

August
2018

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 57, No. 8 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

WHAT'S NEW?

National Night Out:

Tuesday, Aug. 7, 6 - 9 p.m.
Piney Branch Elementary School
7510 Maple Avenue
Details, p. 4

Are You Paying Too Much Rent? Find out.

Details, p. 4

5 Questions for Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart

p. 9

Let the Music Move You at TPFF

Details, p. 11

City offices and facilities closed Labor Day

Sunday, Sept. 2 and Monday, Sept. 3

Trash collection Labor Day, Sept. 3

Yard waste collection canceled.



Takoma Park Police Chief Antonio DeVaul

Connecting with the Community: TPPD Chief reflects on first six months

By Rick Henry

Spend any time, whether it be five minutes or five hours, with new Takoma Park Police Chief Antonio DeVaul and you will hear the same words emphasized again and again.

In an interview reflecting on his first six months on the job (DeVaul officially started as the City's new chief on Jan. 2, 2018) words like "community," "transparency," and "positive" made their way into his conversation repeatedly, demonstrating that they are at the heart of both his personal and professional philosophy.

"I want to see us, as a department, be on the cutting edge of transparency and community involvement," he said. "For police

to be successful, it is imperative that there is a connection between them and the community."

DeVaul's philosophy has two main anchors. The first is his 23 years of experience with the Maryland National Capital Park Police, including his last five as chief. "We had a similar approach with transparency with the Park Police," he said. "Because of the nature of that department, we had to work together across many different agencies and jurisdictions, so we really had a shared focus."

Second, and possibly more important, is his experience growing up in Takoma Park. "The police officers always had a

TPPD CHIEF □ Page 3

Get Ready to Play!

10th Annual Play Day
Saturday, Sept. 8,
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Takoma Park
Middle School

Credit: Selena Malott

Frankie Bender, 6,
tries Double Dutch.



There will be fun activities, and Congressman Jamie Raskin will lead Simon Says. King Bullfrog, High-Energy Blues, Folk and World Music, Outer Body Llama, and Takoma Park Community Band will perform. See p. 7 for details.

Council Votes to Move Forward with Takoma Junction Site Plan

During its July 25 City Council meeting, which extended into the early hours of Thursday morning, the Takoma Park City Council affirmed in a 5 to 2 decision that the Neighborhood Development Company (NDC) site plan should move forward in the Montgomery County Development Review process. This vote came after the City Council heard almost 3.5 hours of public comments from City residents, some in support of the site plan and others in very vocal opposition against it.

As reported in *The Washington Post*, Mayor Kate Stewart indicated that she was excited the project was moving forward, and she is "looking [forward to working] with members across the community to ensure that it continues to be a project that reflects who we are in Takoma Park."

How to best utilize a City-owned lot has been the topic of both formal and informal discussions since 1983. In January 2014, the City Council authorized the release of a Request for Proposals to identify a development partner for redevelopment of the lot. The City's goals for the project were to: act as a stimulus to the commercial district and locally-owned, independent businesses; improve the aesthetic appeal of the district; and be contextually sensitive and environmentally sustainable. After receiving seven submissions, and following a lengthy solicitation and evaluation process, the City Council selected NDC as its development partner for the project in April 2015.

In July 2016, after a 15-month negotiation period the City Council approved, by Resolution 2016-26, the execution of the Development Agreement and Ground Lease with NDC. Working closely with the Council-appointed Community Consultation Process Advisory Committee, NDC hosted two public meetings in February 2017 to discuss form and character options, and to consider market and retail ideas to incorporate in the develop-

SITE PLAN □ Page 3

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

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New Poet Laureate
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Join Marsha Goodman-Wood
and the Positrons in Concert
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Enter the Safe
Grow Garden
Photo Contest
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DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

The City Council is on recess until Wednesday, September 5.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Monday, August 13, 7 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 21, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, August 6, 7:15 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 23, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, August 14, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

NOISE CONTROL BOARD

Wednesday, August 15, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, August 14, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, August 16, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, August 14, 6:30 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, 7500 Maple Avenue (TPCC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail can sign up at: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas>.

ADA NOTICE

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

City Council Action

All ordinances and resolutions are posted on the City's website.

On **June 20, 2018**, the City Council approved **Ordinance 2018-21** authorizing execution of a contract for up to \$45,000 for the 2018 summer Lunch and Learn Program. The program provides Takoma Park youth with positive summer activities.

On **June 27, 2018**, the Council adopted **Ordinance 2018-20** authorizing boundary correction land transfers regarding 117 Elm Avenue and Spring Park. The land records differ from the tax map and long usage patterns such that land that the City believed it owned and has used as part of Spring Park is actually owned by the Potomac Conference Corporation of Seventh Day Adventists and land that the Potomac Conference believed it owned and is used for parking inside its fenced property at 117 Elm Avenue is actually owned by the City.

Committee appointments were made that same evening. By **Resolution 2018-34**, the Council appointed Christoph Michaud (non-resident) to the Arts and

Humanities Commission and reappointed Thomas Parlon (Ward 4) and Marilyn Sklar (Ward 3). By **Resolution 2018-35**, the Council reappointed Carolyn Leary Bobb (Ward 6), Jay Keller (Ward 3), Howard Kohn (Ward 3), and Jon Worley (Ward 2) to the Recreation Committee and appointed Rachel Vierling (Ward 4) and Nicholas Dean (Ward 3).

Also on **June 27, 2018**, the Council also adopted **Ordinance 2018-22** awarding a contract with E&R Services for Flower Avenue Green Street Construction. The contract amount is \$5,775,875.

(This project has been in development since 2013. The projected full cost of the design and construction of this project is estimated to be \$6,919,003. The majority of funding (\$5,427,559 or 78%) came from grants or outside sources including a Transportation Alternative Grant of \$1,040,330, CDBG funds totaling \$102,230, Montgomery County funding of

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

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Using the Takoma Park Project Directory

What is going on in Takoma Park? The Project Directory can fill you in! The Project Directory lists all major projects currently being worked on or planned citywide and includes need-to-know information for each one. takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory

GOVERNMENT	SERVICES	INITIATIVES	NEWS
Boards, Commissions & Committees City Clerk City Council City Manager City TV Communications Finance	Bids & Contracts Business & Multifamily Recycling Careers/Jobs Community Partners and Resources Curbside Collection	Project Directory (All City Projects) Arts & Humanities Community Conversations Library Renovation Municipal Tax Duplication	City Council & Mayor Blog City Manager & Staff Blog News & News Alerts Forever Young Newsletter Sign Up For e-Newsletters

1. To access the Project Directory from the City of Takoma Park website, on the home page under initiatives, select "Project Directory" as shown above.

Initiatives > Project Directory

PROJECT DIRECTORY

About the Project Directory

This page lists all major projects currently being worked on or planned citywide. purpose:

- Crime & Safety
- Customer Service / Community Engagement
- Economic Development
- Internal Projects
- Policy Priorities
- Public Infrastructure
- Regional
- Sustainability

2. You'll be taken to the "Project Directory" page, which lists all major projects being worked on or planned citywide. Projects are grouped by classification based on their purpose.

POLICE FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS

About the Police Facility Improvements

City Council authorized funding to evaluate and redesign the police space in the Community Center. The current goal is to expand and renovate the police office space. Likely this will reduce the lobby area on the first floor of the police station.

Current Project Status

Preliminary architectural plans completed. Project is currently waiting for future funding.

Project Lead & Contact Info

Rich Powers
Police Captain
Phone: 301-891-7104
Email: richard@takomaparkmd.gov

Police Facility Improvements Details

Project Info & Timeline

- Target completion date: 2016 – July
- Takoma Park's role in project: Lead
- Departments involved: Police

Budget & Funding Source

Links & Notes

3. Then click on the name of the project that interests you. In this example, a resident wanted more information about Police Facility Improvements.

Boards, Commissions, and Committees

There are vacancies on a number of City boards, commissions, and committees. Additionally, a number of terms will expire on September 30. The City Council values the efforts of the volunteers who apply and serve on boards, commissions and committees. The member rosters and vacancies are listed on the City website. Interested applicants should review the online information and consider attending a meeting to see if it is a good fit. All the meetings are open for the public to observe unless noted otherwise on the agenda. Feel free to contact your City Councilmember or the chairperson of the committee to discuss your interest, contact the staff member who works with the committee, or contact Jessie Carpenter at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267.

	Maximum No. of Members	Vacancies as of July 11	Term Length (years)
Arts & Humanities Commission	15	2	3
Board of Elections	7	0	3
COLTA*	12	1	3
Commemoration Commission	9	5	3
Committee on the Environment	15	1	2
Emergency Preparedness Committee	7	1	3
Ethics Commission	7	3	2
Facade Advisory Board	7	1	3
Grants Review Committee	9	2	3
Noise Control Board	7	2	3
Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee	7	2	2
Recreation Committee	15	4	2
Safe Roadways Committee	11	9	2
Tree Commission	5	0	3
Youth Council	9	1	1

* Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

TPPD CHIEF
From page 1

positive connection with the community," he recalled about that time. "I knew them by their first names."

