

June
2018

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 57, No. 6 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

WHAT'S NEW?

Readers write
Page 3

129th Independence Day Parade, Program & Fireworks

Wednesday, July 4
Parade: 10 a.m.
Program: 7 p.m.
Fireworks: Approximately 9:30 p.m.
Details on p. 7

City offices closed

Wednesday, July 4

Trash/recycling collection

Wednesday trash, recycling and food waste
collection will happen on Thursday.

The Edwardsen family Little Free Pantry located at Maple and Erie



Great things come from a little pantry

By Rick Henry

Great ideas, especially great community-oriented ideas, are not static. They are constantly being re-invented, modified and re-applied to address different challenges. Evidence of this fact can be found in a tiny structure in the yard of the Edwardsen household at the intersection of Maple and Erie Avenues in Takoma Park.

Drive, bike or walk around Takoma Park, and you will undoubtedly see numerous small, freestanding structures — crosses between mailboxes and a miniature houses — dotting the yards of many a home. Known as Little Free Libraries, they are stocked with books. Anyone who is passing by can take a book from, or donate a book to, the library. The goal is to increase reading and provide books to

those who may not have easy access.

That same structure exists at Maple and Erie. Open its door, however, and you will find the contents are much different. Instead of grabbing the latest John Grisham novel, visitors are likely to grab a box of pasta, a bag of lentils or maybe even some fresh vegetables from a nearby garden.

This particular structure is called the Little Free Pantry. Founded as a pilot project in 2016 by the same organization that originated the Little Free Library concept, the mission of the Little Free Pantry is to “apply the Little Free Library concept to activate community engagement of food insecurity.” According to the organization’s website, in 2015, 42.2 million Americans lived in food insecure households,

LITTLE PANTRY □ Page 3

Neighborhood Energy Challenge - Wind Edition

By Gina Mathias, Sustainability Manager,
City of Takoma Park

The new sustainability challenge is here! This summer everyone is being challenged to switch to 100 percent renewable energy. Apartments, houses and businesses all have the opportunity to choose 100 percent renewable electricity at a special rate. The City’s goal is to have at least 25 percent of the city powered by 100 percent renewable electricity by the end of September. The neighborhood team (same teams as the 2015-2016 Neighborhood Energy Challenge) with the highest percentage of households buying renewable energy will win the grand prize and bragging rights.

The City of Takoma Park has long purchased 100 percent wind electricity through renewable energy credits for its own operations, and while residents and businesses have also been able to purchase renewable energy through a number of suppliers in Maryland, choosing the right supplier has been a barrier for many. Shopping the various suppliers and navigating confusing contract terms, misleading advertising, high rates, and unclear sources of the power has led only a small percentage (est. 5 – 8 percent) of businesses and households in the city actually to choose clean power.

To make the process easier and help the

WIND EDITION □ Page 11

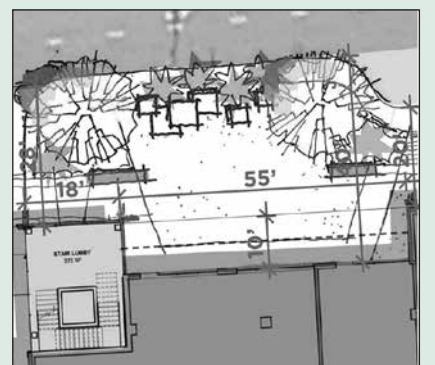
Update: Proposed Takoma Junction Project

The Takoma Park City Council has delayed their vote on whether or not the draft site plan can begin the County’s development review process until the two traffic studies related to the projects are completed. Please monitor the City Council schedule for up to date information.

Several residents contacted the Newsletter Editor questioning information presented in the May issue regarding the size of public space that is proposed as part of the project. The size of 2,700 square feet is correct; the space in front of the deepest setback of the building is approximately 2,200 square feet, and the area in front of the elevator tower is approximately 500 square feet.

