**Idealism in Action: A Recap of the FY2020 Budget Process**

"You see, idealism detached from action is just a dream. But idealism allied with pragmatism, with rolling up our sleeves and making the world bend a bit, is very exciting. It’s very real. It’s very strong.”  

– Bono

By Mayor Kate Stewart

For the last six weeks, the City Council, staff, and residents have rolled up our sleeves and gotten to work on our FY2020 budget, which was adopted after a 6-1 vote at the May 15 City Council meeting. The City’s budget is a quantitative expression of its values. It embodies in dollars and cents the goals and priorities we are working toward.

Thank you to everyone who helped make our City’s FY2020 budget a strong one that positions us to take advantage of the opportunities before us, prepares us for the challenges, and reflects our values.

**Takoma Park group looks to reform criminal justice**

By Sean Gossard

In the U.S., nearly 2.2 million adults were held in its prisons and jails at the end of 2016, according to a 2018 report from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. And of those incarcerated, African Americans and other minorities make up a disproportionate number.

One Takoma Park group is looking to change that by increasing awareness of the disparity and working with state legislators to reform the criminal justice system.

Shayla Davis speaks in April at a criminal justice reform forum in Takoma Park.
The Council is seeking applicants for a number of boards, commissions and committees. Takoma Park residency is required unless noted below. If you are interested in appointment, please submit the online application: bit.ly/bcc-application. Feel free to drop by to review a meeting. Meetings are listed on the City Calendar on the website. Additional information is available at takomaparkmd.gov/government/bcc-boards-commissions-and-committees.

Join the Takoma Park Youth Council
Applications Now Available

The City Council will appoint 11 young people to serve as the 2019-2020 Takoma Park Youth Council. The application deadline is June 28, 2019. The Takoma Park Youth Council provides opportunities for young people in Takoma Park to:

• Learn about Takoma Park government by active participation.
• Help the City Council to address problems and accomplish the goals of this community by working directly with the representatives of youth.
• Serve the youth of Takoma Park by:
  • informing the Takoma Park municipal government of the needs and wishes of youth;
  • planning and implementing social, educational, cultural and recreational activities for the youth;
  • working with the Mayor, City Council, City department heads, schools, civic clubs and service organizations to provide service and leadership opportunities for the youth of the City; and
  • helping to instil a feeling of positive self-worth and esteem, teaching respect for the rights of others, and promoting community pride.

Youth Council members must be residents of the City of Takoma Park, students in grades 7–12, and maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average for the current school year. The application and additional information is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov. Youth Council members are eligible to earn SSL hours.

VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

The City Council is seeking applicants for a number of boards, commissions and committees. Takoma Park residency is required unless noted below. If you are interested in appointment, please submit the online application: bit.ly/bcc-application. Feel free to drop by to review a meeting. Meetings are listed on the City Calendar on the website. Additional information is available at takomaparkmd.gov/government/bcc-boards-commissions-and-committees.

Positions are available on the following:
• Arts and Humanities Commission
• Commemoration Commission
• Committee on the Environment
• Council Compensation Committee*
• Ethics Commission
• Facade Advisory Board
• Noise Control Board
• Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee
• Recreation Committee
• Complete Safe Streets Committee*
• Youth Council*

*See the separate descriptions for the Council Compensation Committee, Complete Safe Streets Committee and the Youth Council.
The Process: How we get a budget

1. Every year in early April, the City Manager submits a recommended budget to the City Council for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1.
2. The Proposed Budget is considered by the City Council through a public process of hearings, council work sessions, open houses, and final adoption in late May.
3. The Adopted Budget officially sets the tax rates and guides the expenditure of funds by the City throughout the fiscal year, July 1 through June 30.
4. The foundation for our budget discussions began back in January when the Council established the 2019 Priorities.
5. The Priorities document also provides a listing of major projects, initiatives, and ongoing activities that the Council and City staff will continue to work on and establishes a framework for the Council as it looks at the budget in this year’s budget on preparing for their upcoming budget.

Addresses known needs.

We know many people in our community find themselves on fixed incomes and impacted by changes at the federal level to tax deductions. We need to make sure our budget provides programs and resources for those in need in our community so that they can continue to call Takoma Park home. That means continuing and expanding tax rebates, continuing rent stabilization, keeping our recreation programs for seniors and young people free or at a reduced nominal fee, as well as continuing our long-term work on building a strong and resilient community through our racial equity work and fighting climate change.

Prepares for unknown needs.

We are a Sanctuary City and have recommitted over the last two years to being a welcoming community. Given the actions of the current federal administration, we have been and continue to be at the ready to provide assistance to those most impacted. In addition, we have had to deal with issues such as cell tower and other attacks on our safety to pass laws locally and have had to do more to fight preemption attempts at both the federal and state level.

Ensures stability and fiscal responsibility.

As discussed in more detail below, the Council has voted for a tax rate that is $3.97. This rate is equal to the Constant Yield plus the Employee Cost Index (ECI). In other words, this tax rate provides the same level of revenue we collected in prior fiscal year plus the increase in compensation and benefits for city employees using the index published by the Bureau of Labor statistics. In 2015 and 2016, the City Council made a commitment to our employees by raising salaries of our lowest paid workers to market rate and having a policy that put in place the floor of $40,000 for any full-time worker for the City.

We are committed to ensuring that our staff receive wages and benefits so that they can live and continue to work in this area. Therefore, if we look at continuing and maintaining the same services each year having a tax rate that increases by the ECI may be an appropriate approach. The Council will be having more discussions about having as a general standard the constant yield plus ECI for future budgets or some similar guideline.

What’s in the budget

I want to highlight what is in the budget that will advance the top priorities in the City. This is only a select list. Please see the City website for the full proposed budget.

