers shaped us into a unique community that is admired around the world. Yesterday’s dreamers led us: To implement one of the Nation’s first recycling programs, To take a stand against the dangers of nuclear technology, To insure we have quality schools, To protect our environment, To implement rent controls so anyone can live here and To make us a more sustainable community.

The 2018 Independence Day celebration calls on today’s dreamers to share their vision for Takoma Park’s future. Register your entry in this year’s annual parade and help lead us into tomorrow at www.takomapark4th.org.

The 2018 Grand Marshal is the City’s new Police Chief Antonio “Tony” DeVaul, who dreams of changes to guide policing to higher levels through the 21st century.

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**HOUSING MAILBOX**

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

A tenant whose one year lease ends in July wants to know if his lease automatically becomes month-to-month at the end of his lease term.

We have had lots of people contact us about this issue. The short answer is, no, your lease does not automatically convert to a month-to-month at the end of the first year. But that “first year” qualification is important.

Section 6.16.070B of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law indicates that your landlord must offer you the opportunity to renew your lease for an additional year by providing you with a written notice two months prior to the end of your initial lease term. This lease renewal opportunity is not required if:

- The landlord has given you a written notice to vacate (such a notice must be for a material breach of the lease);
- The landlord has given you a written notice to vacate; or
- You have given the landlord a written notice of your intent to vacate.

The landlord has given you a written notice at least two months prior to the end of the initial lease detailing

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**Housing Mailbox**

If you want to attend, just walk on in. If you can volunteer, contact Shana at sabbathshana@gmail.com or Carolyn at cleary-bobbie@gmail.com.
Celebrating the life and legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

The day before his assassination on April 4, 1968, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. seemed to predict his own death after more than a decade of nonviolent protest, 30 arrests, and a near-fatal stabbing while leading a civil rights movement that shook a nation by challenging the pervasive racism that denied equal rights to African Americans.

King spoke about the threats against him by “some of our sick white brothers” during an address at the Bishop Charles Mason Temple in Memphis. “Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place, but I’m not concerned about that now. I just want to do God’s will, and He’s allowed me to go up to the mountain and I’ve looked over and I’ve seen the Promised Land,” King said. “I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we, as a people, will get to the Promised Land.”

The City of Takoma Park’s We Are Takoma cultural series will host a series of events in April marking the 50th anniversary of King’s death. The events include a lecture by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Clarence Page, a documentary film screening about protests at North Carolina A&T State University in 1969, and poems about civil rights read by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler at the April 19 poetry reading. More details can be found in the articles on this page and at www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

“King gave so much and made the ultimate sacrifice in the fight for civil rights,” said Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart. “As we mark the 50th anniversary of his tragic death, we take this time to listen again to his teachings and calls to action. We renew our commitment to his legacy in our work toward a more just and equitable world for all people.”

Takoma Park City Manager Suzanne Ludlow said King captured “the attention of our nation at a critical point in time and crystallized a better vision of who we could be.” (On page 12, see Ludlow’s personal reflection about the day he died.)

“Just as King did not just focus on one issue, we in Takoma Park continue to address multiple challenges within ourselves, our community, and our nation,” Ludlow said. “The overall message of love – in every language – is our guiding light.”

“Walls That Bleed” Film Screening
Thursday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium – Free event

“Walls That Bleed: The Story of the Dudley/A&T Uprising” is a compelling documentary film that chronicles an overlooked chapter of the civil rights movement. While Greensboro, North Carolina, is well-known for the nonviolent sit-ins at segregated drug store counters in 1960, those demonstrations eventually led to a more violent student-led uprising in 1969. What started as a protest over a student council election at James B. Dudley High School quickly erupted into a three-day gun battle on the campus of the historically black North Carolina A&T State University, with the local African-American community defending itself against law enforcement. Film director Michael Anthony will discuss the film after the screening, which is presented in partnership with Docs in Progress.

American Primitive Guitar Festival
April 13-15
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium and other venues

Born in 1939 in Takoma Park, John Fahey created the American Primitive Guitar style with a S17 guitar from Sears and founded the influential Takoma Records label in 1959 with $300 from his meager wages as a gas station attendant. The Thousand Incarnations of the Rose festival will celebrate Fahey’s legacy with performances by more than 25 acoustic guitarists and banjo players at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium and other venues around Takoma Park. Some events are free while others require the purchase of a festival pass. More details can be found at www.1000rose.org. The festival is presented by Rhizome DC, the City of Takoma Park, and Main Street Takoma.

“A Drum Major for Justice” Lecture
Thursday, April 5, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium – Free event

How would Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. have fared in the age of Twitter, the Black Lives Matter movement, and #MeToo? In an engaging lecture and discussion, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Clarence Page examines King’s legacy and the evolving fight for civil rights. A longtime Takoma Park resident, Page was attracted to a career in journalism by the civil rights revolution in the 1960s. Through his prophetic vision, Page suggests how we might answer King’s great question that still resonates today: “Where do we go from here?”

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Born in 1939 in Takoma Park, John Fahey created the American Primitive Guitar style with a S17 guitar from Sears and founded the influential Takoma Records label in 1959 with $300 from his meager wages as a gas station attendant. The Thousand Incarnations of the Rose festival will celebrate Fahey’s legacy with performances by more than 25 acoustic guitarists and banjo players at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium and other venues around Takoma Park. Some events are free while others require the purchase of a festival pass. More details can be found at www.1000rose.org. The festival is presented by Rhizome DC, the City of Takoma Park, and Main Street Takoma.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading
Thursday, April 19, 7:30 pm
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium – Free event

How would Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. have fared in the age of Twitter, the Black Lives Matter movement, and #MeToo? In an engaging lecture and discussion, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Clarence Page examines King’s legacy and the evolving fight for civil rights. A longtime Takoma Park resident, Page was attracted to a career in journalism by the civil rights revolution in the 1960s. Through his prophetic vision, Page suggests how we might answer King’s great question that still resonates today: “Where do we go from here?”