Deducting the eight-foot wide sidewalk, which stretches the length of this public space, from the elevator to the lay-by (584 square feet) and the six-foot buffer by Carroll Avenue stretching the length of this public space, from the eleva-

PROJECT UPDATE □ Page 3



The public space area on the west side of the property is approximately 2700 square feet. The space in front of the deepest setback of the building is approximately 2200 square feet and the area in front of the elevator tower is approximately 500 square feet. An eight-foot wide sidewalk stretching the length of this public space area, from the elevator to the lay-by, would be 584 square feet. A six-foot buffer by Carroll Avenue stretching the length of this public space area, from the elevator to the lay-by, would be 438 square feet. Net: 1,678 square feet.

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

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40 Years
of Folk
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Community
Police Academy
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Celebrate Takoma
Highlights
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DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, May 30 (The City Council will not meet.)

Wednesday, June 6, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Wednesday, June 13 (The City Council will not meet.)

Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

Wednesday, June 27, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Monday, June 11, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 19, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, June 4, 7:15 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 28, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, June 12, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

NOISE CONTROL BOARD

Monday, June 4, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Thursday, June 21, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 21, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 12, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

YOUTH COUNCIL

Monday, June 11, 6 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

Monday, June 25, 6 p.m.
TPCC Lilac 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 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 actions take place in scheduled legislative meetings of the City Council. Only negative votes and abstentions/recusals are noted. Adopted legislation is available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

At its meeting on **April 18, 2018**, the City Council adopted **Resolution 2018-21**, ratifying the collective bargaining agreement between AFSCME Council 67, Local 3399 and the City of Takoma Park. The prior agreement expired June 30, 2017. Negotiations began on December 3, 2016 and concluded with the ratification vote by bargaining unit members on April 12, 2018. The parties negotiated both economic and non-economic items within the agreement including these key issues: leave, uniforms, performance evaluations, and wages. Also adopted was **Resolution 2018-22** appointing Rani Parker (Ward 3) to the Noise Control Board.

Ordinance 2018-14 was adopted at second reading on **April 25, 2018**. With this ordinance, the Council directed the City Manager to notify the Maryland State Department of Assessment and Taxation that, beginning in Tax Year 2020, the inventory component of the Personal Property Tax is to be eliminated for businesses within the City of Takoma Park. By early January 2019, the Council will specify a definition of commercial real property that may receive a different tax rate during the FY 2020 budget process. The Council will consider how

to address the funding gap due to removal of the inventory portion of the personal property tax; including but not limited to assessing (1) the commercial tax rate and (2) the impact current development projects might have on future tax revenue. On the same evening, the Council adopted **Ordinance 2018-15** authorizing a renewal of the contract with Useful Corporation for computers, software and support for the Computer Learning Center. The total cost for the three-year contract with Useful Corporation is \$28,024.

On **May 2, 2018**, the City Council adopted **Resolution 2018-23** authorizing a temporary partial closure of the unit block of Grant Avenue for the Grant Avenue Market that was held on May 13, 2018. (Note that due to inclement weather, the Market was rescheduled to June 17, 2018 and the Council was asked to adopt another authorizing resolution.)

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.

Special Location for the City Council Meeting on June 6, 2018

The City Council will hold its June 6 meeting at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

In recognition of June as Immigrant Heritage Month, a reception is scheduled for 7 – 7:30 p.m. before the meeting. Light refreshments will be served. At the meeting that follows, Mayor Stewart will issue a proclamation recognizing June as Immigrant Heritage Month.

Also on June 6, the Mayor will issue a proclamation regarding Gun Violence Awareness Month and a proclamation recognizing Takoma Park Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler.