Building on this experience and philosophy, Chief DeVaul has already implemented numerous community outreach initiatives and is planning more. Such events as "Coffee with a Cop," held July 13 at Takoma Beverage Co., are designed to provide police officers and residents with the opportunity to meet informally so that members of the community can get to know the officers on a personal level.

"It's important that people know who I am, but it is more important that people know who my officers are," said Chief DeVaul. "I want people to see the lighter side of our officers and have people know us as human beings and not just police."

Other initiatives are designed to reach certain age groups and populations. For youth, there is the Homework Club, where officers provide homework assistance and life skills advice to children at Piney Branch and Takoma Park Elementary Schools. "That's an important age [at which] to reach youth and build a positive relationship and bond with police," Chief DeVaul said.

Other current youth outreach efforts include working with the Takoma Park Youth Council to stage various events and conducting the Police Explorers program, an ongoing program that allows young people 14-20 to become educated about different functions and components of the department.

Beyond those, Chief DeVaul would like to see a youth representative (age 16-19) on the Chief's Advisory Board and a greater role for youth within the Community Police Academy. "I feel that the voices



Chief DeVaul attended the January meeting of the Takoma Park Youth Council and shared information about Police Explorers.

of youths in the community are underrepresented," he said.

Another group whose voice he feels is important is that of the immigrant community, whether they are documented or undocumented. "We really need to develop an environment of trust with that community and be clear about what it means to be a sanctuary city," he said. "We have no interest in their immigration status. We just want them to partner with us to help reduce crime."

Indeed, community involvement, where residents work in partnership with the police to address crimes, is the natural outcome of community outreach, said DeVaul, citing another one of the department's initiatives, the Community Cam, where citizens can share video feeds from cameras and devices with police to help them solve crimes.

Community Cam also exemplifies DeVaul and the departments' reliance on technology and data. The department is active on social media, distributing daily safety reminders and alerts to the community and providing opportunities for citizens to report activity and share information and tips with the department.

An increased focus on gathering and analyzing data, called CompStat, has helped the department better target and track crime patterns and identify indi-

viduals and groups responsible for multiple crimes. CompStat meetings, where DeVaul and officers will share crime data and statistics with the public, will be held on a quarterly basis (The first meeting was held Monday, July 16.)

Despite all of the positives that have occurred during his short tenure, DeVaul said challenges still remain, chief among them, staffing. "The first thing I did when I came was a staffing analysis. I made a heavy ask for two officers, but I only got one, for which I'm grateful," DeVaul said.

Not surprisingly, the new officer, slated to begin in January 2019, will focus on community outreach. "The community outreach events are great, but it takes a lot of time to plan and execute them. Having an officer devoted to community outreach will free up other officers to focus on patrols," he said.

Beyond adding the additional officer, DeVaul has also reorganized the department. Instead of having three captains and no lieutenants, the department will now have a Deputy Chief, two captains and two lieutenants. He feels this structure will allow for better departmental functionality.

Such an approach reflects DeVaul's commitment to transparency and change as long as it is in service to community outreach and engagement. "We don't need to be stuck in our ways," he said. "We need to adapt to what is best for the community because we are the guardians of it."

SITE PLAN
From page 1

ment. A second set of public discussions were held in March 2017 which focused specifically on mobility and the public realm.

After considering public and City Council comments to a September 2017 preliminary concept plan, NDC presented a draft Combined Site Plan on April 4, 2018. The draft Site Plan provided for the construction of a two-story mixed-use commercial development with below grade parking accommodating up to 72 vehicles and approximately 22,822 sq. ft. of ground level retail space and 25,070 sq. ft. of office space on the second level, approximately 2,700 sq. ft. of public space designed to provide opportunities for

social engagement, the preservation and improvement of wooded area along Columbia Avenue, a series of sustainability features, and site improvements to address the internal and external circulation of people and goods.

Since the presentation of the Combined Site Plan, NDC has incorporated additional changes to the design, at the request of Council, including: providing for the installation of a second elevator and increasing the width of the paved service lane to facilitate the delivery of goods and the transport of trash and recycling containers.

To learn more about the project, and to follow the progress, please visit the Takoma Junction project page at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/takoma-junction-redevelopment.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION
From page 2

\$200,000, a National Fish and Wildlife grant of \$168,750, and the original funding from State Highway Administration of \$696,000. Additionally, the City partnered with WSSC, sharing mobilization and traffic management costs for the project. The amount for the design and construction of the WSSC portion of the project, which is entirely paid for by WSSC, is \$3,220,249.

On July 11, 2018, the Council adopted Resolution 2018-36 appointing Kathleen O'Toole as the new Poet Laureate. By adoption of Ordinance 2018-23, the Council approved the following community grant awards for FY 2019: Carpe Diem Arts: Healthy Families: Parent Support Project (\$5,000); CREATE

Arts Center: smARTkids at TPES (\$5,000); Crossroads Community Food Network: Healthy Eating Program Expansion (\$10,000); Docs in Progress: Documentary Dialogues Takoma (\$5,000); Gandhi Brigade: Takoma Promoters (\$5,000); Let's Play America: Community Play Days (\$5,000); and Takoma Park Cooperative Nursery School: #OptOutdoors (\$5,000).

Agendas for City Council meetings are posted online: www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas.

City Council meetings 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 1060). Meetings are also streamed live online and available as archives on the City's website.



City residents joined members of TPPD for Coffee with a Cop at Takoma Bev Co. on July 13 from 8 - 10 a.m.

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER
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Assistant: Sean Gossard
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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified or political advertisements.
The Newsletter is printed on recycled content paper.



BUILDING COMMUNITY



National Night Out

Come join us for an evening of FUN!

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Piney Branch
Elementary School
7510 Maple Avenue

An annual event hosted by the police department to bring the community together as a whole to increase awareness in safety and crime prevention; to support locally-based businesses, groups, and organizations; and to strengthen relationships among community members and between the community and local police department

WE'LL HAVE...

- Police Vehicles on Display
- MD National Park Police Horses
- McGruff the Crime Dog
- Child ID Kits & Fingerprinting
- Moon bounce
- Dunk Tank
- Face painting
- Games & Prizes
- Food & Ice Cream
- Live music

... AND MUCH MORE!!!

Are You Paying More For Rent Than You Should Be?

Many of Takoma Park's rental properties are subject to the City's rent stabilization law which limits the amount of rent that may be charged and how frequently the rent may be increased. If you live in Takoma Park and rent, please take a moment to complete a questionnaire to find out if your building is rent stabilized and if you are paying more rent than is allowed by law at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RentProgramSurvey>.



Meals on Wheels of Takoma Park to appoint new director

Meals on Wheels of Takoma Park Director Jill Feasley will be leaving the organization at the end of the month. The organization provides delicious and nutritious meals to approximately 60 neighborhood seniors in Takoma Park, Monday through Friday. The seniors are served hot meals prepared that same morning or cold meals to be consumed later that day.

Feasley has worked with the organization for more than 16 years. "She has done a superb job of making Meals on Wheels of Takoma Park a top notch organization," Board Member Vicki Merlo said of Feasley.

The staff consists of a part-time director and a part-time cook. There is also a

team of 60 dedicated volunteers who help out daily with packing and deliveries. The ideal candidate for the director position will have a college degree or the equivalent and three years of nonprofit management experience as well as a valid driver's license and access to a car. Most importantly, the applicant must have a love of and desire for working with seniors. For a complete job description and more information about the position, contact Jill Feasley, director, Meals on Wheels of Takoma Park, at 301-434-1922 or mowtakoma@gmail.com. Applicants should apply by August 6, 2018.



SafeRoutes



Takoma Park Safe Routes to School: Activities, Programs and Events for 2018-2019

Since 2007, Takoma Park Safe Routes to School has worked closely with area schools to offer bike and pedestrian safety programs to encourage walking and biking to school. SRTS also funds infrastructure projects and enforcement details that enhance student safety. Look for a new sidewalk on Lincoln Avenue and new school signage on Maple Avenue when you walk to school this year. Encourage your school administration and/or PTA to participate in SRTS activities:

1. **Safe Routes to School Maps** are available for each school. A detailed walking map featuring sidewalks and crosswalks surrounding schools is available for each school to post on the school website or print for parents. This will encourage walking and biking and help parents choose the best route. You can find the map on the City's website.

2. **Walk to School Day (WTSD)** – October 10, 2018 Organize a WTSD event on a Wednesday in early October. TP SRTS can help. If you would like to keep the momentum going, a regular (weekly, monthly) incentive program, Walking and Wheeling Wednesdays, can be an offshoot of WTSD.

3. **Enforcement** – Fall 2018 Takoma Park Police will conduct enforcement details around the Takoma Park schools.

4. **Cross Safe, Cross Smart** – Fall 2018 This half-hour activity is designed to teach students (in classes of up to 25 students) how to cross the street safely; it is appropriate for grades K-2.