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Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium and other venues

Born in 1939 in Takoma Park, John Fahey created the American Primitive Guitar style with a S17 guitar from Sears and founded the influential Takoma Records label in 1959 with $300 from his meager wages as a gas station attendant. The Thousand Incarnations of the Rose festival will celebrate Fahey’s legacy with performances by more than 25 acoustic guitarists and banjo players at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium and other venues around Takoma Park. Some events are free while others require the purchase of a festival pass. More details can be found at www.1000rose.org. The festival is presented by Rhizome DC, the City of Takoma Park, and Main Street Takoma.
TOTS

DANCE
Pre Ballet
Join this class and watch your child blossom! Pre-Ballet for ages 3-4 emphasizes learning basic ballet vocabulary, movement patterns and musicality in a creative movement.
Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
3-4 years
8 Weeks
Sundays, April 8-June 3 (No class 5/27)
3-3:45 p.m.
Resident: $150 / Non-resident: $175

YOUTH

ART
Clay for Kids
In this class, children will receive instruction on how to utilize a variety of techniques (coil, pinch, and slab work) to create one-of-a-kind sculptures and vessels out of clay. Caregiver participation required for children ages 4-5.
Takoma Park Community Center Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
4-12 years
6 Week Sessions
Saturdays, April 7-June 2
10-10:45 a.m.
Resident: $100 / Non-resident: $120

ADULTS

ART
Ceramics: Hand Building & Sculpture
This class focuses on basic hand-building techniques including pinch, coil and slab construction as well as surface treatment and glazing. Open to all levels of experience. Students can create functional items, such as vases, soap dishes and tea sets as well as sculptures, including portrait heads and whimsical animals. All glazes are lead free and food safe.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Ages 16-21
6 Week Session
Tuesdays, May 8-June 19
6-9 p.m.
Registration for instructor first day of class. Registration for Monday's class includes studio time on Friday. Instructor: Caroline Mackinnon

Teen Lounge
This special room is for TEENS only! (Middle School and High School students!) You are welcome to watch two 52-inch and one 70-inch LED SMART TVs. We also have X-Box One and Wii Games, workstations, board games and comfy sitting areas for socializing with friends. Come join us after school for fun and laughs and on special events for an amazing time.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 8-12
Ongoing

EXTENDED CARE
SPORTS
2018 Co-ed T-ball League
This co-ed league allows girls and boys to have fun while learning the basic fundamentals of baseball. Emphasis will be on fun, learning to hit, running bases and catching. No experience is necessary, as all skill levels are welcome. Participants must bring their own baseball glove. All teams will be formed by the Recreation Department. Games are played on Saturday mornings. Parents are encouraged to coach. No games 4th of July weekend.
Ed Wilhelm Field
2 Darwin Ave
5-7 years
8 Week Season
Saturdays, June 9-July 28
9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. games
Resident: $60 / Non-resident: $70

TEENS

CAMPS
Counselor in Training (CIT)
Sign up now for a three day training to become a Certified CIT while becoming First Aid/CPR certified. Work with children ages 5-12 during our summer youth camps and earn your SSL hours while having fun!
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
14-17 years
Tuesday, May 1 & Thursday, May 3
4-6 p.m.
Saturday, May 5
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Resident: $25 / Non-resident: $35

DROP-IN
Power Hour
Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. We are the perfect balance of academics and fun. Students are given quiet time to complete homework or to read. Staff is available to assist and can review the completed assignments. Upon completion of work, students are invited to lounge, play games, and/or participate in activities. Registration is not required.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Ongoing
Monday-Thursday
3:30-4:30 p.m.
Free

POWER HOUR

RECREATION
Do you have a budding basketball player, or a child who is interested in learning? Either way we have a spot for them in our camp.

The Takoma Park Recreation Center is now accepting registration for its Dribble, Pass, and Shoot Summer Basketball Camp. Campers will be provided with excellent coaching which allows each participant to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit the individual needs of each participant. This fun-filled camp will focus on fundamentals, such as dribbling, shooting, and passing as well as proper defensive techniques. Experienced co-ed counselors with positive attitudes will be on hand to provide fun basketball related games that will keep the participants enthusiastic and engaged.

Past participants love this camp because of the various basketball activities as well as games that coaches plan using cones and other equipment, which provided participants cardiovascular challenges in a fun way. Coach Joe Dobbs and his staff will be returning with a fun-filled curriculum that allows the campers to use their brains as well as their physical skills. Campers will have an opportunity to play full-court basketball games as well as participate in skill challenges such as a three point shooting contest. Teams will be divvied evenly by age and skill set. This is a great opportunity for kids to make new friends or spend time with classmates during the summer.

For more details, pick up a copy of the Summer Camp Guide at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue or the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue. Or view the Summer Camp Guide online at takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/camps.
changes within the Takoma Park Police Department to more easily realize the Council’s goals of community policing.

Last year, the City Council reduced the tax rate from 56 cents to a level below the Constant Yield level, meaning that the amount of real property tax revenue the City received was less than it had received the previous year. “Unfortunately, that reduction means that we really need the funds this year,” Ludlow noted.