LIVABLE COMMUNITY

FOR ALL: “Ensuring we have a range of safe, quality, and stable housing options that are affordable for residents of varying incomes and all races and ethnicities”

- Contribution of $210,000 to the Housing Reserve Fund. The Council will be finalizing the Housing Strategic Plan in the upcoming months.
- Resources allocated to continue work to ensure quality affordable housing for those who rent. When we look across the region at rents, Takoma Park continues to have the lowest rents in the area.
- Rent stabilization and PILOTS (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) to support upgrades and improvements for buildings.
- Frequent inspections and code enforcement. The budget includes $257,078 for rental inspections and enforcement so that the City can continue to have more frequent inspections than currently required by the county.
- Technical review services for “Fair Return Rent Increase” petitions.
- Assisting and advocating for renters: Increasing half-time Landlord-Tenant Mediator position to full-time, which will greatly enhance our ability to advocate on behalf of renters and housing associations.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR AN IMPROVED & EQUIitable QUALITY OF LIFE: Planning and preparing for development in the City and region while maintaining the special character and diversity of Takoma Park.

- New Economic Development division, which will greatly impact our ability to proactively engage in more focused efforts on redevelopment projects such as Takoma Junction, the Recreation Center, the Washington Adventist Hospital property, and other properties; also more focused advocacy and work on the redevelopment of the New Hampshire
- Addition of fulltime intern to support Economic Development Manager.
- Support business associations: $37,500 in contracts for services with Old Town Business Association and Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority.
- Develop and initiate implementation of a new Takoma Park Business Retention and Planning Program which will enable us to have significantly more focused efforts on redevelopment projects such as Takoma Junction.

BUDGET PROCESS

- Funding of the Home Stretch Down Payment Assistance Program where in the last few years has helped three families become homeowners; in the last four years, over 140 prospective home buyers have attended our staff led first-time home buyer programs.
- Assistance for residents in need of help with property taxes: $174,500 for our Tax Rebate Program for nearly 150 low-income homeowners who qualify to receive assistance on paying their property taxes. The Council also included an additional $22,500 for new rebate programs for those eligible based on income and will be discussing next steps on these in July.
- Assistance for residents in need: $55,000 for income-based emergency assistance which provides families with assistance for things such as rent, health care costs, and other expenses in emergency situations.
- Making sure we have programs and services available to residents of various income level. For example, continue scholarships for the Recreation Department’s many programs and keep the cost of programs for seniors and young people free or for a nominal fee.
- Vacant property monitoring and enforcement.

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: April Motley
Assistant: Sean Gossard
www.takomaparkmd.gov
Vol. 58, No. 6
The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov. Letters to the editor, reports from community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to (tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov)
BUILDING COMMUNITY

City installs new sharrows

In honor of Bike Month in May, the City installed 18 sharrows through the Community Center parking lot and up Cedar Avenue to the Takoma Metro. Sharrows are short for “shared use arrow.” Sharrows are comprised of green bounding boxes with a white bicycle symbol, following the new national standard. Sharrows are typically installed on streets that are lower stress with less vehicular traffic and that are too narrow for traditional bike lanes. The sharrows are meant to highlight Cedar Avenue as a bike route, as recommended in the Montgomery County Bike Master Plan, and increase visibility for cyclists.

Sneak Peek

Get a sneak preview of the performances at this year’s Takoma Park Folk Festival by attending our two pre-Festival fundraisers coming this summer. The Festival will be showcasing singer-songwriters at the Takoma Park Boys & Poets on Saturday, July 30, and El Golfo Restaurant on Flower Ave. on Saturday, August 24. Your food and drink purchases at the restaurants will raise funds for the Festival, too! For a complete update on the Festival’s music, dance and crafts, go to www.tpff.org. We’ll see you on Sunday, September 8.

The criminal justice forum in April featured guest speakers, from left, Marc Mauer, Nikki Thompson, Shayla Davis and Dr. Stephanie McGencey.

Criminal Justice

From page 1

Is it time to get rid of life sentences for more equal treatment. “Criminal justice reform is about transforming the entire justice system and moving away from the overly punitive and racially biased approach to justice,” said Shayla Davis of Takoma Park Mobilization.

Started in 2016, Takoma Park Mobilization is a series of working groups that act on initiatives, including community meals, education, environmental health, immigration and Muslim solidarity, and mass incarceration.

Through outreach and organization, the Mass Incarceration Working Group of Takoma Park Mobilization works to lower the flow of young African Americans into prison. In April, the group held a public forum featuring speakers focused on different aspects of incarceration.

“The purpose was for folks to share their work,” Davis said. “We also had panelists come and talk about what they’ve been doing.”

Those panelists included Nikki Thompson of Job Opportunities Task Force (JOTF), who spoke on the 2019 legislative session and how people can get more involved in state politics; Dr. Stephanie McGencey with Women’s Equity Center and Action Network (WE CAN) discussing re-entry for former prisoners; and Marc Mauer, author of The Meaning of Life: The Case for Abolishing Life Sentences, who talked about sentencing.

This year the group worked heavily during Maryland’s legislative session, emailing and calling Sen. Will Smith, who represents Takoma Park. “Going into this year, we focused a lot on the legislative session,” Davis said. “We worked with Job Opportunity Task Force to come up with some bills of our own.”

Though most action stalled during the session, it was still a valuable learning experience and showed that there’s still plenty more that can be done to get people to be able to participate in their own government.

In the past, the group has held expungeMENT events in which local ACLU and the JOTF help people get charges taken off their records after serving their sentences. “We had a person who came through and had their entire record cleared, which is huge,” Davis said.

For now, the group is looking for people who want to act on ending mass incarceration and help to reform the state and country’s justice systems. “We need leaders who come in and say, ‘I can take care of this’ and are motivated to be supportive,” Davis said.