Notice of Final Action – Administrative Regulation 2018-01 (Regulation for the Implementation and Enforcement of Takoma Park Code, Chapter 8.16, Sale of Food and Drink, Section 8.16.090 Outdoor Cafes on Public Sidewalks)

Administrative Regulation 2018-01 provides for the implementation and enforcement of Chapter 8.16, Section 8.16.090 Outdoor Cafes on Public Sidewalks. The regulation addresses permit applications, permit modifications, renewal and revocation procedures, application fees, annual permit fees, calculation of annual fee increases, right-of-way lease terms and conditions, insurance and indemnification requirements, City approval of alcohol sales, City-imposed limitations on the hours, additional permit criteria and standards, and prohibited

activities. Notice of the City's intention to adopt the administrative regulation and opportunity for public comment was published in the April 2018 issue of the *Takoma Park Newsletter* in accordance with the requirements of the Administrative Regulations Ordinance (Authority: Chapter 2.12, Administrative Regulations, of the Takoma Park Code). The final regulation is published on the City website and will become effective on June 18, 2018.

Boards, Commissions, and Committees

Boards, Commissions, and Committees

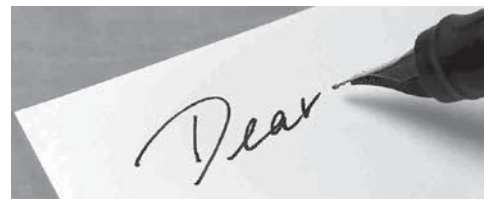
The City Council values the efforts of the volunteers who apply and serve on boards, commissions and committees. The member rosters and vacancies are listed on the City website. Interested applicants should review the online information and consider attending a meeting to see if it is a good fit. All 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.

Board, Committee, or Commission	Maximum No. of Members	Vacancies Expected as of May 31	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	3	3
Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee	7	2	2
Recreation Committee	15	6	2
Safe Roadways Committee	11	9	2
Tree Commission	5	0	3
Youth Council	9	2	1

*Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

LETTERS



Readers respond to Takoma Junction redevelopment coverage

Editor's Note: A number of residents contacted me to express their concerns about the article that appeared in the May issue of the newsletter ("Takoma Junction Redevelopment: A pictorial preview"). The letters included here were printed with permission and represent some of the opinions expressed about the article. Residents' thoughtful and respectful commentary about newsletter content is welcome.

I want to express my disappointment in the biased coverage in the May 2018 newsletter about the Takoma Junction redevelopment. The text accompanying the photos and diagrams reads as unequivocal support for the plan exactly as it is.

Further, because there is no text giving context, it implies that the plan has already been approved, when ostensibly the City Council is still deciding how it

will vote. Residents less familiar with the process may assume that the time to voice concerns has passed.

This is beyond misleading and is not an appropriate use of a City newsletter. Please consider that communications with residents about such a divisive issue must be transparent with messaging.

—Sarah Fitzpatrick, Greenwood Avenue

I am writing to object to the coverage of the Takoma Junction in the May 2018 Takoma Park newsletter. Your article, "Takoma Junction Redevelopment: A pictorial review," presents a highly idealized view proposed by the developer NDC.

Picture instead a huge truck idling in front and massive traffic jams creating safety hazards as testified to by our Fire Chief. Many of us in the Takoma Park community want a more sustainable version of the development as outlined at

cvtakomajunction.com/2018/05/02/alternative-plan-for-takoma-junction.

—Jill Gay, Spruce Avenue

Letters can be submitted to tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov. Please include your name, address and phone number. The newsletter reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, style and clarity.



Photo: Helen Lyons

High-energy, brass band Black Masala performs at Celebrate Takoma. For more highlights from the festival, see pages 9 and 11.

LITTLE PANTRY

■ From page 1

including 29.1 million adults and 13.1 million children.

When Justina Edwardsen heard about the Little Free Pantry concept on National Public Radio in January 2017, she was immediately intrigued and brought the idea to her husband, Matthew. "I told him we

should make one of our own," she said.

But life in the Edwardsen household is pretty hectic. The couple have three young kids, Molly (age 9), Hadley (age 7), and Asher (age 4), so it took about a year for the project to get underway, she said.

"Once he (Matthew) started, the process went very quickly. It took us about eight weeks to get up and running. We found building plans on the website www.little-freepantry.org, and our kids helped with the building, the selecting color choices and the actual painting," she said.