5. **Bike Rodeos** – Fall 2018 This 45-min, one-hour workshop is intended for 3rd to 5th graders. Bikes and helmets are provided for a hands-on bike safety session for groups of up to 25 students.

6. **Takoma Park Safe Routes To School 5K Challenge** - Sunday, May 5, 2019 One or two parents from each school must volunteer on the Race Committee. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) between school PTAs and the City must be read and signed by the PTA. Run Club is a required activity associated with the race. Planning begins Fall 2018.

7. **Bike to School Day** – May 8, 2019 Bike to School Day is the first Wednesday of May. TP SRTS can help. Additional bike related programming during the month of May can complement BTSD.

8. **iCan Shine Bike Camp** – Summer, 2019 TP SRTS will offer a bike riding education camp to students with special needs. Each student will attend one of five 75 minute daily sessions. Visit iCanShine.org. (60 volunteers needed to help!)

10. **Surveys** – Fall 2018/Spring 2019 The Parent Survey and Teacher Tally Sheet must be filled out twice a year. The Parent Survey can be distributed electronically or on paper in English and Spanish. The Teacher Tally must be filled out electronically by all teachers.

A Conversation with Takoma Park's New Poet Laureate

Kathleen O'Toole's love of poetry may have started in the womb.

"I always give credit to my mother," she says. "I am sure she was reading poetry to me even before I was born. My ear for poetry certainly started at an early age."

As a longtime poet and Takoma Park resident, O'Toole has been an integral part of the local poetry community for almost two decades. On July 11, the City Council appointed her as Takoma Park's next poet laureate.

Established in 2005, the City's poet laureate program honors the achievements of a local poet who serves as the City's ambassador to promote public appreciation of poetry, support a creative community of local poets, and encourage both young and old to write their own verse. O'Toole said she is honored to be selected, and she is planning to hold poetry workshops in schools and senior centers during her two-year term as poet laureate.

"In a world where we are so distracted, poetry is a way of being attentive that has connections to the ancient, sacred impulse to name and celebrate those things that are valuable," she says.

The oldest of four children, O'Toole began writing poetry in high school and college. "Like for a lot of young people, it



Kathleen O'Toole

became a form of personal expression," she says.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree in French from Catholic University, O'Toole began a career as a community organizer for four decades that took her across the country to Delaware, New Orleans, Phila-

delphia, Baltimore, and finally to Takoma Park in 2001. She recently retired this year.

While she was in college, a friend and haiku poet named Nicholas Virgilio submitted some of O'Toole's poems to a literary magazine, which started her long career as a published poet. Her work has appeared in *Atlanta Review*, *Beltway*, *Grist*, *Hunger Mountain*, *Poetry*, and other publications.

When Virgilio died in 1989, she helped his family sort through his papers and poems and was impressed by the depth of his work. "It really inspired me about what someone could do if they dedicated their life to poetry," she says.

After moving to Baltimore, O'Toole began studying poetry more formally and received a master's degree in creative writing from Johns Hopkins University in 1991. As poet laureate, O'Toole is looking forward to overseeing the City's popular Third Thursday Poetry reading series, which features regional poets who read their work to a receptive audience.

"It's a great opportunity for a lot of different voices to be heard and celebrated. It's lovely that we now have such a great auditorium at the Takoma Park Community Center to hold the readings," she says. "It's a great hub for people to celebrate poetry."

Starlings

By Kathleen O'Toole

The children swarm outside
the supermarket, arms flailing,
their high-pitched exclamations
surround me, my own arms laden
with groceries. My mind suddenly shifts
to tally one week's arithmetic of grief:
eighty children among the hundreds killed
in a fine-tuned cone of shrapnel,
three siblings on a Gaza rooftop
before the missile landed, and four
cousins on a beach incinerated
in the time it takes me to close the car door.
Tonight, the trees are full of starlings,
their racket rising into a delicate
tremolo, like in that Bernstein Sonata
for Violin that stretches the strings
almost to breaking.

Honorable Mention -
2017 Ruth Stone Poetry Prize
Hunger Mountain literary journal

Diving into Arts and Culture with the *We Are Takoma* Series

In a plethora of free arts and culture events this fall, audiences can experience concerts, storytelling, poetry readings, lectures, documentary screenings and even a puppet slam.

All events in the City of Takoma Park's *We Are Takoma* series are held in the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue. All events are free with a \$10 suggested donation for performances. You can find more information about all of our events on the City's Facebook page or at www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts. The fall series begins in September.

On September 21, the Patricio Zamarrano Band will share its own blend of Latin American music. On September 22, White House Studios will present a Caribbean children's story through cultural dance, music, and theater to celebrate West African and Caribbean folk tale traditions.

Growing up in Washington, D.C. with a father who loved Miles Davis and a mother who adored Smokey Robinson, singer songwriter Cecily Bumbray was immersed in music at an early age. You can hear her sweet soprano voice and honest lyrics in a performance titled *Music of Love & Freedom* on September 28.

Continuing a centuries-old storytelling tradition, award-winning storyteller Adam Booth will present *Ashton* on October 12. Set in the 1920s, Ashton's quiet life in a small Appalachian



Cecily Bumbray



Patricio Zamarrano Band

coal town is forever changed when a record-company representative arrives to collect mountain music in Bristol, West Virginia. Using Cinderella and Orpheus as models, *Ashton* combines historical fiction, traditional music and Appalachian folklore in a timeless story of struggle against adversity.

Latin American music will take center stage on October 26 when El Salvadoran guitarist Carlos Payán Moreno combines Latin American folk, rock, and pop with poetry put to song in *música trova*. Shifting gears into the magical world of puppets, Wit's End Puppets returns to Takoma Park on November 2 for a "puppet slam" featuring some of the best puppeteers in the D.C. area.

A poetry reading on November 16 will explore the history of the labor movement and the struggle for workers' rights. On November 30, Mystical Poets Productions will stage a multicultural evening of performances branching across dance, poetry, hip hop, R&B, and world music.



Wit's End Puppets



HUMANITIES LECTURES

On the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m., lecturers share their expertise on a wide range of topics. The fall schedule includes:

September 6 – *Picturing the Chesapeake* – Conservation photographer Mark Hendricks will present his photos and personal journey through the diverse habitats of the Chesapeake Bay watershed.

October 4 – *Whole Lotta Love: Consensual Non-monogamy and Challenges to Traditional Relationships* – Gallaudet University associate professor of sociology Julie Fennell will explore the history of consensual non-monogamy where partners have open romantic relationships.

December 6 – *The Intersection of Race, Sports and the Law* – American University law professor Jeremi Duru and poet Ethelbert Miller will examine how sports creates both a sense of unity among fans and bitter divisions over recent scandals and controversies.

RECREATION

TOTS



DANCE

Pre Ballet

Pre Ballet for ages 3–4 emphasizes learning basic ballet vocabulary, movement patterns and musicality in a creative movement. By introducing students to the basic shapes, positions, postures and traditions of classical ballet, the Pre-Ballet curriculum enhanced both cognitive and physical development at this important time. Instructor: Edurama

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
3–4 years
8 week session
Sundays, September 9–October 28
3–3:45 p.m.
Resident: \$105 / Non-resident: \$125

YOUTH



ART

Drink Juice & Paint for Kids

Students will paint their own plastic water glasses. Students will learn the secret of painting a floating flower, animals, designs, names and more on plastic water glasses.

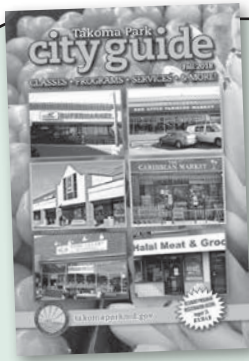
Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
6–12 years
8 Week Session
Saturdays, September 17–November 15
(No class 10/13 & 10/27)
10:30–11:30 a.m.
Resident: \$70 / Non-resident: \$80

DANCE

Pre Ballet

Pre Ballet for ages 5–6 emphasizes learning basic ballet vocabulary, movement patterns and musicality in a creative movement. By introducing students to the basic shapes, positions, postures and traditions of classical ballet, the Pre-Ballet curriculum enhanced both cognitive and physical development at this important time. Instructor: Edurama

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
5–6 years
8 week session
Sundays, September 9–October 28
4–4:45 p.m.
Resident: \$85 / Non-resident: \$95



For a complete list of offerings, check out the Fall City Guide inserted in this issue of the Newsletter.

Registration for Fall programs begins August 15 at 8:30 a.m. for City residents and August 22 at 8:30 a.m. for non-residents.

Look for the star symbols to find all of our new classes!