And Davis says the group is looking for all sorts of people to help. “If you volunteer your time, know that just because you don’t have expertise doesn’t mean that you’re any less valuable,” she said. “And if you don’t have free time, you can always donate. Money is how these things happen.”

“Change isn’t going to happen with meek asks and minor additions,” Davis continued. “Change requires strategy, planning and sweat. The time for standing on the sidelines is over.”

If you’re interested in joining Takoma Park Mobilization, visit tpmobilization.org. You can also view April’s public forum by searching Takoma Park Mobilization on YouTube.

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The octopus lived on the Takoma Park clock tower for six months.

Artist Stacy Cantrell poses with her creation at its new home.

**Giant Crocheted Octopus Finds a New Home**

After living on top of the downtown Takoma Park clock tower for six months, a 17-foot-tall crocheted octopus was moved to its new home at the Takoma Children’s School in the Great “Octoshedopus” Parade.

The City of Takoma Park commissioned fiber artist Stacy Cantrell who crocheted the colorful cephalopod that she named Oct O’Clock. The octopus survived rain, snow, and fierce winds, so the City held the Octo-Gone Contest where contestants submitted an essay or video describing why they wanted the octopus.

The Takoma Children’s School submitted a fun video with preschoolers talking excitedly about why the octopus should be moved to the roof of their playground shed. After some spirited debate, they decided its new name is Octoshedopus.

On April 23, a public works crew lowered the octopus to the street and Cantrell pushed it in a cart followed by a pack of enthusiastic kids carrying the tentacles. The octopus was installed on top of the playground shed where it’s still living today. If you’re reading this online, you can watch the Channel 7 news story about the parade here.

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**Occupation of the American Mind Film Screening**

June 13, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event

*Occupation of the American Mind* is a captivating documentary that argues that the Israeli government, U.S. government, and pro-Israel lobbying groups have engaged in a decades-long propaganda campaign to shape American media coverage of Israel and its occupation of Palestinian lands. Narrated by Pink Floyd co-founder and activist Roger Waters, the film examines how the Israeli government has tried to avoid condemnation for civilian deaths, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, and Israeli settlements in the West Bank, which have violated United Nations resolutions.

The views expressed in the film do not necessarily represent the views of officials or staff in the City of Takoma Park government.

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**Word Play: Interactivity, Gaming, and the Future of the Book” Lecture**
June 6, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event

The landscape of books, reading, and publishing has evolved dramatically over the past two decades. While print is far from dead, electronic publishing continues to evolve as people’s lives become more wrapped around their screens.

John Warren, director of the Master of Professional Studies in Publishing program at George Washington University, will explore the history of books and publishing from the earliest printed books to the advent of the paperback. Then he will delve into the recent evolution of electronic texts, including interactive ebooks, game playing, transmedia storytelling, and digital textbooks that could shape literature, humanities, and education.

Warren previously served as director of George Mason University Press and Mason Publishing and publications marketing director at the RAND Corporation. He has authored several articles about publishing and an open textbook on the impact of publishing. He also is a member of the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission.

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**Third Thursday Poetry Open Reading**
June 20, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event

Our annual open poetry reading gives local poets a chance to read their work to a receptive and friendly audience. Poets don’t need to be city residents or register beforehand.

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**RECREATION**

**YOUTH**

**DANCE**

Pre Ballet

Pre Ballet for ages 3–6 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

8 Week Session

3–6 years

Sundays, July 7–August 25

3–4:35 p.m.

Resident: $85 / Non-resident: $95

**MARTIAL ARTS**

Taekwondo

Taekwondo is not only a combat sport but it is also a way of life for enthusiasts around the globe. Taekwondo benefits include enhancing self-esteem by heightening your physical and mental powers. It builds confidence by encouraging you to succeed and to take control of your life. Develop discipline by thoroughly training your body and mind in the tenets and techniques of Taekwondo. Taekwondo emphasizes kicking techniques and is a fun way to achieve fitness and focus. There is a one-time, non-refundable $90 uniform fee paid to the instructor at the first class. Instructor: Felix Lindeire

Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio

7500 Maple Avenue

5 years and older

12 Week Session

Mondays, July 8–August 26

6–7 p.m.

Resident: $125 / Non-resident: $145

**SPORTS**

**Y.E.S. Summer Basketball League: Middle School**

This program provides a positive venue for youth to express themselves through the game of basketball. Teams will be guaranteed six games and the season will conclude with playoffs and a championship game. Each participant will receive a Y.E.S. League t-shirt. For more information, please email TPSports@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Grades 5–8

5 Week Season

Wednesdays, June 19–July 24

(No Games the week of July 4)

6-8 p.m.

Resident: $25 / Non-resident: $35

**EXTENDED CARE**

**Dance**

(Takoma Park Towers), and we will meet them at the bus stop. Program hours are 3:30–6:30 p.m. when MCPS is in session. There is a 20% deposit due at the time of registration. The remaining balance will be divided into monthly payments beginning October 1.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Kindergarten–5th Grade

MCPS School Year

3:30–6:30 p.m.

$1,250.00

**SPORTS**

**Y.E.S. Summer Basketball League: High School**

This program provides a positive venue for youth to express themselves through the game of basketball. Teams will be guaranteed six games and the season will conclude with playoffs and a championship game. Each participant will receive a Y.E.S. League t-shirt. For more information, please email TPSports@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Grades 9–12

5 Week Season

Mondays, July 8–August 26

6–7 p.m.