“There’s a lot of economic uncertainty right now at the national level given the new tax law and trade tariffs. As a small city with a small budget, we need to have a reasonable level of financial buffer in a time of risk,” she continued. “That is part of the reason I am recommending increasing the tax rate a small amount. Even with the tax increase, we will be operating with limited reserves in the coming year.”

Big projects are underway

Last year, the City borrowed $2 million and $7 million, respectively, to help pay for two major street projects and the Library renovation and expansion. The Ethan Allen Gateway project at New Hampshire Avenue is now under construction and the Flower Avenue Green Street project will begin construction in the summer. The Library project detailed design and engineering are underway. Next steps for the Library are dependent on the results of a flood plain delineation study that is in progress.

These projects, plus the City’s regular street and sidewalk projects, will keep Public Works staff extremely busy in the coming year. Staff will also be working on the many sustainability and stormwater projects that advance the Council’s environmental priorities.

New staff to help guide, not react

Five new staff positions are proposed: two economic development positions, two police officer positions and a human resources position. The economic development and police positions would be phased in during the second half of the fiscal year so will not be fully funded in FY 19. Only the human resources position would begin at the start of the fiscal year on July 1.

All of the new positions are to help address Council priorities, Ludlow said. A new Economic Development division of the Department of Housing and Community Development, with a manager and specialist position, is to meet the Council’s goal to plan and prepare for development in the City and region while maintaining the special character and diversity of Takoma Park.

“We can’t rely on the private sector to craft and maintain the special character and diversity of Takoma Park – it will take work on our part to make it happen,” said Ludlow.

The proposed two new police officer positions will help advance the Council’s goals for the police department, as expressed in Resolution 2017-45. After three months on the job, Chief DeVaul has evaluated staffing in the department in the context of the Resolution and is recommending several changes. The two positions will allow the department to be more appropriately structured to meet the Council’s stated vision.

The new human resources position is badly needed, as the division only has two staff and their workload is heavy. Additional responsibilities for the division include helping staff apply the Council’s Racial Equity Framework to internal operations and working with the police department to improve recruitment and retention of excellent police staff.

Time to hear from the public

“I am fortunate to work with a City Council that is very serious about setting priorities and expectations,” Ludlow said. “Now it’s time to hear from the public and the Council about what should be in the proposed budget to carry out these priorities.”

Residents can learn more about the proposed budget and ask questions at the Budget Open House scheduled for Saturday, April 7 from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Community Center. Child care will be provided. The Takoma Junction Open House will be occurring at the same time in the building, so residents can participate in both.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City General Fund Revenues</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Property taxes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interjurisdiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the $314 increase in City tax, just $41 is due to the proposed tax rate increase and $273 is due to the increase in home value.

If your owner-occupied home’s taxable assessment value for 2018 was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Tax Increase (2018)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Takoma Park tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County &amp; State tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County home-owner credit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If your home’s taxable assessment value increases by the maximum 10% for 2019:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City Tax Increase (2019)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Takoma Park tax</td>
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<tr>
<td>County &amp; State tax</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County home-owner credit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There will be no increase in the City’s Stormwater Fee for FY 19 but the charge will appear on the property tax bill from the County, not billed separately.

**SCHEDULE**

- **From page 1**
- **Wednesday, May 9**
  - Council vote on first reading of the budget and tax rate ordinances
- **Wednesday, May 16**
  - Second reading and adoption of the budget and tax rate ordinances

Agendas for City Council meetings and budget work sessions are posted online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas. City Council meetings and budget work sessions can be viewed live on City TV (Comcast and RCN - Channel 13; Verizon FiOS - Channel 28; Municipal Broadcast Network high definition - Comcast Channel 997 and RCN Channel 1057). Meetings are also streamed live online and available as archives on the City’s website.

**Takoma Park Budget: General Fund Expenditures - FY ’17 through FY ’19**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
<th>AUDITED FY17</th>
<th>ADOPTED FY18</th>
<th>PROPOSED FY19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Government</td>
<td>$2,673,202</td>
<td>$2,322,064</td>
<td>$2,337,464</td>
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<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>$7,592,140</td>
<td>$7,916,935</td>
<td>$8,553,414</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Works</td>
<td>$4,580,093</td>
<td>$5,076,406</td>
<td>$5,177,819</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation</td>
<td>$1,722,755</td>
<td>$1,938,837</td>
<td>$1,988,550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing and Comm Dev</td>
<td>$1,257,609</td>
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<td>Communications</td>
<td>$489,911</td>
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<td>$656,000</td>
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<td>Library</td>
<td>$1,217,409</td>
<td>$1,349,600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Departmental</td>
<td>$1,168,118</td>
<td>$1,704,302</td>
<td>$1,684,484</td>
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<tr>
<td>Capital Outlay</td>
<td>$2,905,455</td>
<td>$4,049,704</td>
<td>$4,068,827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>$239,898</td>
<td>$910,160</td>
<td>$919,915</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</strong></td>
<td><strong>$23,287,590</strong></td>
<td><strong>$26,026,460</strong></td>
<td><strong>$31,900,001</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Administrative Fund Revenues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>FY17</th>
<th>FY18</th>
<th>FY19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>$354,898</td>
<td>$910,160</td>
<td>$919,915</td>
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</table>

**Adopted FY 17**

- (-$692) County home-owner credit
- $4,500 County & State tax ($1,129 per $100)
- $2,353 Takoma Park tax ($0.545 per $100)
- $4,400 County & State tax ($1.1046 per $100)
- $6,511 Total