Introduction to Contemporary Dance

Dive into the world of creative dance in this entry level contemporary dance class; take information from different genres of dance to create student inspired dance pieces that build creativity, ability, imagination and skills. For children already in love with movement or those wanting to try it out, this safe, diverse and fun approach to dancing is good for the body heart and mind of any child with a desire to move. Learn basic techniques of contemporary and modern dance as well as explore questions such as: What do I want to say? How can I express myself? Instructor: Beth Mwano

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
8–13 years
8 week session
Sundays, September 9–October 28
1–2 p.m.
Resident: \$105 / Non-resident: \$125

TRIPS

Fun Day

Join us for a day of fun when schools are closed. Trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Space is limited, so sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of program. Participants must pack a lunch, snack and water bottle.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Azalea Room
5–12 years
Monday, September 10
Wednesday, September 19
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Resident: \$40 / Non-resident: \$50 Per Trip

TEENS



MULTI MEDIA

Photography 101 (Teens)

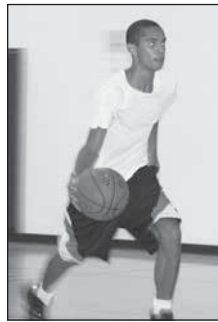
We are constantly taking photos, but they don't come out the way we imagined. In this class, learn the intros to photography as an art form and step up your photography game. The class will cover the following topics: how to shoot manual on your DSLR, rules of composition, portrait photography, object photography, landscape photography, posing 101, how to edit your photos, natural light vs. non natural light, composition and turning your

phone into a camera. Instructor: Vinny Mwano

Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
12–18 years
8 Week Session
Tuesdays, September 11–October 30
6–7:15 p.m.
Resident: \$75 / Non-resident: \$85

SPORTS

After Hours Basketball



This program will provide a drop-in service for the teens and young adults ages 16–24. The Recreation Department is partnering with the Takoma Park Police Department to offer Tuesday and Thursday late night basketball over the

course of the summer. We are looking to provide safe but fun activities for the young adults in our community as well as build the relationship between the community and the Takoma Park Police Department.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16–24 years
Tuesday & Thursday, through August 16
9–11 p.m.
Free

Intermediate and Advanced Basketball Skills Clinic

This basketball skills class is designed to increase your knowledge and fundamental skills of the game of basketball. Topics to be covered include dribbling, passing, shooting, defense, offense and rules. Previous participation in organized basketball is required for this class. Instructor: Greg Harris

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
12–17 year old
8 week session
Sundays, September 16–November 4
10–11:30 a.m.
Free

ADULTS



DRAMA & THEATER

Acting & Audition Technique for the Stage

Would you like to act in a play? Learning to audition is the first step, and this class will

prepare you with the primary tools you'll need, including having an effective audition monologue to perform. After selecting a monologue with the instructor, you will learn (through lively theatre exercises) the fundamentals of acting and stage technique, script analysis and character development that will heighten the performance of your piece. In addition, the class will cover the other essential audition tools: pictures and resumes, techniques for cold-readings and preparation for scene callbacks. The class will culminate with a performance of the monologues in a final public presentation. No materials needed. Instructor: W. Allen Taylor

Takoma Park Community Center
Azalea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
16 and older
10 Week Session
Mondays, September 10–November 19
(No class on 11/12)
7–9 p.m.
Resident: \$120 / Non-resident: \$140

MULTI MEDIA

Photography 101 (Adults)

We are constantly taking photos, but they don't come out the way we imagined. In this class, learn the intros to photography as an art form and step up your photography game. The class will cover the following topics: how to shoot manual on your DSLR, rules of composition, portrait photography, object photography, landscape photography, posing 101, how to edit your photos, natural light vs. non natural light, composition and turning your phone into a camera.

Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
19 and older
8 Week Session
Tuesdays, September 11–October 30
7:15–8:15 p.m.
Resident: \$120 / Non-resident: \$140

55+

Join us for Bingo & Blood Pressure Screening!

Tuesday, August 28 in the Senior Room

Blood Pressure Screening:

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Bingo: 12–2 p.m.



DROP-IN

Game Room Open Play

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

Takoma Park Community Center
Game Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Summer hours: Monday–Friday: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

RECREATION

■ From page 6

Saturdays: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Fall hours (to begin September 5):
Monday-Saturday: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Computer Basics

This three week course will introduce people with little or no previous experience to basic skills such as sending and receiving email, internet searching, and using a word processor to compose letters, etc. You need a Takoma Park Library card to access the computers. Registration with the Recreation Department is required. Instructor: Anne LeVeque



Takoma Park Community Center
Computer Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
3 Week Sessions
Wednesdays, September 5-19
Daytime Class: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Evening Class: 7–9 p.m.
\$10 (Plus a Takoma Park Library card)

TRIP

Senior Day, Montgomery County Agricultural Fair
Gaithersburg Fairgrounds, MD
Leaving from Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Tuesday, August 14
8:45 a.m. –3 p.m.
For trip details and procedures, please see the Forever Young Spring/Summer newsletter online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/news/forever-young-newsletter.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Let's Play America 10th Annual Play Day
Attention! Attention! Everyone, everywhere! It's time for you to let your hair down and get ready to play! Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present the 10th Annual Play Day! Rain or Shine. This event will have fun activities for the entire family to enjoy, including the infamous Touch-A-Truck. To see a full listing of activities and performances, please visit www.letsplayamerica.org. See you there!
Takoma Park Middle School
Outside
7611 Piney Branch Road
All ages
Saturday, September 8
10 a.m. –2 p.m.
Free

Family Outdoor Movie Night
Get ready for another Family Outdoor Movie Night. The movie will start at dusk at Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School). Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family. The movie will be a family friendly hit. The Recreation Department will provide popcorn and water; bring other snacks if you like! Due to limited parking, walking is encouraged. Visit our website takomaparkmd.gov/recreation to vote on the movie.
Ed Wilhelm Field
Behind PBES
All ages
Saturday, September 8
Movie starts at dusk
Free

The Bell Has Sounded!

According to The Afterschool Alliance, an organization dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of afterschool programs, participation in afterschool programs has consistently increased during the past 10 years, rising by nearly 2 million children in the last five years alone. Today, 10.2 million children participate in afterschool programs, an increase from 8.4 million in 2009. Nearly 1 in 4 families currently has a child enrolled in an afterschool program nationwide. Afterschool programs are an essential source of support for working parents — boosting academic performance, reducing negative behaviors, promoting physical health and exercise, and providing a safe, structured environment for their children.

The After the Bell Program at Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Avenue) continues to grow in enrollment year after year. In addition to the games and activities scheduled daily, participants are given a snack and receive homework assistance. Last year After the Bell participated in a national program called “Lights on After School,” which recognized the impact of after school programs on the lives of millions of children. Participants had the opportunity to participate in the Empty Bowls Project where they painted ceramic bowls that were sold as part of a fundraiser to fight hunger. Also with the assistance of a local artist, the kids designed ceramic butterflies as a Mother's Day gift in May. Several times throughout the school year, we are visited by the Takoma Park Librarian for reading programs and comic book activities.

Parents of previous participants have



said they were happy with the program because of the safe environment, the range of activities and the social interaction between the participants. “I was so worried about what I was going to do with my son after school. My wife and I had changes in our work schedule, so we could not get back to Takoma Park until 6 p.m. We had participated in summer camp with the Recreation Department and were thoroughly impressed. After the Bell was a lifesaver for my wife and I, and my son didn't want to leave each evening. We have already registered for the upcoming school year!” said a participant's parent.

The After the Bell Program is held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center from 3:30 pm to 6:30 p.m. throughout the Montgomery County School Year. Participants arrange transportation through MCPS and the school bus drops them off beside the building, where staff are waiting. Registration has opened for the upcoming school year and spaces are filling fast. Parents pay 20% of the fee at the time of registration and the remainder will be monthly payments beginning October 1. The City of Takoma Park offers scholarship opportunities for all programs. For more information, please contact vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov.

Y.E.S. League Player Highlight

Engaging local teens every summer is the key factor in the Recreation Department's Y.E.S. League's success. With the basketball league wrapping up, it's important to highlight the players who continue to keep the league alive. There are six teams in the league filled with young, vibrant and extremely talented youth from the community, who all deserve recognition.

One player in particular, who has played in the league several years, is Marvin Guthrie. Marvin is a Takoma Park resident going into the eighth grade at Charles Carroll Middle School. He has played basketball for just four years, but you wouldn't know that by watching him. His absolute favorite player is LeBron James. While he does not necessarily have a favorite team, Marvin likes to support the Wizards since they are the home team. Outside of basketball, Marvin enjoys playing video games, mainly Fortnite. His goal is to become a future NBA player, and with his continued dedication and hard work, we know he can do anything he wants. For now, Marvin simply hopes to win the Summer Y.E.S. League Championship with his team this year.

Marvin really enjoys playing in the league and has expressed his gratitude for the department allowing him the freedom to express himself on the court with friendly competition. The Summer Y.E.S. League is a developmental, community league that has been in existence for more than twenty years. The program aims to provide a positive venue for youth to freely express themselves through the game of basketball. Personal development, sportsmanship, friendly competition and fun are the building blocks of this signature league. The Recreation Department is proud to have such a longstanding tradition in the community.