Resident: $125 / Non-resident: $145

**ADULTS**

**EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT**

Writing Life Stories

Do you want to share important life experiences through your writing? Our stories are part of what makes us human. Whether you are a lifelong writer or a beginner, this class is for you. The instructor will help you jump-start your memories, organize your ideas and edit your work. Bring a notebook or laptop to each class and be ready to have fun. We use the book Writing the Memoir by Judith Barrington. Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt

Takoma Park Community Center Rose Room

7500 Maple Avenue

16 years and older

8 Week Session

Wednesdays, July 10–August 28

7–8:30 p.m.

Resident: $125 / Non-resident: $145

**TEENS**

**DROP-IN**

Teen Lounge

This special room is for teens only (middle school and high school students). You are welcome to watch two 50-inch and one 70-inch LED SMART TVs. We also have X-Box One and Wii Games, workstations, board games and comfy sitting areas for socializing with friends. Come join us after school for fun and laughs and on special events for an amazing time.

**55+:**

**DANCE**

**After the Bell**

After the Bell Childcare is our after school program offered at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave.); providing a safe environment for children grades K-5. The children will engage in daily indoor/outdoor group activities and holiday based events. Each day kids will receive a snack, have a time period to complete homework, and enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, plays, free play and more! Transportation will not be provided through TPFRD. Please contact MCPS Transportation (301-880-8130) to change your bus route to

**MARTIAL ARTS**

Kung Fu

Bungo Fu is the Jamaican style of Kung Fu. Come learn meditation, self-defense, improved flexibility and self-awareness. This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise, which could help students defend themselves by strengthening hand-and-eye coordination as well as assist with the maintaining of balance as they get older. The student will gain physical fitness, mental and spiritual strength. Instructor: Master Robert Thompson

Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio

7500 Maple Avenue

16 years and older

3 Week Session

Mondays, July 8–August 26

7:30–8:30 p.m.

Resident: $150 / Non-resident: $180

**SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH**

**Ladies Boot Camp**

A challenging workout within a quick hour, this total body program includes a circuit of drills, such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. Students are required to bring their own mats. Instructor: K.J. Total Fitness

Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium

7315 New Hampshire Avenue

16 years and older

8 Week Session

Tuesdays and Thursdays

June 4–June 27

6:30–7:30 p.m.

$45

Drop-in: $10

**PRESSURE SCREENING!**

Tuesday, June 25 in the

Senior Room

Blood Pressure Screening:

11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Bingo: 12–2 p.m.
One Way to Make a Difference

By Leicia Monfort, Recreation Supervisor

If asked to name one person who made a difference in your life, who would you name? Would it be your first grade teacher? Your scout leader? Or maybe a coach? What made this person stand out from the rest? How did they impact your life? How would your life be different if you never had an encounter with this person?

When I think back to the people that inspired me and changed my life for the better (other than my parents, of course), I think of the people who took time to get to know me and who spent time investing in me. I think of my Brownie Troop Leader, numerous recreation employees, Takoma Park police officers, teachers, educators, my wrestling coach, etc. These individuals went beyond their titles to impart knowledge, wisdom, guidance and support.

Being a consistent role model in someone’s life gives a mentor the opportunity to offer advice, share life experiences, help navigate challenges and encourage the mentee.

• Youth who meet regularly with their mentors are 46% less likely than their peers to start using illegal drugs and 27% less likely to start drinking. (Public/Private Ventures Study, Big Brothers Big Sisters)

• Young adults who face an opportunity gap but have a mentor are: 81% more likely to participate regularly in sports or extracurricular activities than those who do not. (The Mentoring Effect, 2014)

Mentoring young people also teaches them and helps them with being able to express themselves and have healthy relationships with their parents and other adults. Mentoring is a shared opportunity for learning and growth. Good mentors take the time to get to know their mentees, to learn things that are important to them, and even the will to be changed by their relationship.

Summer is right around the corner, and young people everywhere will be out of school. This is the perfect opportunity to get out and get involved. Volunteer at a festival, coach a summer league, volunteer to teach a class with the Takoma Park Recreation Department or read stories at the Takoma Park Library. Whatever you choose to do will make a difference, so just do something. The future of our young people depends on it.

Go out and make a difference!

“Mentoring, at its core, guarantees young people that there is someone who cares about them, assures them they are not alone in dealing with day-to-day challenges, and makes them feel like they matter. Research confirms that quality mentoring relationships have powerful positive effects on young people in a variety of personal, academic, and professional situations. Ultimately, mentoring connects a young person to personal growth and development, and social and economic opportunity. Yet one in three young people will grow up without this critical asset” (Mentoring.org).

By Leicia Monfort, Recreation Supervisor

If asked to name one person who made a difference in your life, who would you name? Would it be your first grade teacher? Your scout leader? Or maybe a coach? What made this person stand out from the rest? How did they impact your life? How would your life be different if you never had an encounter with this person?

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Let the quest begin

This year’s SummerQuest – our unique summer reading adventure game – will kick off on Monday, June 10 at 7:30 p.m., and we hope you will join us!

While many other library systems in Maryland and elsewhere use the summer reading program created each year by a national library collaborative, our library has opted instead to tap Library Associate Dave Burbank’s artistic and storytelling talents and offer patrons a totally one-of-a-kind reading program. The result is a unique reading adventure each year.

Young readers particularly like the interactive nature of our SummerQuest program. To participate in SummerQuest, readers first choose a character from one of the dozens Dave has drawn through the years. Veteran SummerQuest participants know that while the characters are all different, they all have one thing in common: They are rabbits. Dave has always loved trickster characters, especially rabbits, and so even if he is drawing a basketball player or a ninja, it will be some kind of bunny.

Once readers choose a character, they then color it (if they want) and give it a name. Each character has a large version and a small version: When readers hand Library staff their characters, we keep the large character and hand the smaller one back. Why do we do this? We use the large characters to track readers’ progress on the big SummerQuest game board in the Children’s Room, moving their characters each time they complete a reading challenge. Meanwhile, kids can use the smaller version of their characters to make or do something (e.g. a cookbook or a craft book) and then make or do it.