This family affair continues today, Edwardsen said, noting that her kids have become very involved with the Little Pantry: "It has been such a nice project for the kids as they have real ownership of it, from building it to community outreach, to keeping it organized."

"They go out and check it daily," she said. "During spring break, I also took the kids to Trader Joe's, and they talked to the management about donating to the pantry as well. The



Some of the items frequently stocked in the Little Free Pantry

LITTLE PANTRY □ Page 4

PROJECT UPDATE

■ From page 1

tor to the lay-by (438 square feet), both of which are considered public space, results in a social gathering space of 1,678 square feet.

For more information about the Ta-

koma Junction redevelopment project, including Council meeting coverage and NDC submissions, please check the City website: takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/takoma-junction-redevelopment.

Questions for concerns can be directed to the the City Manager at suzannel@takomaparkmd.gov.

Project Timeline

- **2018:** Last month, the City Council held two work sessions to discuss non-traffic issues. In April, the following activities took place:
 - Council work session discussion focused on vehicular and pedestrian circulation patterns.
 - Presentation of the preliminary findings and recommendations of the traffic studies the City and the Neighborhood Development Company (NDC) commissioned.
 - Takoma Junction "Pop-Up" where residents could walk the site.
 - Council Work session discussion focused on the public realm and the public gathering opportunities that would be created as a result of the development, including its sustainability features.
 - Council work session focused on the exterior design of the building, its "massing" or shape and the space it occupies, and its placement on the property.
 - Public presentation of the Takoma Junction Site Plan Takoma Junction.
 - "Open House," an informal event for community mem-

bers to view and comment on the site plan NDC presented earlier in the week.

- **2017:** In November, the City Council discussed and voted on a Single Reading Ordinance Authorizing a Contract to Augment the Traffic Study for the Takoma Junction Redevelopment.
 - During the month of October, the council discussed and voted on a resolution regarding the NDC Plan for the Takoma Junction redevelopment.
 - Earlier in the year, the summary results of the Takoma Junction Community Consultation Feedback were presented and community meetings were held in February to discuss the form and character with market and retail ideas and in March to discuss the public realm and access and mobility.
 - At the start of the year, the council passed a resolution authorizing NDC to seek a letter of intent with another anchor tenant.
- **2016:** City and NDC enter into Development Agreement.
- **2015:** City Council selects NDC as the development partner.
- **2014:** Request for Proposals release and submission deadline



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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

takomaparkmd.gov or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912.

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

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled—content paper.





BUILDING COMMUNITY

Buying or selling rental property in Takoma Park?

By Patti Mallin, Licensing Specialist

Don't forget about the Rental Housing License when you buy or sell a rental property in Takoma Park. Whether your rental property is a single-family home, a condo, or a multi-unit apartment building, City Code requires the license be transferred to or discontinued by the new owner within 15 days of acquiring title.

Either of these actions may be accomplished by completing one simple form, providing documentation of the sale, and in the case of discontinuing the license, proof that the property has become owner-occupied. If this step is missed, correspondence about the license and inspections goes to the wrong place, and the rental housing license expires along with the protections for both landlords and tenants that this licensing provides. Call or email us with your questions or to request the Change of Status form for your license.

There are disclosure requirements as well when a rental property changes ownership, and under the City's Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Law, tenants must be notified and given a chance to buy the rental housing facility in which they live if it goes up for sale. Staff members in the City's Housing and Community Development Department are available to help you navigate any or all of these issues.



Contact us at 301-891-7119 or housing@takomaparkmd.gov

Read up on these topics and more by visiting the Rental Housing Licensing page on the City website and selecting "Sale of Rental Housing" and "Tenant Opportunity to Purchase."

Please take a moment and respond to our Rental Housing Licensing Survey. We want to hear from tenants, as well as property owners with or without rental properties, to help us understand what Takoma Park residents know about the City's Rental Housing Licensing Program. You can find the survey on the City website at <https://tinyurl.com/tkpklicensing>

LITTLE PANTRY

■ From page 3

management was very excited about the pantry and agreed to donate regularly."