Marvin Guthrie

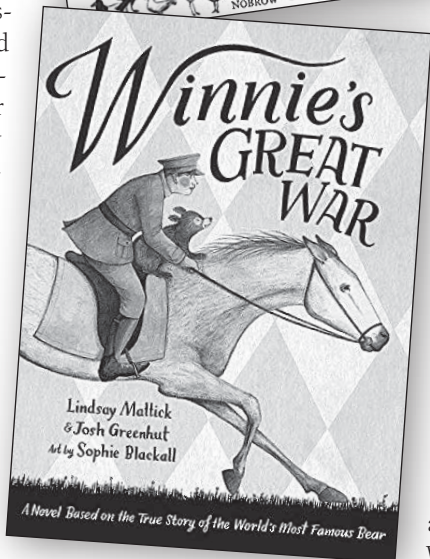
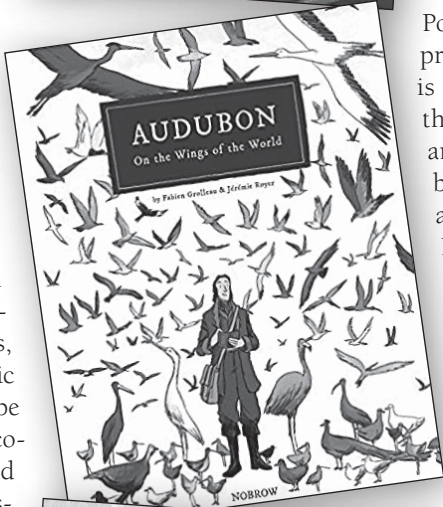
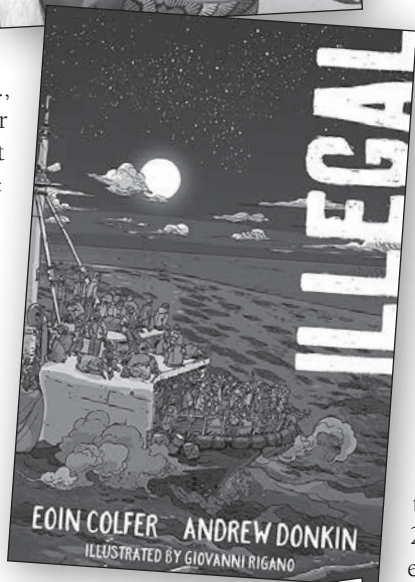
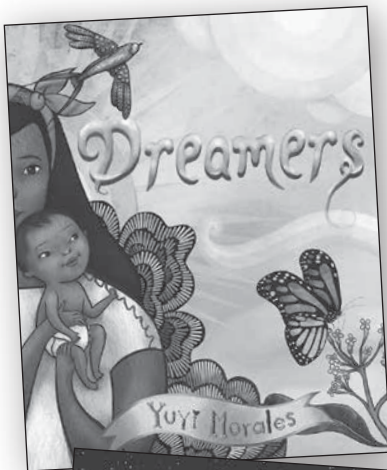


Fall into Author/Illustrator Programs

We've got a diverse line-up of top authors and illustrators coming to the Library this fall, thanks to our partnership with Politics & Prose Bookstore. While Politics & Prose sells books at these programs, all of them are free and absolutely no purchase is required.

Our first two programs spotlight a key issue of today: immigration and refugees. On Thursday, Sept. 6, at 7 p.m., Caldecott Honor illustrator Yuyi Morales will present her timely and memorable new picture book, *Dreamers*. In the book, which is lushly illustrated in her trademark style, Morales details how public libraries helped her and her infant son feel at home after they left Mexico in 1994 for a new life in California. In a starred review, *Publishers Weekly* stated: "Many books about immigration describe the process of making new friends and fitting in; this one describes what it's like to become a creative being in two languages, and to learn to love in both."

Then, on Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 7:30 p.m., Eoin Colfer, author of the best-selling *Artemis Fowl* series, talks about his new graphic novel, *Illegal*. Colfer will be joined at the event by co-author Andrew Donkin and Giovanni Rigano, who illustrated the book. In a starred review, *Booklist* noted: "*Artemis Fowl* creator Colfer (who taught elementary school in Italy, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia) leads the team that was also behind the *Artemis Fowl* graphic adaptation in transforming staggering statistics (The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees' 2017 data cites that 65.6-million have been forcibly displaced) into a resonating story about a single boy and what remains of his family. Italian artist Rigano's gorgeously saturated panels—rich in detail, affecting in captured expressions, with landscapes made spectacular as a reminder of everyday beauty despite tragedy—prove to be



an enhancing visual gift to the already stirring story." Please note that this event is best for older kids, teens and adults, due to some disturbing aspects of the story.

Another graphic novel, *Audubon, On the Wings of the World*, is the focus of our program on Thursday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. Jeremie Royer, the French artist who illustrated this biography of John James Audubon, will talk about the book and the French-born ornithologist's dream to paint all of the birds of North America. In its review, *Kirkus* called the book a "luscious, reimagined biography that will attach a personality to a famous name for 21st-century readers." In addition to Politics & Prose, our program with Royer is co-sponsored by the French Embassy, and copies of his book will be available for sale in both English and French.

Caldecott Medalist Sophie Blackall makes a return visit to the Library on Thursday, Sept. 20, at 7:30 p.m. to talk about the illustrations she did for a new historical novel for kids, *Winnie's Great War*. Written by Lindsey Mattick and Josh Greenhut, the book expands on the story of the real Winnie-the-Pooh first told in the picture book *Finding Winnie*, for which Blackall won the 2016 Caldecott Medal. In its review of *Winnie's Great War*, *Publishers Weekly*

praised the book's highlighting of the warm connection between Captain Harry Colebourn and Winnie, a bear he raised

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, August 5, 1:30–3 p.m.

Building fun for ages 3–10.

Bedtime Stories & a Craft

Tuesday, August 7, 7 p.m.

Ms. Kati leads this fun monthly program of stories, songs and a craft.

Caldecott Club

Monday, August 13, 7 p.m.

Join us for a look at some early 2019 Caldecott Medal contenders.

Lemonade and cookies served.

Kids Art

Sunday, August 19, 2–3 p.m.

Marsha & the Positrons Kids Concert

Saturday, August 25, 1 p.m.

Local musician Marsha Goodman-Wood and her band, the Positrons, sing and play science-themed kids songs from their brand new CD. Our concert is free and will take place in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring this concert.

Alternative Games

Sunday, August 26, 2–4 p.m.

Join Dave Burbank for a session of *Dungeons & Dragons* and rounds of collectible card playing. Ages 8 up, registration required: www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents

Coming Up....

- **Thursday, Sept. 6, 7 p.m.** — Caldecott Honor author/illustrator Yuyi Morales presents her timely autobiographical picture book, *Dreamers*, which details how public libraries helped Morales and her infant son feel at home after they left Mexico in 1994 for a new life in California.
- **Tuesday, Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m.** — Eoin Colfer, author of the best-selling *Artemis Fowl* series, talks about his new graphic novel, *Illegal*, in which Colfer uses the journey of one Ghanaian boy to spotlight the plight of refugees desperate to flee from Africa to Europe. Colfer will be joined by his co-writer Andrew Donkin and illustrator Giovanni Rigano at this event. *Note: The program is best for older kids, teens and adults due to the disturbing nature of parts of the story.*
- **Wednesday, Sept. 12, 7:30 p.m.** — The Friends of the Library Fortnightly Book Club discusses *Portnoy's Complaint* by Philip Roth.



Local musician Marsha Goodman-Wood and two members of her band, the Positrons

Marsha Goodman-Wood and the Positrons in Concert

Join us on Saturday, Aug. 25 at 1 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium when local musician Marsha Goodman-Wood and her band, the Positrons, present a free concert for kids and families. It's a great way to mix entertainment with education as the band sings and plays original songs by Goodman-Wood that illuminate science concepts in a fun, memorable and top-tapping way. As Goodman-Wood notes: "The goal is to make it all fun and engaging so the audience doesn't feel taught to, but rather entertained (while their curiosity is piqued at the same time)."

At the concert, the band will preview songs from their about-to-be-released CD;

new songs include "Hey Pluto," "The Monarch Butterfly Song," "Giant & Colossal Squid" and "The Ore Song." The band also will play songs from Goodman-Wood's critically-acclaimed first CD, *Gravity Vacation*, including such favorites as "Sheep Don't Wear Shoes," "Why Can't You Dance on Jupiter?" and "Ninja School."

So mark your calendars for this free concert! Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring this event, and also for funding the printing of new booklists spotlighting multicultural books with science themes for kids of all ages. Booklists will be distributed at the concert.

Five Questions for Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart, TPPD Police Chaplain

In June, Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart was appointed Police Chaplain for the Takoma Park Police Department. A resident of Takoma Park since 1984, Fisher-Stewart currently serves as the assistant pastor at Calvary Episcopal Church in Washington, DC.

She credits another Takoma Park resident, Andy Kelemen, for suggesting that she accept the position as TPPD's chaplain, but says of her primary motivation for taking on the role, "It was a way to put my faith in action."

A native Washingtonian, prior to accepting the call to ordained ministry, she retired from the Metropolitan Police Department as a captain and then taught at the university level. Her area of special interest is the history of policing as it intersects with race in America.