Because studies show that letting kids choose their own reading is a key way to motivate them to read, our SummerQuest reading challenges are deliberately open-ended. We suggest a type of book, but it’s up to readers to choose the book. Choice really becomes paramount in SummerQuest when kids get to reading challenge 9, in which they are urged to read as many books as they want. We’ve had some kids read more than 100 books in a summer!

Through the years, we’ve added a couple of new elements to SummerQuest. In addition, we’ve urged parents to join their children in the quest.

Reading challenges. Kids complete the end of the story, which contains 10 different reading challenges. Kids complete the

Fortnightly Book Club

Join us for the Fortnightly Book Club on July 10 when Tim Rahn introduces us to mystery writer Joe Ide, and his breakout novel, IQ.

“In East Long Beach, the LAPD is barely keeping up with the neighborhood’s high crime rate. Murders go unsolved, lost children unrecovered. But someone from the neighborhood has taken it upon himself to help solve the cases the police can’t or won’t touch. They call him IQ. He’s a loner and a high school dropout. His unassuming nature disguising a relentless determination and a fierce intelligence…” [from Amazon review]

Joe Ide won the Anthony, Macavity, and Shamus Awards, and was nominated for the Edgar Award for Best First Novel. IQ was named one of the best books of the year by The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Guardian and other publications.

Patrick Anderson wrote in The Washington Post: “One of the most original thrillers of the year...a sometimes scary, often whimsical, off-the-wall delight...it’s a mad world that late-blooming Joe Ide has brought forth the from his past, a spicy mix of urban horror, youthful striving, and show-business absurdity. His IQ is an original and welcome creation.”

All are welcome to attend the Fortnightly Book Club discussions! The July 10 discussion will be held in the TP Community Center Axalea Room at 7:30 p.m. Books will be available in the library.

LGBTQ Pride Month

June is LGBTQ Pride Month and that’s the theme for the next edition of Books to Action: A Social Justice Book Club for Kids & Families, which is scheduled for Saturday, June 1 at 2 p.m. We’ll begin by reading and discussing some great books, using our ELMO document camera, projector and screen so everyone can see. As always, we’ll have a basket of book possibilities to choose from, and kids and families are invited to choose a book and read it to the crowd if they like. After reading several books, we’ll move to the craft tables to create a rainbow-themed memento for kids to take home. No registration necessary, just come and celebrate LGBTQ Pride Month! In addition to our Books to Action program, the library will also offer updated lists of books for kids and teens with LGBTQ characters and/or themes, and we’ll have our usual display of LGBTQ books. Come check them out!
**New! Complete Safe Streets Committee**

The City Council is reestablishing the Safe Roadways Committee as the Complete Safe Streets Committee. The Committee will advise the City Council on transportation-related issues, including pedestrian and bike facilities and safety, traffic issues and transit services, and will encourage Takoma Park residents to use alternatives to driving. The Council will appoint up to a total of 11 residents representing a variety of mobility needs and interests – cyclists, transit riders, walkers, disabled individuals, drivers, etc. More information is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov. Apply by June 28.

**DOCKET**

**From page 9**

**Council Compensation Committee to be Established in July**

The City Council appoints a Council Compensation Committee every four years to review the salaries of the Mayor and City Council Members and make recommendations as to whether the salaries should be changed. Any change made by the current City Council would only take effect for the Council to be elected in November 2020.

As set forth in Chapter 2.04, Section110 of the City Code, the following principles will guide the Committee's work:

1. The positions of Mayor and Council Member are part-time and should be treated that way.
2. Full monetary compensation for the Mayor and Council Members is not appropriate;
3. It is appropriate to monetarily compensate the Mayor and Council Members to some extent for their work;
4. Monetary compensation creates an obligation for the Mayor and Council Members to perform their jobs;
5. Monetary compensation provides status to the Mayor and Council Members;
6. The Mayor's salary should be greater than that of Council Members; and
7. Compensation for the Mayor and Council Members should be comparable to Maryland municipalities of similar size and complexity.

The Committee will be asked to complete its work and report to the City Council no later than November 1, 2019. Applications for appointment are due by June 28, 2019.

**From page 8**

**Kids in doing SummerQuest. Parents can use the 10 reading challenges as a way to broaden their own reading of adult books or just join their kids in reading children’s and teen books. Last summer, one parent used the SummerQuest challenges as a way to explore our teen book section, so she could learn more about the books her soon-to-be teens would be reading.**

In addition, we’ve created 10 reading challenges and related activities most appropriate for parents to do with very young children. These challenges include reading an alphabet book and then singing the alphabet or reading a picture book and acting it out with your child.

As you can see, SummerQuest is an all-ages program! Please mark your calendars for our June 10 kick-off to make 2019 a summer full of great reading.

If you can't make the June 10 kick-off, don't worry! You can register for SummerQuest any time during the summer.

**No strings attached: Puppeteer hopes to spread passion to Takoma**

By Sean Gossard

For puppeteer Rachel A. Gates, art and performance have always been in her blood.

“My dad is a sculptor, and my mother was always involved in theater,” Gates said. “So, I thought that puppetry was a natural extension of that.”

And now, Gates, whose first puppet class was when she was nine years old, hopes to share her love of puppetry. Gates will be holding a puppet lab on the first Saturdays every other month at RhinoZoneDC (6950 Maple St. NW). The lab will be from 10 a.m. to noon.

“The puppet lab is similar in a way to a writer's group for writers or an improv group for actors,” Gates said. “It is not a show, though, it can be used to work on a show.”