**Proposed FY 19**

- $5,947 Total
- $6,611 Total

**County, not billed**

- $4,500 County & State tax ($1,129 per $100)
- $2,353 Takoma Park tax ($0.545 per $100)
- $4,950 County & State tax ($1,1046 per $100)
- $6,511 Total

**Audited FY 17**

- (-$692) County home-owner credit
- $4,500 County & State tax ($1,129 per $100)
- $2,353 Takoma Park tax ($0.545 per $100)
- $4,400 County & State tax ($1.1046 per $100)
- $6,611 Total

**Proposed FY 19**

- $5,947 Total
- $6,611 Total

**If your owner-occupied home’s taxable assessment value for 2018 was:**

- $2,139 Takoma Park tax ($0.5348 per $100)
- $4,500 County & State tax ($1.129 per $100)
- $5,947 Total

**If your home’s taxable assessment value increases by the maximum 10% for 2019:**

- $2,353 Takoma Park tax ($0.545 per $100)
- $4,950 County & State tax ($1.1046 per $100)
- $6,511 Total

**Of the $314 increase in City tax, just $41 is due to the proposed tax rate increase and $273 is due to the increase in home value.**
Identify programming needs emphasizing youth, families, seniors, and our more vulnerable residents, such as those with lower incomes, immigrants, and people with developmental disabilities.

Ensure we have a range of safe, quality, and stable housing options for residents of varying incomes.

Defend status as a Sanctuary City and continue to be a welcoming and inclusive community for all residents.

Further efforts related to racial equity.

Plan and prepare for development in the City and region while maintaining the special character and diversity of Takoma Park.

Continue to be a leader in community programs and policies for energy and environmental sustainability.

Preserve and grow tree canopy.

Identify policing priorities and explore options for enhanced police/community relations.

Improve communications with residents, especially two-way online and social media communication.

Improve policies and processes related to the tree ordinance; traffic calming; sidewalk requests, repair and maintenance; and residential/commercial boundary conflicts.

Improve and formalize systems for Council-appointed committees and external committees on which Councilmembers serve.

Increase funding from County and State to address tax duplication and other City needs.

Adopt financial policy to determine the appropriate level of designated reserves.

Minimize adverse impacts of changes to the federal tax system.

Adopt sustainable investment and banking policy and practices.

To view the priorities online visit: bit.ly/CityCouncilPriorities

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# Children's Book Week

**By Karen MacPherson**

The 99th annual Children’s Book Week will take place around the country from April 30-May 6, and here at the library we’ll be celebrating with two great programs featuring nationally-known authors.

**Author Samantha Berger** and illustrator Mike Curato will kick things off on Monday, April 30 at 7 p.m. when they present their new picture book, *What If…*. As the book opens, a young African-American girl with purple hair who loves to draw thinks about what she would do if one day her pencil disappeared. As Berger details, the girl dig deeper and deeper into her creativity, realizing, for example, that she could make art from anything, sculpting from leaves, chiseling from wood, telling stories with her shadow, etc. Her final conclusion: “If I had nothing, but still had my mind; there would always be stories to seek and to find.”

**What If…** has won raves from critics, with Kirkus calling the book a “testament to the power of an imaginative mind,” adding: “While readers will find much to love in the exuberant rhyming verse, attending closely to the illustrations brings its own rewards given the fascinating combinations of mixed media.”

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# A Long Separation traveling exhibit comes to Takoma Park

On Sunday, May 6, the Library will feature a special visit by Laura Elizabeth Pohl’s traveling exhibit, a portrait and audio series which highlights the stories of people separated from their family members, mostly by the Korean War ended in armistice in 1953. The exhibit will be viewed in front of the Takoma Park Community Center from 12 to 5. In case of rain, the exhibit will be held in the Library.

This year is the 65th Anniversary of the war’s end. The portraits of people in the exhibit (yisan kajok as they are called in Korean) are focused on faces that show the passage of over half a century of waiting to be reunited with relatives in the north. As yisan kajok pass away in the next decades, so will all direct family ties and living memories between the two Koreas.

Laura Pohl is an award-winning filmmaker, sand photographer based in Baltimore. This exhibition is dedicated to her great uncle Yu Il-Sang, who was separated from family members when he moved from the north to the south before the Korean War.

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# Book sale returns!

**By Pat Hanahan**

It’s that time of year again! The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library is holding its Spring Book Sale on Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., rain or shine.

If shine, the sale will be on the library lawn at 101 Philadelphia Ave. If rain, it will move inside the community center.

We’ll have many great books — some new — for all ages, at rock-bottom prices. Early-birds get the pick of the bunch, of course.

Donate your gently used books to the sale. Please bring them to the library during regular hours. Do you have many boxes or bags of books to give? Call the library to schedule a time that works well for everyone and when staff be available to help you get the books into the library storage space.

Interested in volunteering at the sale for 8 a.m. set-up, 3 p.m. take-down, or at the sales table during two-hour shifts from 10 to 3? Send an email to pat@pathanrahan.com. Hope to see you there!

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# Share your favorite poem

The 20th annual “Favorite Poem” evening, sponsored by the Takoma Park Maryland Library and the Friends of the Library, and hosted by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler, will be held on Tuesday, April 24, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library. Modeled after the national event begun by Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky, this event has attracted poetry lovers of all ages and occupations to come together and share poems that have been meaningful to them at some point in their lives.

If you are interested in participating in this year’s event, choose a poem that you have read or admired by a published poet (other than poems written by you or your friends). Please include an English translation for poems written in a language other than English. Inspiration may be found in the hundreds of books of poetry available at the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

So that we may include the names of the poets, the poems, the readers and their occupations in a program to be distributed at the event, please submit this information by April 17 to the Takoma Park Maryland Library, Attn: Ellen Robbins. Questions may be directed to Ellen at the library (ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov). The Friends of the Library will sponsor a reception following the readings.