In her work as TPPD's chaplain, Fisher-Stewart will draw on an important lesson she's learned through her work as both a police officer and a minister. "Becoming cynical, particularly about people, is easy a police officer," she says. "There is a constant battle to overcome the us-versus- them mentality and not let your negative encounters affect your perceptions of people. "As a minister, I have to see Christ in everyone I encounter, regardless of what they have done or who they are."

She is the founder of the Center for the Study of Faith in Justice at Calvary, which conducts research and creates a safe space for the discussion of issues that vex both society and the church and is the president for the Washington, DC, chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians.

Rev. Dr. Fisher-Stewart is a graduate of the University of Maryland University College (BS), the University of Maryland (MS, Ph.D.), American University (MS), the University of the District of Columbia (MA)



Rev. Dr. Gayle Fisher-Stewart

and Wesley Theological Seminary (MTS). She was the 2015 recipient of the Director's Award, Episcopal Evangelism Society, and in 2017, she was awarded an honorary doctorate of divinity from Colgate University. Rev. Dr. Fisher-Stewart is the mother of a son, David, who is her heart.

TP News caught up with Fisher-Stewart recently while she was attending a church conference. Here's her take on the five questions introduced two years ago as part of our quick interview series.

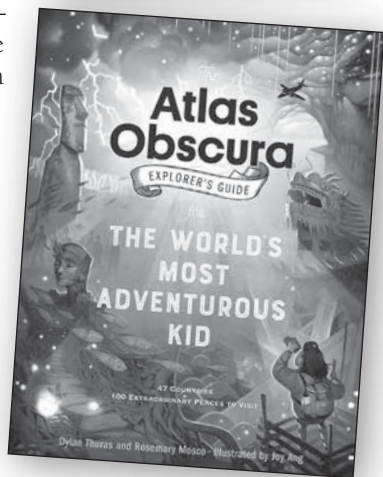
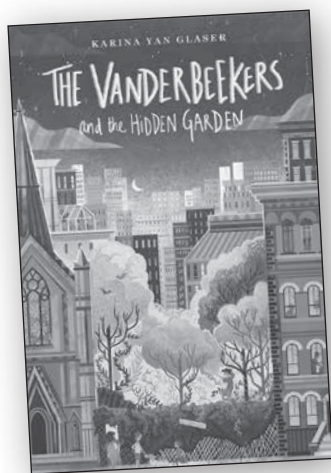
- 1. Favorite Place/Activity in Takoma Park:** Sitting on my deck watching July 4th fireworks.
- 2. Best Thing about Living in Takoma Park:** Its city/country feel and the diversity of people.
- 3. What's on Your Desk Right Now:** You don't want to know everything!
- 4. What You Do in Your "Spare Time":** Spare time, what's that? My niece says I'm the busiest retired person she's ever seen. However, I do read a lot.
- 5. Best Advice You Ever Got (and from who):** Get an education. From my mother.

PROGRAMS

■ From page 8

and who gained international fame when the son of author A.A. Milne named his teddy bear "Winnie-the-Pooh." As PW said: "Colebourn and Winnie's strong friendship, rendered believably and movingly, is the emotional heart of the story." (Special note to all young Ivy + Bean fans: Blackall also is the illustrator of the popular series; the 12th book in the series will be published in late August).

On Tuesday, Sept. 25 at 7:30 p.m., kid's author Katrina Yan Glaser will talk about her new novel *The Vanderbeekers and the Hidden Garden*, the sequel to her heartwarming book, *The Vanderbeekers of 141st Street*. Having saved their beloved Harlem home in the first book, the bi-



racial Vanderbeeker family now sets out to turn a trash-strewn lot into a special garden for neighbors in need. In a starred review of the first book, *Booklist* noted: "Few families in children's literature are as engaging or amusing as the Vanderbeekers."

Then, on Wednesday, Oct. 3, at 7:30, *Atlas Obscura* co-founder Dylan Thuras will showcase his new edition for kids, *The Atlas Obscura Explorer's Guide for the World's Most Adventurous Kid*. The book offers a look at 100 of the world's most fascinating wonders in 47 countries and on every continent. In a conversation with *Washington Post* editor Ann Rothchild, creator and host of the YouTube series *Gross Science*, Thuras will talk about his book and how he chose the places it highlights.

Call for Entries: 2018 Safe Grow Garden Photo Contest

Flowers are blooming, bees are buzzing, and vegetables are ripening; it's a perfect time for you to think about entering the 2018 Safe Grow Garden Photo Contest! Now in its second year, the photo contest was designed to raise awareness about Takoma Park's Safe Grow Act. From now until the end of August 2018, residents are encouraged to take pictures of their flowers, gardens, and vegetables and share them with us.

Last year the City of Takoma Park narrowed down the winners from nearly 40 entries, and we hope more people will participate this year. First, second, and third place winners will be recognized at a City Council Meeting in the fall.

Submitting entries is as easy as sending a tweet! Images can be shared on social media using the hashtag #Safe-growTakoma or via email at jeremyd@takomaparkmd.gov.



Contest rules:

- Must be an original photograph
- Entries must be from Takoma Park residents
- The garden, vegetables, plants, or flowers featured must be from a lawn or apartment garden that abides by the Takoma Park Safe Grow Act
- Have fun, get creative!

For more information please visit: takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/safe-grow/safe-grow-garden-photo-contest or feel free to contact Jeremy Dickey at jeremyd@takomaparkmd.gov.

Getting around town

By Helen Lyons

If you're a senior or a person with a disability looking to get around the county, public transportation isn't always an option. Metro stations won't get you everywhere you need to go and accessibility issues aside, many people don't live near a bus line. Unless you have access to a car, that often means there's only one option for making it to that doctor's appointment—a taxi cab.

That's where Call-n-Ride comes in. The fare subsidizing program was founded in 1996 as a way to increase transportation options for low-income people over the age of 65 or with a disability. CNR, as it's called, partners with five local cab companies to provide reduced fares for transportation within the county.

"Residents with more options have better resources on how to get around," said Samuel Oji, chief of the enhanced mobility and senior services section. CNR began with a budget of around 220,000 for 600 residents. Today, 5,300 residents are benefiting from the program, and its resources amount to around \$3.7 million.

Eligible residents have a monthly copay based on a sliding scale, with the lowest income individuals paying around \$10.50 a month. In exchange, they're given a swipe card loaded with up to \$120 to be used for transportation with each of the five cab companies.

"The importance of transportation cannot be understated," said Oji. "As we go out and talk to senior residents, one of the things we always say is that the resident who is the most equipped is the one who is most aware of all the options. For people who don't have access to [buses and the metro], on-demand taxi transportation is a good option."

The application and approval process for



CNR can take as little as two weeks. Once approved, residents receive their swipe card by mail. "Any resident should understand the ease of using this service," Oji said.

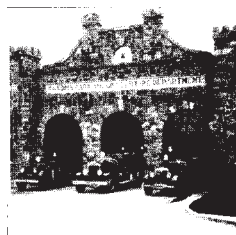
The "flagger option" allows those with a swipe card to simply flag a passing taxi from one of the five companies, instead of having to call and request a cab in advance, making it one of the more independent transit options for seniors and persons with disabilities.

"It's an added option for you," said Oji. "There are lots of transportation options. We just want to make sure this is one that's available to residents."

The Call-n-Ride application form can be found online at Montgomery County's website under the Department of Transportation's (DOT) Transit section (Alternatively, the direct link is <https://apps.montgomerycountymd.gov/callandride/registration.aspx>).

Complaints, including those regarding taxi companies rejecting swipe cards, should be made to DOT and must include the taxi company, cab number, driver's name or ID, date and time of the incident and the complaint.

AT YOUR SERVICE



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of June 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue personnel assigned to the station responded to 285 fire-related incidents in 2018. The department also addressed or assisted with 1,457 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,742. Totals for 2017 were 269 and 1,468, representing an increase of five incidents.

During June, Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 834.5 hours of standby hours in the station compared to 1,266 in June 2017. Grand totals as of June 2018, were 6,729.5 hours compared to 9,308 in June 2017, a decrease of 2,578.5 hours.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of July 27, 2018, 35 have died in fires compared to 38 in 2017.

Hot vehicles deaths

As of July 27, 2018 29 children have died in hot vehicles across the country. Don't forget to check the back seat; when you leave, everyone goes with you.

Safety message

Have working smoke alarms on all levels of the home, and check them monthly.



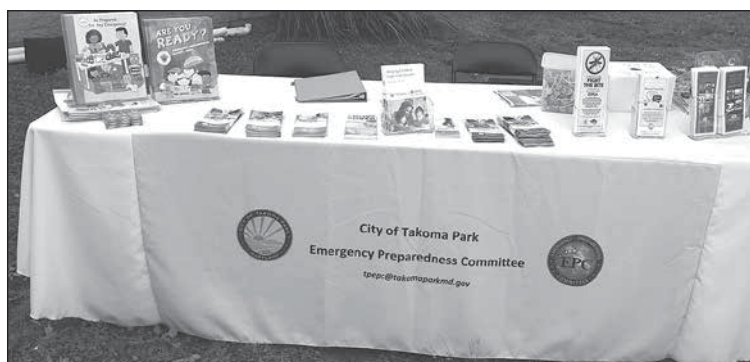
Chief Tom Musgrove presented Master/EMT Jorge Alvaro a certificate from MSFA commending him for being TPVFD's Top Responder for 2017. Jorge has received this award several times over the years.