Gates says the lab is open to people of any age or experience, as long as you're open minded and looking to have fun. “I wouldn't want anyone to stay away because they didn't have experience,” Gates said. “If someone's interested, they should just come.”

Gates has worked in puppetry for years and in 2003 won the Tears of Joy puppet theater's “Designer of the Year: Best Dreams that Became a Reality” award. In 2004, she wrote and helped build a puppet piece based on true experiences of feral children, which won two Portland, Ore., theater awards.

Gates also hopes to bring that Portland puppet theater scene to the Takoma Park area. She says the PDX Puppet Collective in Portland has been so successful it’s had to move to a new, larger facility. “Puppet labs are beginning to pop up all around the country, and I want to get one going here,” she said.

**Snaps away: Youth photo contest kicks off this month**

By Rick Henry

To be a teen today is to be a “photographer” — always armed with a cell phone camera, constantly snapping images.

Local photographer Keith Kozloff believes that this teen passion for, and comfort with, photography can be channeled into something bigger, something beyond selfies and Instagram posts. And he has created a perfect outlet to prove it.

Kozloff is the creator of “Visions of Our Community,” a photography contest for young people (ages 12-18) in Takoma Park and Silver Spring focusing on the theme of “community.”

The contest invites students to “observe our diverse community through fresh eyes” and offers them the “an opportunity to visually express your identity, your story about community, and your unique way of portraying the world around you.”

It defines “community” broadly, suggesting topics such as:

- family, friends or other important people
- school, church, sports, clubs or other group activities
- connections to the natural world
- traditions, food or celebrations
- home, neighborhoods, or favorite places to gather

“Takoma Park is a small city with a lot of diversity,” Kozloff said. “I came up with the idea because in my work as a photographer, I became interested in using photography as a tool to strengthen our sense of community.”

“I see the contest as a way to encourage young people to use technology creatively who otherwise might not be inspired to do so.”

After coming up with the initial idea, Kozloff began discussing it with other community groups, such as the Takoma Park Youth Council, and adults involved in youth artistic endeavors, all of whom endorsed the idea.

Armed with those endorsements, he then approached three partner organizations, the City of Takoma Park, Art for the People Inc., and the Takoma Park Photo Salon. Those organizations are co-sponsoring the contest.

There is a $100 grand prize, and $50 prizes will be awarded for winning photographs in specific categories. Separate prizes will be awarded for middle and high school students, and there will be a public award ceremony. Winning photos will also be exhibited at the Takoma Park Community Center and online.

Entering will be free and easy. Photographs must be taken in Takoma Park or Silver Spring between June 15, 2019 and Dec. 1, 2019. Entrants can submit up to three photos (digital files, taken with either a camera or cell phone).

Further details, including rules and instructions, can be found at www.tpsvisionscontest.org. If you have any questions, or would like to help publicize the contest, please contact Keith Kozloff (keith.kozloff@verizon.net). Further details, including rules and instructions, can be found at www.tpsvisionscontest.org. The contest is co-sponsored by Art for the People Inc., the City of Takoma Park, and the Takoma Park Photo Salon. If you have any questions or would like to help publicize the contest, please contact Keith Kozloff (keith.kozloff@verizon.net).

Rachel A. Gates poses with her puppet Abie in a Christmas show called “Tis a Gift to be Simple.”

And Gates also hopes that the puppet lab can become a collaborative effort, bringing in people from all backgrounds of the art and performing world, from dancing to clowning. “My most exciting theatrical events are when different kinds of people get together,” she said “I really like that idea a lot.”

According to Gates, Rhinozone, the non-profit community arts space in the Takoma area of D.C., was the perfect spot to hold the puppet lab. “I felt magic when I came across Rhinozone; it felt like a great fit,” Gates said. “It’s mainly focused on music now, but there were other puppeteers there when I got in contact with them.”

The next puppet lab will meet Saturday, June 1, from 10 a.m. to noon at RhinoZoneDC. There is a suggested donation of $5-$10. For more information, visit www.rhizomede.org.
Maryland fire deaths
The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of May 24, 2019, 25 people have died in fires compared to 26 in 2018.

Hot vehicle deaths
As of May 24, 2019, 8 children across the country have died in hot vehicles. It’s a must when you leave your vehicle, everyone goes with you. Also, don’t forget to lock your vehicle. In 2018, 52 children died in hot vehicles.

Safety message
Fireworks - The possession or use of any fireworks is still illegal in Montgomery County. Be Safe! Let the pros handle the fireworks.

Stay Connected!
The City of Takoma Park strives to keep residents engaged and informed in a variety of ways:

- Social Media: Follow TakomaPark - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
- NEHH Social Media Hub: Don’t be afraid of Facebook but want to know the latest post or by the City’s NEHH, takomaparkgov/neighborhood-
- Takoma Park Alert: Public safety notifications. Sign up for Public Safety notifications at takomapark.org/ask
different times, in several rooms?
- Does someone you trust know where to reach you in case of flooding, street damage, burglary or other difficulties?
- At home, while you are away:
  - Does your home have a continually lived in look, such as light timers set for different times, in several rooms?
  - Have you negotiated with someone to take the mail, newspapers or packages, or have you stopped delivery of these items?
  - If you have pets, have you not only arranged for their care, but also made sure the caretaker knows how to reach the vet and you?
  - Are you prepared to lock the door? Yes? Enjoy your break.

Bonus Safety Tip
Maryland law allows police to go into pawn shops to look for recent purchases. Take photos or videos of precious items, such as jewelry, family mementos. Engrave laptops, phones, TV etc; record serial #s for items. Put this information in a safe place and give it to a trusted person.

Fired up and Ready to go...on Vacation?

Before you lock the door and leave on that much needed vacation, be prepared for emergencies that might arise while you’re away from home. Make these lists and check them twice.