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# 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.**

**Lead by Senora Geiza**

**LEGO Club**

- **Sunday, April 1, 1:30–3 p.m.**

**Building fun for ages 3–10.**

**Petites Chansons/French Circle Time**

- **Saturday, April 7, 10:30 a.m.**

**Join Madame Marine for our monthly program of rhymes and songs in French.**

**Comics Jam**

- **Tuesday, April 10, 4 p.m.**

**Friends of the Library “Big Book” Discussion on Kristin Lavansdatter**

- **Wednesday, April 11 and April 25, 7:30 p.m.**

**We’ll continue our discussion in the community center.**

**Kids Art**

- **Sunday, April 15, 2–3 p.m.**

**Caldecott Club**

- **Monday, April 16, 7 p.m.**

*It’s time to start another season! Join us for a look at some early 2019 Caldecott Medal contenders.*

**Lemonade and cookies served.**

**Friends Fortnightly Book Club**

- **Tuesday, April 17, 7:30 p.m.**

**Discussion of A Place on Earth by Wendell Berry**

**Azalea Room, Community Center**

**Welcome.**

**Favorite Poem Evening**

- **Tuesday, April 24, 7:30 p.m.**

**See article for more information.**

**Alternative Games**

- **Sun, April 29, 2–4 p.m.**

**Join Dave Burbank for a session of Dungeons & Dragons and rounds of call-and-response games.**

**Ages 8 up, registration required:**

**www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents**

**Picture Book Creators Samantha Berger & Mike Curato**

- **Monday, April 30, 7 p.m.**

**Berger & Curato will discuss their new book, What If…**

**Coming Up…**

- **Friday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.**

**Newbery Medalist Rebecca Stead and best-selling author Wendy Mass present their new book, Bob. This event will be held in the community center auditorium.**

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**Next Friends Book Group choice announced**

**By Tim Rahn**

*A Place on Earth* by Wendell Berry will be discussed by the Friends Book Group on Tuesday, April 17, at 7:30 pm in the Azalea Room of the community center.

First published in 1967, *A Place on Earth* describes the lives of the families in Berry’s fictional Port William, Kentucky, from March to August 1945. Focused primarily on Mat Feltner, his extended family, and the loss of his only son in the war, the novel is part of what has become known as the Port Williams Membership.

The story of the Port Williams Membership is told in more than 40 stories and eight novels about the town, its agrarian environs, and people. It begins with the Civil War and continues through the latter part of the 20th century. Of his fiction writing, Berry has said, “The only thing I try to accomplish in fiction is to show how people act when they love each other.” At 84 Berry is as well-known for his activism as his writing. He protested the Vietnam War in the 60s and George W. Bush’s post-September 11 strategy in 2003. He opposes the death penalty and has been outspoken about various environmental causes, especially the adverse effects of coal mining. As well as his career as a poet, essayist, novelist and short story writer, Berry has been a working farmer in Henry County, Kentucky since 1965.

Copies of *A Place on Earth* are available in the library. All are welcome to attend Friends Book Group discussions!

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**Hora del Circulo Espanol**

- **Sponsored by the Friends of the Library**

**April 3, 17 and May 1, 15, 10–10:30 a.m.**

**Kool Smiles in East Langley Park (next to Chuck E. Cheese).**

**The sessions are free and no formal appointments necessary!**
Working for more than the summer

By Rick Henry

Though the calendar only says April and Spring Break is just beginning for some, many area youths are already focusing on finding summer employment. At the same time, area business owners are focusing on ramping up for the summer, hoping to find quality young people to employ and mentor. The Takoma Park Recreation Department is here to help both.

On February 21, the department launched its annual Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) by holding a business interest meeting. The SYEP program is an eight-week City program that connects local youth with training and employment opportunities. Participants complete a “boot camp” in June learning various soft skills (i.e. customer service, diversity training, fiscal responsibility, time management, etc.) and receive job-specific training and coaching on site.

Local business owners who have participated in the program in previous years say they partnered with the program to provide much more than just a summer job to the youth they employ. For them, it’s an opportunity to help mentor young and influence their careers.

“Experience and exposure changes lives,” said Taleesha Richardson, operations manager at the Richardson School of Music. “When the program was introduced to us (in 2014), we were so excited to have an opportunity to help encourage, cultivate and promote someone else’s dream.”

In the four years since, Richardson said program participants have worked with the school’s summer music exploration program, record label and artist management company. “When the program was introduced to us (in 2014), we were so excited to have an opportunity to help encourage, cultivate and promote someone else’s dream.”

Rumbaugh says the program’s personal touch can require more effort than a traditional employee-employer relationship, but feels the payoff is worth it. “It does take time and energy to do this,” she said. “But training young people is something I wish all organizations could take on in our community.”

Erin Benton, manager of Roscoe’s Neapolitan Pizzeria, echoes Rumbaugh’s sentiments. “Programs like these, that benefit our youth, make our close knit community even closer and more connected,” she said. “As a business and personally, I am happy to provide youth with the opportunity, experience and exposure to accomplish and pursue their dreams and goals,” she continued.

If you are a Takoma Park resident between the ages of 16-21 and you are looking for summer employment, register today for the April 27 interest meeting.
media Curato employs."
At our program, Berger and Curato will read their book and then talk about how it came together. Curato also will do some live drawing for the crowd. Berger has written a number of picture books, including Cranekins, illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Dan Santat. Curato, known for his best-selling Little Elliot books, visited the library last fall to spotlight his illustrations for the critically-acclaimed All the Way to Havana, written by Margarita Engle.