At the Maryland State Firemen's Association (MSFA) Convention held in June, TPVFD Chief Jim Jarboe was honored with the prestigious Smith N. Stathem Memorial Safety Award for his outstanding work promoting safety at the fire station, in the community and beyond.



The Maryland Fire Chiefs Association honored Chief Tom Musgrove for his Outstanding Service and Dedication in training during the past two years.



The Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee often participates in local community events.

Getting to know the EPC

Did you know that the City has an Emergency Preparedness Manager and Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) to help residents of the city be better prepared for emergencies?

The committee is made up of seven City residents, who are appointed by the City Council, and includes representation from the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, Washington Adventist Hospital, Montgomery County Emergency Management and Health Services and local colleges.

You have read some of our columns in previous newsletters on preparedness topics and may have seen us at local events, such as Celebrate Takoma, the Folk Festival, or the Street Festival giving advice on how you can better prepare you and your family for an emergency. EPC members have a wealth of knowledge and experience, from the academic to the practical.



They know about police, fire and emergency operations and developing and reviewing emergency plans.

Nationally, only 10 percent of the population is prepared to last several days during an emergency when there is no power. Let the EPC help you with your family or business emergency prepared-

ness plan or provide you with useful information. Let's put Takoma Park above the average because we are above average.

Contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or ronh@takomaparkmd.gov. Look for our table at this year's Takoma Park Folk Festival and Street Festival. Look for more information and links on preparedness as we restructure our committee web page at takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/emergency-preparedness-committee. Remember, "Being prepared is not being scared."

you are invited to

LUNCH

with the **MAYOR**
at Takoma Langley
CROSSROADS

8/24 Pupuseria el Comalito
9/7 El Marinero Comida Latina & Grill
9/21 El Campeon Rotisserie Chicken & Bakery
10/12 Tijuana's Mexican Cafe

at 12:00 noon, more info at
TakomaLangleyCrossroads.org

TAKOMA
LANGLEY
CROSSROADS

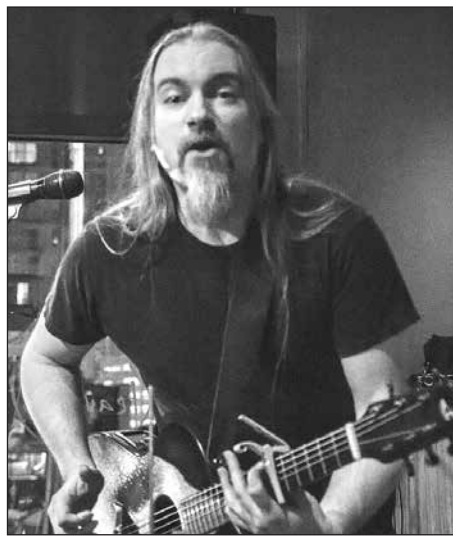
Let the music move you: Q&A with TPFF Program Chair Rob Hinkal

While he's a proud Baltimorean, Takoma Park Folk Festival Program Chair Rob Hinkal spends a lot of time in Takoma Park. "Through my long-time association with House of Musical Traditions (HMT), I've found myself involved with a lot of Takoma Park musical events, having worked with HMT for about a decade and a half and with Institute of Musical Traditions for the past several years," he says. Hinkal also hosted the return of open mics to the Takoma Park music scene in the form of the Capital City Cheesecake open mic in 2011 and started the Republic Open Mic a year or so later.

His tenure with the TPFF Program Committee began in 2014 as a volunteer, and he became its chair in 2016 "just in time for the canceled festival." Hinkal took it all in stride and worked diligently along with other volunteers to get the festival up and running again last year. He was especially drawn to coordinating the musical performances because of his own experience as a festival performer.

"The Takoma Park Folk Festival was the first 'folk' entity that invited my band (il-yAIMY) and my music into its ranks," Hinkal recalls. "The Seventh Heaven Stage (recently rebranded as the Crossroads Stage) hosted a songwriting contest, and we won! The TPFF earned my eternal thanks that year for giving us a home, and when they approached me about being on the board, I felt like I couldn't say, 'no!'"

Just as his band did, Hinkal hopes other musical artists find themselves at home during the TPFF. "A lot of folk festivals tend to be very [rigid]. And the Takoma Park Folk Festival has always fought that," he explains. "There has long been a feeling here that though it's important to recognize our



Rob Hinkal

musical roots, the music of the 'folks of Takoma Park' – and DC and the immediately surrounding area – covers a whole lot more than what most people think of as [traditional] 'folk music.'"

"Broadening the envelope of what's included in a 'folk festival,' and making sure that our 'folks' include a broad variety of cultures and sounds, has long been a mission of the festival," he continues. "As an open mic host, a touring artist and a resident of the area, it's really important to me that a lot of what and who I see as valuable in the local community isn't excluded from what we do." Hinkal gave *TP News* a sneak peak of what you can expect to see and hear at this year's festival.

Q: What's the breakdown of acts — new vs. returning performers? How many total? Did you have to turn anyone away who wanted to perform?

A: This year's special. It's our 40th anni-

versary, so we've got a number of artists that go all the way back. About half a dozen performers performed in the very first Takoma Park Folk Festival, and it's an honor to bring them back to our stages. In general we have a couple of rules in place to make sure we get turn over. Performers have to take a break after two years in a row, but between the constant flux of the local scene and a stage specifically designated for young performers (The Grassy Nook specifically invites performers under the age of 25.), we're constantly bringing in new blood.

We actually have only 49 performers this year. Our numbers are down a little because we've invited some "super groups" to help with the historic aspect of the festival. I'd say that about half of the performers have performed at the festival at some point in the past, and half are brand new. Outside of the DC Labor Chorus, which traditionally leads a singing procession around the festival site every year before the official schedule begins, there are six artists that are repeats from last year, who then will not be able to apply next year. Unfortunately, it's just not possible to book everyone you want to book. There's so much talent in the area. This year we were only able to book about 1 in 6 applicants.

Q: What are your goals when you put together the lineup for each stage? Are you aiming for a particular mix?

A: Each stage has a different spirit. Generally speaking, Abbott tends towards the more traditional folk voices, songs of protest. When people think "folk festival," this is often what they visualize. Crossroads (formerly Seventh Heaven) tends towards newer singer/songwriters and smaller acoustic groups. Tribal and world music

sounds can often be found there. This year they'll begin with a drum circle and end with a Native American, cello and drum band. Field Stage is kind of the "loud" stage. Bands with drum kits are often to be found here as well as a lot of "indie" sounds and more rock-oriented bands. Grassy Nook, as I mentioned before, has a focus on performers 25 years and under. This year that includes plenty of original singer/songwriters, rock bands, and some up-and-comers in the trad scene. Grove Stage splits the difference between Crossroads and Field, tending towards singer/songwriter-based bands. The World Stage is a grab bag of different cultures.

Q: How will this year's musical performances or musical mix be different from past years?

A: We've got a sharper focus on our history this year, so I think a principal difference will be that this year a lot of stages have focused on bringing back performers that have historic significance to the festival.

Q: Any special performances planned in celebration of the festival's 40th anniversary?

In addition to bringing back performers that have played at the first, second and fourth festivals, we'll also have a musical tribute to two champions of the Labor Movement, who we lost recently, Hazel Dickens and Paul Booth. I feel that since the original TPFF was so deeply rooted in social activism, giving over a good chunk of stage time to remembering voices that have been raised for social and economic justice is a very fine celebration of the anniversary, indeed.

Look for the Takoma Park Folk Festival insert in the September Newsletter.

How to get clean and quit using coal

By Gina Mathias,
Takoma Park Sustainability Manager

In Takoma Park Pepco is always who delivers your electricity and your electric bills. But you can choose where that electricity comes from. If you don't choose, Pepco will purchase on your behalf, and you get what's called the "standard offer" which is:

- 32.7% coal
- 24.8% gas
- 36.5% nuclear
- 0.2% oil
- 5.9% renewable mix - captured methane, geothermal, hydro, solar, incinerated solid waste, wind, and biomass

You do not have to settle for a mix of dirty electricity! In Maryland everyone with an electric account can choose their electricity supplier, and therefore choose 100 percent clean, renewable electricity. Since Pepco can't run lines directly from a wind farm to your house, companies use an accounting system for the electricity called renewable energy certificates (RECs). Energy fed into the power grid from a renewable energy generator is issued a corresponding number of RECs, and whoever purchases the RECs gets to claim the renewable energy.

Buying clean electricity is pretty simple

once you select a supplier. Most of the suppliers allow you to sign up online or over the phone, and you'll simply need to give the new supplier your Pepco account number and your contact information. You will still be a Pepco customer, and Pepco still sends you monthly bills; however on page 2 you will notice a new line item where it lists your specific supplier and the amount they charged for the supply.