Traveling Away From Home—Have you:
- Given the travel details to family or friends who can be contacted for emergency help?
- Written/saved the contact information for your doctors and/or pharmacy?
- Pack extra medications and any special items if you are stuck in a vacation area and made a list of allergies and treatment?
- Checkced if your medical insurance will be accepted in your new location?
- Set up a re-unification location before you set out, in case you get separated from the others?
- Pack working flashlights and extra batteries, cell phone car charger (if car is operable), emergency kit, and updated car assistance plan?

At home, while you are away:
- Does someone you trust know where to reach you in case of flooding, street damage, burglary or other difficulties?
- Does your home have a continually lived in look, such as light timers set for different times, in several rooms?
- Have you negotiated with someone to take the mail, newspapers or packages, or have you stopped delivery of these items?
- If you have pets, have you not only arranged for their care, but also made sure the caretaker knows how to reach the vet and you?
- Are you prepared to lock the door? Yes? Enjoy your break.

Contact us at (301)-898-7126. Listen to Beatrice Prepared the first Sunday of the month on WOWD Talk of Takoma, email talk@takoma.com

Did you know about TPPD’s Vacant House Check and Residential Home Security Survey Programs?
If you are away for a shorter period—especially if the area has had problems, contact TPPD, and the department will advise you of the short-term process, which is also free and available by calling 301-270-1100. Of course, contact TPPD in advance, not the day before!

For more information about these services, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-and-programs.
When the opening pitch is thrown shortly after 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5, at Montgomery Blair Stadium, the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts will officially enter its twentieth season in Takoma Park.

For the past two decades, the team has brought top-level collegiate wooden bat baseball to the region. Not only that, it’s provided baseball at extremely affordable prices and has promoted youth baseball in Silver Spring and Takoma Park.

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts is part of a locally-owned and operated tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization. The team plays in the Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League (CRCBL) and has a 40-game season throughout June and July. They play 20 contests at its home field of Blair Stadium at Montgomery Blair High School on University Drive East at Four Corners. The select players come from college teams throughout the country, and they use wooden bats—unlike at school where the bats are aluminum.

The team was established in 2000 when Takoma Park resident Richard O’Connor purchased the rights to a collegiate summer baseball team, the Southern Maryland Battlecats, in the old Clark Griffith Collegiate Baseball League. In 2002, after playing in three different locations in Silver Spring, they signed a 20-year lease with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission to play home games at Montgomery Blair Stadium.

In 2005, the Thunderbolts became a charter member of the CRCBL, and have remained in the league ever since. The Thunderbolts are one of six teams in the CRCBL, the five other teams are spread across the DMV. Thunderbolts Major Leaguers include former Toronto Blue Jays and now St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Brett Cecil, four-time All-Star pitcher Jonathan Papelbon, and Cleveland Indians General Manager Mike Chernoff. Numerous other Thbolts serve as players and coaches in the minor leagues.

A single adult ticket to a Thunderbolts game costs $6, youth admission is $2, and any boy or girl who wears a baseball-related shirt (from a community league) gets in free. There is no charge for parking at Montgomery Blair High School. The concession prices (pizza, hamburgers and hot dogs grilled on site, and drinks) are miniscule compared to what you would pay at a major league park.

All weekend home games start at 7 p.m. Sunday night home games start at 6 p.m. (See page 12 for June home game schedule.) Besides top-notch collegiate baseball, there are plenty of opportunities between innings for kids to race around the bases, run while balancing pizza boxes and sprint with water balloons. For adults, there are raffles and trivia contests with prizes supplied by local vendors.

The Thunderbolts website, www.tbolts.org, supplies information on the schedule, rosters, ticket prices, and promotions, and provides links to internet radio broadcasts of the team’s home and away games as well as regular podcasts about baseball in the Silver Spring-Takoma region.

The team’s slogan puts it best: The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts, Big League Dreams, Small Town Charm. See you at the game!

Neal Lavon is a play-by-play broadcaster and organizes media efforts for the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts. The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts play their home games at Montgomery Blair Stadium, 51 University Boulevard East, in Silver Spring.

Top college players are recruited to play for the team. Players from outside the area stay with host families in Takoma Park and Silver Spring. If you are interested in hosting a player, call 301-983-1358.

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts: 20 Years in Takoma Park

By Neal Lavon

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In 2005, the Thunderbolts became a charter member of the CRCBL, and have remained in the league ever since. The Thunderbolts are one of six teams in the CRCBL, the five other teams are spread across the DMV. Thunderbolts Major Leaguers include former Toronto Blue Jays and now St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Brett Cecil, four-time All-Star pitcher Jonathan Papelbon, and Cleveland Indians General Manager Mike Chernoff. Numerous other Thbolts serve as players and coaches in the minor leagues.

A single adult ticket to a Thunderbolts game costs $6, youth admission is $2, and any boy or girl who wears a baseball-related shirt (from a community league) gets in free. There is no charge for parking at Montgomery Blair High School. The concession prices (pizza, hamburgers and hot dogs grilled on site, and drinks) are miniscule compared to what you would pay at a major league park.

All weekend home games start at 7 p.m. Sunday night home games start at 6 p.m. (See page 12 for June home game schedule.) Besides top-notch collegiate baseball, there are plenty of opportunities between innings for kids to race around the bases, run while balancing pizza boxes and sprint with water balloons. For adults, there are raffles and trivia contests with prizes supplied by local vendors.

The Thunderbolts website, www.tbolts.org, supplies information on the schedule, rosters, ticket prices, and promotions, and provides links to internet radio broadcasts of the team’s home and away games as well as regular podcasts about baseball in the Silver Spring-Takoma region.

The team’s slogan puts it best: The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts, Big League Dreams, Small Town Charm. See you at the game!

Neal Lavon is a play-by-play broadcaster and organizes media efforts for the Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts. The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts play their home games at Montgomery Blair Stadium, 51 University Boulevard East, in Silver Spring.

Top college players are recruited to play for the team. Players from outside the area stay with host families in Takoma Park and Silver Spring. If you are interested in hosting a player, call 301-983-1358.

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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 July issue is June 14, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning June 28. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomapark.md.gov.

“TP Community Center” is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7501 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park or Takoma, D.C., unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC MEETINGS OF NOTE

City Council
Wednesday, June 5, 7:30 p.m. (at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7215 New Hampshire Avenue) Wednesday, June 12, 7:30 p.m. (TPC Auditorium) Wednesday, June 19, 7:30 p.m. (TPC Auditorium) Wednesday, June 26, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m. (TPCC Azalea Room, with the Recreation Committee and Recreation Department)

The City Council will not meet on June 28 or July 3. Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomapark-md.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Fourth of July — City Offices Closed Thursday, July 4
All City offices and facilities will be closed Thursday, July 4, for the Fourth of July 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_ssw@yahoocom
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

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

The Spirit Club
Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center

Therapeutic recreation classes for Takoma Park residents 17 and older
This class is designed for adults with developmental/learning challenges. For more information, contact Jared Ciner at jciner@spiritclub.com or 303-883-4834.

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
Every Sunday in the historic business district of the city, local, seasonal produce, breads, pasture-raised meats, artisan cheese, eggs, baked goods and more from farms located within 125 miles of Takoma Park are offered.

Crossroads Farmers Market
Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., through Nov. 27
On Anne Street at University Boulevard East (next to Mega Mart), Takoma Park

The season’s freshest fruits and vegetables, free-range eggs, local herbs, honey, locally-roasted coffee, fresh-cut flowers, potted plants and prepared foods, drinks and healthy snacks.

There is also live music, healthy food demos, kid’s art activities, health screenings and free exercise sessions. SNAP and WIC accepted, and those shopping with federal nutrition benefits receive up to $20 in free fruits and vegetables every week. Visit www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org.

Top Notch Toastmasters
Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
TP Community Center

Improve your communication and leadership skills. Top Notch Toastmasters meetings provide opportunities for positive, supportive development of personal and interpersonal skills that make you a better communicator, a better leader. Come to our meetings to sharpen your abilities, meet new friends, and make a difference in your life.

Community Self Defense
Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
6832 New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park
Certified Gracie Jui Jitsu Black belt instruction Free and open to all

Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA)
First Thursdays, 7 p.m.
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 Muchul at muchul@loud.com.

TP Community Center

Takoma Park Tragedians
Saturday, June 1, noon – 5 p.m.
TPSS Co-op

This one-day festival features local beer gardens pouring over 20 different craft beers plus cider and a wine tent hosted by the TPSS Co-op. Local restaurants and food vendors plus live music all day!

Multiple tasting packages with commemorative glass and non-drinker ticket option available.

Tickets $10 – 45. Under 21 enter free.

Family Film Night
Saturday, June 1, 6 – 8 p.m.
Ed Wilhelm Field

Bring your lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars with your family. The movie will be a recent blockbuster hit. Bring snacks, the Recreation Department will provide one small bag of popcorn per person and water. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged.

350MoCo Climate Music and Art Festival
Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Piney Branch Elementary School, 7510 Maple Avenue

This event is focused on bringing our entire community together around music, art and food to share concerns about and ideas for the county’s future. It seeks to lay a foundation for broad-based future work together by linking action and social justice groups on interlocking issues of local and global climate justice and greater social equality for all communities in our county. We invite diverse and multi-generational groups to join together to imagine a greener, cleaner and more equitable Montgomery County.

Music from: DC Labor Chorus, Kipyn Martin, Son la Lucha, Musicians of the NSO and more! Arts activities, Local art exhibitions and more!

Korean Drumming tickets $10 – 45. Under 21 enter free.

Jazz Jam
Wednesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.

Sundays, 9 p.m.
People’s Open Mic

Tickets $10 – 45. Under 21 enter free.

Support for jazz musicians

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TP Community Center

First Saturdays, 10 a.m. – noon

Puppet Lab’s purpose is to be a hub for all those interested in puppet theater who would benefit from boosting creative power, honing puppet-manipulation skills, cross-pollinating ideas, receiving feedback about works in progress, and building local puppet community.

Suggested $5 – 10 donation

Carroll Café Concert
Friday, June 14, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Seekers Church 276 Carroll St. NW

Eleanor Ellis & Carol Hauser as Reunion Road. Hauser and Ellis mix and match their rich, emotive blend of voice and guitar with songs in the bluegrass and folk roots traditions. The two first met and began singing together in Takoma Park, during the 1980s.

Suggested donations: $18 in advance, $20 at the door

Third Thursday Poetry Reading
Thursday, June 20, 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. Hold in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, the free readings are followed by a light reception and an opportunity to meet the featured poets.

Music in the Park
Friday, June 21, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Triangle Park, Fourth and Blair Road, NW

Jazz music in the park by the Aaron Rhines Trio and free gelato.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Independence Day Celebration
Thursday, July 4, parade: 10 a.m.; evening program: 7 p.m.

Various locations Be a part of the tradition. Takoma Park has celebrated the nation’s independence continuously for over 120 years. Volunteer to help the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee to plan and oversee the July 4 activities. There is plenty of opportunity to be a part of the morning and/or evening programs. Contact Gene Herman for further details: 301-585-5382 or genes510@aol.com. www.takomapark4th.org

TP Community Center

Community Self Defense

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TP Community Center

Metal and music

Takoma Park Community Center Band

TP Community Center

TP Community Center

TP Community Center

Independence Day Celebration

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