Our second Children’s Book Week author program stars Newbery Medalist Rebecca Stead and best-selling kids’ author Wendy Mass, who will discuss their magical new novel, Bob, in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium on Friday, May 4 at 7:30 p.m. Stead won the 2010 Newbery Medal for her novel, When You Reach Me, the Newbery Medal is awarded annually by the American Library Association to the best-written book for children. Stead’s other books for young readers include First Light, Liars & Spies and Goodbye Stranger. Mass is hugely popular with young readers for her novels, which include A Mango-Shaped Space, Every Soul a Star, 11 Birthdays, and The Candymakers.

In Bob, Mass and Stead join forces to tell the story of the unusual friendship between Livy, a 10-year-old girl, and a little green creature named Bob. Livy first met Bob when she traveled to Australia from the United States as a five-year-old to spend a few weeks with her grandmother. Now she has returned five years later and has no recollection of Bob, who has been waiting faithfully for her in a closet. After some initial discomfort, the two pick up where they left off as Livy pledges to help Bob figure out where he is and where he’s from. In a starred review, Publishers Weekly called Bob an “irresistible tale of magic, mystery, and friendship that poses timeless questions about identity and belonging.” At our program, Stead and Mass will talk about how they came up with the idea for the book and what it was like to work together.

Politics & Prose will be selling books by the authors at each of our programs, but these events are free, and no registration or purchase is required to attend. Please join us for two wonderful ways to celebrate Children’s Book Week 2018.

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**Housing Mailbox**

**From page 4**

The landlord’s reasonable cause for not renewing the lease or for offering a renewal lease term of less than one year. “Reasonable cause” can include landlord hardship or plans to sell the rental facility within a year, plans for the landlord or a family member to occupy the rental unit, or plans for substantial property rehabilitation to the rental unit or rental facility that cannot be accomplished while the unit/facility is occupied. Any displaced tenant has the right to lease the rental unit when the rehabilitation is completed.

If your landlord fails to provide you with a written one year renewal offer two months prior to the end of your initial lease term or provide you with written reasonable cause for offering a term of less than an additional year, you may provide written notice to your landlord indicating your intent to extend the initial lease for an additional year. Your notification must be provided to your landlord within two months of the expiration of the initial lease term.

Finally, your lease does convert to month-to-month if neither you nor your landlord takes action at the end of your second lease year term.

For tenants and landlords with questions regarding the City’s Landlord-Tenant or Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) laws, contact me at 301-891-7215 or MSciW@takomaparkmd.gov.

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**Rally**

**From page 1**

was part of a national campaign, with students across the country conducting similar demonstrations. “It was about making sure I was safe. It was really empowering to go out and show people that we can actually make a difference. It was really exciting to be a part of that. It’s really important to stand up for what you believe in.”

Those who remained in school observed 17 minutes of silence during class at 10 a.m., one for each victim of the Parkland shooting, while students who participated in the walkout were marked as having an unexcused absence.

“The goal was to raise awareness,” explained Miller. “Considering the current political climate, it’s hard to argue that it can lead to direct change, but when you have thousands of people out there, it demonstrates that there’s a broad section of people that care about this issue and are willing to affect change on it. I walked out to help contribute to that.”

“I hope that by walking out,” he continued, “even if I couldn’t create concrete change from that, it would help demonstrate that there’s a serious need for change and public willingness to fight for change. We’re keeping the issue in the headlines, where it belongs.”

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**MLK Memories: The Day King Died**

**Editor’s Note:** To mark the 50th anniversaries of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s death on April 4, we invited members of the Takoma Park community to contribute their reflections about what this day in history meant to them. City Councilmember Peter Kovar (Ward 1), City Manager Suzanne Ludlow, and Takoma Park resident Nancy Abbott Young accepted the invitation. We thank them for sharing their memories of this pivotal moment in our nation’s history.

**Peter Kovar**

“Minister of Peace Slain” — was the Boston Globe headline the day after Martin Luther King Jr.’s April 1968 murder. I was 11, figuring out my connection to national politics. And that tragic, poetic headline did connect. Dr. King wasn’t just a pastor or politician. He was another type of leader: a Minister of Peace. I grew up in a political family, though I was more focused in 1968 on the Vietnam War than racial justice. But I knew Dr. King was speaking out in ways that merged the anti-war and civil rights movements. He earned the title the Globe bestowed on him.

1968 was a banner year for banner headlines. My mother saved them, a collection that included the headline just before King’s death about President Johnson not seeking reelection, along with later ones on Robert Kennedy’s assassination, violence at the Democratic Convention, and Nixon’s election. The concepts embedded in those headlines remain relevant.

We still see political violence, adventurer foreign policy, distortions in our electoral process, and dishonest candidates. Above all, there’s the institutional racism which both prompted Dr. King to speak out and ultimately killed him.

When he died we’d just started removing the overt prejudice in federal housing policy that has disadvantaged generations of African Americans. Working at HUD, I saw first-hand how those destructive policies continue to have devastating effects decades later.

Fifty years after Dr. King’s death, his work is unfinished not only in housing, but in education, criminal justice and so many other areas. Sadly, the disparities in white and black wealth detailed in the 1968 Kerner Commission report appear to have worsened. As I work with City residents and my Council colleagues to find ways to address these wrongs, I always have in mind that 1968 headline and what it represents.