Choosing the right supplier is what can be difficult. There is a website listing approved suppliers <http://www.psc.state.md.us/electricity/electric-supplier>. It is important to pay attention to the following information when choosing a supplier:

- Price compared to Pepco's standard offer of \$0.0765 (at the time of printing). Typically, buying renewable means your bills will go up about \$10 - 15 per month.
- Contract terms. Is the price fixed and guaranteed? For how long? Is there an automatic renewal, and if so, how much can they raise your rates?
- Cancellation fees. What if you decide you want to cancel before your contract is up?
- Electricity mix. Is the electricity 100

percent renewable? What kind of renewable? Wind, solar, hydro, incinerator, biomass, etc.? Where is the electricity generated? Is it a generic national mix, or local where it has a greater impact on local air, water and jobs?

This past spring, the City issued an RFP to find a partner for our Renewable Energy Challenge. The challenge is to get 25 percent of all electricity accounts in Takoma Park to choose renewable electricity by Sept. 30, 2018. There is also a prize for the neighborhood team that has the highest percentage of households buying renewable. The City Council unanimously selected CleanChoice Energy as its partner for the challenge. CleanChoice Energy is not the cheapest supplier; its special offer for Takoma Park customers is \$0.086 per kWh. However, the company is the only the supplier offering all of the following at the same time:

- 100 percent regionally generated wind and solar
- No cancellation fee
- 12-month guaranteed rate - with renewed discount after 12 months
- Certified B Corporation
- No investment in fossil fuels and/or nuclear
- Local company with employees and owner living in Takoma Park

- Support for neighborhood energy challenge
- Low-income grant fund to rebate low income residents the cost difference

Recently, a new option has become available as well, community solar through Neighborhood Sun. Community solar is like having your own solar panels, but they are located on a landfill in Fort Washington, MD. The five-year contract guarantees prices lower than Pepco. There is a cancellation fee, but it is waived if you move out of the area or if you find someone to take over your spot in the program. Community solar works together with your chosen renewable electricity supplier since community solar provides 75 – 90 percent of your needs. The rest can be covered by your chosen supplier, like CleanChoice Energy. Find out more at neighborhoodsun.solar.

The decision you make about your electricity can help clean local air, water and jobs by increasing the demand for renewable electricity in our region. It also helps the city reach its goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To find out more visit bit.ly/WindEnergyChallenge. To claim credit in the challenge, be sure to email ginam@takomaparkmd.gov and let her know you are buying 100 percent renewable electricity.

AUGUST '18

Do you have an item for the city calendar?

Do you have an item for the city calendar? Let us know if you have a nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the September issue is Aug. 10, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Aug. 24. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov. "TP Community Center" is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park or Takoma, D.C., unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC MEETINGS OF NOTE

City Council

The City Council is on recess until Wednesday, September 5.
Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Labor Day — City Offices Closed

Monday, Sept. 3
All City offices & facilities will be closed Monday, Sept. 3, for the Labor Day holiday. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

First Saturdays, noon – 3 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families
240-450-2092 or educare_ss@yahoo.com
www.educaresupportservices.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Circle Time

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.
A beloved local tradition, the 30-minute program of songs, fingerplays, rhymes, movement exercises and stories teach 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

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
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 or 303-883-4364.

Spanish Circle Time

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

Kid's Night Out

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

Teen Night

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

Takoma Park Farmers Market

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

Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., April 18 – Nov. 28
Anne Street at University Blvd. East (across from Rite Aid)
The season's freshest fruits and vegetables, free-range meats and eggs, herbs, honey, local flour, locally-roasted coffee, fresh-cut flowers, potted plants, and healthy snacks, as well as scrumptious lunch fare, live music, cooking demos, and health information and screenings. Proceeds go toward cultivating a more inclusive food system in Takoma/Langley Crossroads. SNAP and WIC accepted, and those shopping with SNAP/EBT can get up to \$20 in free fruits and vegetables every week.

Community Self Defense

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

Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA)

First Thursdays
TP Community Center
This support and advocacy group of parents and other loved ones of adults with special needs including autism, Down's syndrome, and severe chronic psychiatric challenges usually meets the first Thursdays of every month. For more information, contact Mary Muchui at muchui@aol.com.

Wonderful Ones!

Wednesdays in August, 11 – 11:30 a.m.
Takoma Park Library
A time to sing songs and rhymes, read a few stories and do lots of movement exercises. Note: This program is offered as a package of five classes; please register only if you can make all five classes (barring illness, of course) as we often have people on our waiting list.
www.takomapark.info/library

National Night Out

Tuesday, Aug. 7, 6 – 9 p.m.
Piney Branch Elementary School
National Night Out is a unique crime and drug prevention event. The Takoma Park Police Department hosts its own community event in celebration of this campaign. The department's goal is to heighten safety and crime prevention awareness; to support locally-based businesses, groups, and organizations; and to strengthen relationships among community members and between the community and local police department. The event is free. For more information, contact Captain Tyrone Collington at tyronec@takomaparkmd.gov.

Puppy Social Hour

Thursday, Aug. 16, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Big Bad Woof, 6960 Maple St. NW
Join professional dog trainer Lindsey Paige at the Big Bad Woof on the 3rd Thursday of each month this summer to socialize your puppy and "Ask the Trainer" questions on basic training and skills.

Tako Tuesday

Tuesday, Aug. 28, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Takowork, 7000 Carroll Ave, 2nd floor
Get out of your home office or break free from your cubicle and get productive at Takowork. Make new friends, meet potential clients and get stuff done. Co-work for free Takowork on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Tacos and networking lunch will take place at noon for those who want an opportunity to introduce themselves and their business to the Takowork community. RSVP using the Eventbrite link or email info@takowork.com.

ARTS AND LITERATURE

People's Open Mic

Sundays, 9 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Takoma Park Community Band

Takoma Park Community Band is on recess until Monday, Sept. 10
Heffner Park Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave.
Join the Takoma Park Community Band this fall for weekly rehearsals at the Heffner Park Community Center. No audition required, just plenty of enthusiasm.

Drum for Joy! with Jaqui MacMillan

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

Blues Mondays

Mondays, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Open Mic Night

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

Jazz Jam

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

Wednesday Night Drum Jams

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

Bedtime Stories and Craft

Tuesday, Aug. 7, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
Wear your pajamas and bring a favorite lovey as we read some stories and sing some songs. After our stories and songs, we will do a simple craft. Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, Aug. 16, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
The popular "Third Thursday" poetry series features the work of a wide range of poets from across the region. Held in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, the free readings are followed by a light reception and an opportunity to meet the featured poets.

Writing a Village

Monday, Aug. 20, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center Rose Room
Poetry writing salon led by Anne Becker, poet laureate emerita of Takoma Park, this monthly poetry workshop is for those who love words. All levels of experience welcome.

Student Concert

Sunday, Aug. 26, 11 a.m.
Gazebo, 7035 Carroll Ave.
Student violinists (many from D.C. Youth Orchestra Program) will play fiddle tunes, classical music and civil rights songs. Ken Giles is the violin teacher.

Photo Salon

Monday, Aug. 27, 7 – 9 p.m.
Takoma Park Hydrangea Room
A monthly salon for photographers to show and critique work. Professional, fine art, and amateur photographers are welcome. For more information, contact arts@takomaparkmd.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS

2018 Christmas Revels Children's & Teen Auditions

Sept. 7–9: Appointment required
Washington Revels Studio Space, 531 Dale Drive, Silver Spring
Washington Revels is seeking a diverse cast of singers and performers, grades 3–5 and 9–12, for its 36th annual Christmas Revels. Seen by more 10,000 people each December, Christmas Revels is a festive, colorful celebration of the Winter Solstice that draws on traditions from different cultures and eras. Eight performances will take place at George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium in DC from Dec. 8–16. Audition appointments are required. Info at revelsdc.org/get-involved/audition.

Takoma Langley Crossroad's Night Market

Saturday, Sept. 29, 4–7:30 p.m.
Anne Street (between University Blvd. and Hammond Ave.)
Join the Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority for Night Market, an international food festival with local flavor. Experience the best in ethnic cuisine from the Takoma/Langley Crossroads, featuring local restaurants serving up their top dishes and market vendors selling a variety of tasty treats and beverages. Jailbreak Brewery will be selling cans of some of their best beer brews. Not just a delight for the taste buds, enjoy the sights and sounds of live, multi-cultural performances on the festival mainstage and browse regional craft vendors. Family- friendly fun includes a bounce house, face painting, and jugglers.

STAY CONNECTED!

The City of Takoma Park strives to keep residents engaged and informed in a variety of ways including social media, the City website, public safety notifications via email and text, and this newsletter, to name a few. 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 at @TakomaParkMD
- Sign up for Public Safety notifications on Takoma Park Alert: takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert
- Stay up to date with city news and blogs from City Staff, the Mayor and Council at takomaparkmd.gov/news



- Make a service request or report an issue using "My TkPk," an online and application based reporting tool: takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk