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We still see political violence, adventurer foreign policy, distortions in our electoral process, and dishonest candidates. Above all, there’s the institutional racism which both prompted Dr. King to speak out and ultimately killed him.

When he died we’d just started removing the overt prejudice in federal housing policy that has disadvantaged generations of African Americans. Working at HUD, I saw first-hand how those destructive policies continue to have devastating effects decades later.

Fifty years after Dr. King’s death, his work is unfinished not only in housing, but in education, criminal justice and so many other areas. Sadly, the disparities in white and black wealth detailed in the 1968 Kerner Commission report appear to have worsened. As I work with City residents and my Council colleagues to find ways to address these wrongs, I always have in mind that 1968 headline and what it represents.

—Peter Kovar
The 4th Annual Montgomery County GreenFest scheduled for May 5

The 4th Annual GreenFest, Montgomery County’s largest environmental festival, will take place on Saturday, May 5 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The free event will be held at Jesup Blair Local Park located at 900 Jesup Blair Drive in Silver Spring. GreenFest is designed to create opportunities for residents, businesses, nonprofits and neighbors to come together, share ideas and learn about local environmental initiatives. This year’s event will offer a wide variety of activities to appeal to the whole family, from hands-on learning opportunities, live music and dance performances to tree climbing for kids. Takoma Park is providing logistical and planning support with the planning committee and Montgomery Parks the site host. All the activities and exhibitors will be under pop-up tents in Jesup Blair Local Park. The park is walking and biking distance to much of Takoma Park, and parking will be available at the Montgomery College East Garage and nearby county parking lots.

This year’s workshops and activities will include a “Fun with Fermentation” workshop, “Green Jobs” workshop, electric vehicle car show, dockless bike demonstrations, tree climbing, food trucks, and much more. Go to montgomerycountygreenfest.org for schedules and updates.

The Montgomery County GreenFest is planned by a coalition of partners, including the City of Takoma Park, Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, Montgomery Parks, Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, the City of Gaithersburg, City of Rockville, University of Maryland Extension, Montgomery College, Montgomery County Public Schools, and three local community green groups: Bethesda Green, One Montgomery Green, and Poolesville Green.

The GreenFest committee is also looking for Outreach Ambassadors to share information about GreenFest with their networks. For more information about the Ambassador program, please contact ashleyp@montgomerycountymd.gov. For more information on GreenFest, visit it montgomerycountygreenfest.org.

Takoma Junction Redevelopment: Upcoming opportunities to learn more about the project

The City Council will be considering the Takoma Junction redevelopment project over the next six weeks. Please join us to learn more about the project and provide your comments. Unless otherwise noted, meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.

April 4 – Public Presentation of the Takoma Junction Site Plan

The Neighborhood Development Company (NDC) and members of its team will present the draft site plan to the public and the City Council. The presentation will be posted online the following day.

April 7 – Takoma Junction “Open House”

This is an informal opportunity for community members to view the site plan presented by NDC earlier in the week and to comment on their plans. The event will be held on Saturday, April 7 and will run concurrently with the City Council’s FY19 Budget Open House from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. Childcare will be provided by the Recreation Department.

April 11 – Work Session “Building Design and Placement on the Property”

This Council Work Session discussion will focus on the exterior design of the building, its "massing" or shape and the space it occupies, and its placement on the property. Specific discussion points include architectural features such as the roofline, windows and entrances, decorative elements, and building materials. The set-back of the building from Carroll Avenue will also be considered.

April 18 – Work Session “Public Space and Sustainability Features”

This Council Work Session discussion will focus on the public realm and public gathering opportunities which would be created because of the development. Sustainability features including design elements such as the proposed green roof, planned landscaping and other site features, and options promoting walking and biking will be discussed.

April 22 – Takoma Junction “Pop-Up”

Walk the site and get a sense of where the building will be located, see where you will be able to sit outdoors and enjoy a cup of coffee or a conversation with your neighbor, check out the proposed lay-by, and find out how you will be able to get to the underground parking area, walk through the building and access neighboring businesses.

This one day “Pop-Up” will be held on-site on Sunday, April 22 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. between Healy Surgeons (7211 Carroll Avenue) and the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op (201 Ethan Allen Avenue).

April 25 – Work Session “Traffic and Circulation”

This Council Work Session discussion will focus on vehicular and pedestrian circulation patterns and the potential impact of the project on existing traffic conditions. Specific discussion points include vehicular access (from the site, pedestrian pathways, on-site parking facilities, and operational issues such as the delivery of goods and trash removal. Options for the mitigation of current traffic and pedestrian safety concerns identified during the City’s traffic study will be discussed. The April 25 meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. Childcare will be provided by the Recreation Department.

May 2 – Discussion of Draft Resolution

During this final Work Session discussion, the City Council will focus on the site plan in general and develop proposed language to be included in the resolution scheduled for the following week.

May 9 – Adoption of Resolution

The Council is tentatively scheduled to vote on a resolution regarding the site plan. In addition to these meetings, there is an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of each City Council meeting. Check out the City’s website at https://bit.ly/2mg30ly for more details.

RECREATION

From page 7

Line Dancing
Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise, and an enjoyable social activity that leads to meeting new people. Strengthening of bone and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. Instructor: Barbara Brown
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Tuesday, April 4 - June 27
11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
(No class 5/30 & 6/6)
Free
Tennis Fun and Fitness
This class blends exercise with learning or reviewing tennis skills utilizing special equipment for indoor play. All equipment provided, but you can bring your own racket. Instructor Coach SJ
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 and older
Thursday, April 12–June 14
12–1 p.m.
Free
Zumba Gold
Zumba Gold was designed for the active senior with less instructions for beginners and older adults using modified movements. Instructor: Yesika Flores
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Saturday, April 7–June 23
(No class 5/20)
2:30–3:30 p.m.
Free
TRIPS
Trip #1: “New” Museum of the Bible
Washington, DC
Wednesday, April 11
8:45 a.m.–3:30 p.m.
Trip #2: Walters Art Museum
Baltimore, MD
Thursday, April 19
8:45 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Leaving from Takoma Park Community Center
55 and older
For more information 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 Spring/Summer newsletter online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation.

Special Events

Fitness Expo 2018

The Takoma Park Recreation Department staff is preparing for our 6th Annual Fitness Expo Saturday, April 7, at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Come join us for an exciting day that will include demonstrations of our fitness programs as well as presentations from local community health and fitness organizations. The expo will kick off at 9 a.m. with our first 20-minute demonstration. For additional information or to volunteer for this event, please contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
All Ages
Saturday, April 7
9 a.m.–2 p.m.
Free

Save the Date for Celebrate Takoma

Saturday, May 19
4–7 p.m.
On Maple Avenue
PTAs play ball

By Helen Lyons

Takoma Park Elementary School parents and teachers will face off against their Piney Branch Elementary School counterparts on May 3 in a basketball game at Silver Spring International Middle School.

Apart from the sporting event itself, attendees will be treated to a dance demo from The Lab Breakin’ School, a three-point shooting contest for teachers, and a student basketball relay race held during the various quarter breaks.

Food trucks will be on hand for those who come hungry and gear donated from Georgetown University will serve as prizes for those who can answer trivia questions about Takoma Park.

“We try to keep the game light and goofy and fun,” said Mark Ivcevich, the parent volunteer coordinator for this year’s game.

“It’s just a nice community building event,” said Parikh. “You can come see your friends and neighbors and your kids’ teachers play basketball together. It’s a great family event. I’m excited.”

Last year’s game brought in around $3,000, but fundraising isn’t the main motivation for hosting the event. “Even if it’s a wash, it’s more about the community aspect,” Ivcevich. “The whole idea is to get people to come out, see their neighbors and have some fun.”

Proceeds from the game will be divided between the two schools’ Parent Teacher Associations. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the game begins at 6:30 p.m.
iCan Shine Bike Camp call for riders and volunteers

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School brings the iCan Shine Bike Camp to Takoma Park for the fourth time. This week-long camp is designed to teach individuals with disabilities to ride conventional bikes and become lifelong independent riders. This camp is free and open to Maryland residents only. NEW THIS YEAR: Riders over the age of 14 are welcome. Minimum age for volunteers is 15.

The camp will be held June 18-22 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Takoma Academy, 8120 Carroll Avenue, Takoma Park, MD. Campers and volunteers are scheduled for a specific session time (a.m. 8:30–9:45 a.m. or 2–3:15 p.m.) for the duration of the camp. TP SRTS is currently recruiting both riders and volunteers for the camp.

Riders (30 total) must be:
• At least 8 years old by start of camp and have a disability
• Able to walk without an assistive device and sidestep

To both sides
• Able to attend a 75-minute session each day of the five-day camp
• Under 220 pounds and have a minimum inseam measurement of 20 inches
• Maryland residents

Volunteers (60 needed) must be:
• At least 15 years old (unless accompanied by an adult)
• Able to attend 90 minutes at the same time each day for five days (15 minutes of training/daily debriefing, 75-minute session)
• Able to provide physical, emotional and motivational support to assigned rider
• Able and willing to jog or run for a great cause!

For more information and to register, contact lucyn@takomaparkmd.gov or visit iCan Shine.org and/or takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/safe-routes-to-school.
PUBLIC MEETINGS OF NOTE

City Council
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, April 25, 6:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, May 2, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/ agenda.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry
First Saturdays, noon – 3 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bring canned and boxed food items for needy families
240-456-2082 or educate_ssis@yahoo.com
www.educarserVICESorg

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Moves Community Dance Classes
Saturday, April 14; 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Busboys and Poets, 235 Carroll St. NW
Get your groove on with this dance class that promises to be fun and inclusive for all.

Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Making a difference - Plant a tree

Discount trees available to beauty yards, replace the canopy

The season is right for planting trees, and in Takoma Park that means residents can help replenish the aging tree canopy in the city. The city offers added incentive by reducing the cost of the first tree purchased by $100, if it is a replacement tree as required part of a Tree Removal Permit. Residents can order a $195 tree for their yards just $95 plus 6% sales tax, a total of $100.70.

To order a tree, contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov.

ORDER FORM

Please include check, including tax, written to the City of Takoma Park and be sure to make a note of the property and locations for planting. Submit to Arborist, Takoma Park Department of Public Works, 31 Oswego Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910 by close of business April 13.

Name __________________________
Address __________________________
Phone __________________________

- Please include a map of property/tree installation locations.
- Swamp White Oak (2") $195
- Princeton Elm (2") $195
- Bald Cypress (7’ - 8’) $195
- Black Gum (2") $195
- American Linden (2") $195
- 6% sales tax
- Total ______

Discount trees available to beauty yards, replace the canopy

Make a Difference - Plant a Tree

Discount trees available to beauty yards, replace the canopy

Tableau sells a new product called Arbi, a cloud-based analytics tool that allows businesses to create and share interactive dashboards. The company says it is launching a new version of the product that will include features such as real-time data updates and interactive charts. Arbi customers can now make changes to their dashboards on the fly and see the results in real time. The new version also includes support for multiple languages, which will allow companies to create dashboards in languages other than English.

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