In addition to Edwardsen's immediate family, the community has been extremely involved as well. "The reaction from the community has been wonderful. People donate on a daily basis, so much so that we (the family) have only had to put items in the pantry a few times," she said.

Among the most popular items in the pantry are bags of fresh fruit, canned meats (chicken and tuna), canned soups, canned vegetables, baby food, and popcorn. "Really most everything goes," Edwardsen said. "Except dried beans. No one seems to want the dried beans."

More important than who is donating is who is receiving the items. After all, the core idea of the Little Free Pantry is to address food insecurity. According to Hunger and Health, a partner site of Feeding America, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life.

"It is important to know that hunger and food insecurity are closely related, but distinct, concepts. Hunger refers to a personal, physical sensation of discomfort, while food insecurity refers to a lack of available financial resources for food at the level of the household," the website explains.

"I am so happy to be able to help with food insecurity," Edwardsen said. "People are taking food from the pantry on a daily basis. There's a constant flow, which is great."

Given the popularity of the Little Free Libraries and the Edwardsen's success with the Little Free Pantry, it would not be surprising if more pantries did not crop up in the City.

After all, as the organization's website notes: "A single Little Free Pantry is 'little.' Lots of Little Free Pantries might be big. Duplicate freely."

Interested in learning more about the Little Free Pantry Project or looking for guidance on how to build your own? Visit www.littlefreepantry.org.



Youth council members (Chairperson Kiran Kochar McCabe center directly behind chair) with TTPD Chief Tony DeVaul, who shared information about police explorers at the group's January meeting.

Youth Council's work continues

By Kiran Kochar McCabe, Chairperson, Takoma Park Youth Council

I moved to Takoma Park in 2013 from New York City, which was a huge change. Something that I really appreciate about Takoma Park is how politically aware and active we are. Being so close to our nation's capital influences that a lot. I strongly believe that it's hard for us to ignore what's happening at our front door, which is why the City government of Takoma Park recognizes how important it is to listen to young people at a time such as this. They've taken action to ensure youth have a platform from which to share their ideas, like lowering the voting age to 16 in 2013 and establishing the Youth Council to represent the ideas of youth in Takoma Park to the City Council and promote policies that benefit them.

The Youth Council is comprised of nine students in grades 6-12, who represent the different wards in Takoma Park. You can check out our web page to see who your member on the Youth Council is. I am the chairperson of the council, and my responsibilities entail being the primary contact for the council, along with setting the agenda for each meeting.

We meet twice a month, with the first meeting being more of a learning and discussion meeting and our second one being more of a working meeting. We discuss issues that we are interested in taking a position

on, events that are coming up in the community that we would like to participate in, and other ways we can better interact with the youth in our community. Meetings are open to the public, and the schedule is posted on the City's website, so you're always welcome to drop by to see what we're up to.

One of the ways we are planning on better communicating with our community is by creating a newsletter of our very own. In it, we'll provide you with updates about what we've done, what we're working on, and even what's coming up in the future. Issues will be posted on our web page on the City's website, so be sure to check it out there! You're also welcome to email us at tkpk-youthcouncil@takomaparkmd.gov with any questions, comments, or concerns.

I am extremely excited to be on the Youth Council to work for, and with, the youth in our community. If you know any youth who live in Takoma Park, please let them know about the work the Youth Council is doing, including our upcoming newsletter.

Kiran Kochar McCabe, a 16 year-old resident of Takoma Park's Ward 6, is a junior in the CAP program at Montgomery Blair High School, where she is also involved in the theater program, the Youth and Government Club, and the Girl Up Club.

Sanctuary Stories Lecture

Thursday, June 7, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium – Free event

Sanctuary is an ancient practice honored in many societies and religious traditions. Stories of seeking and giving sanctuary have inspired people to welcome strangers into their homes and communities. Linda Rabben will explore historical examples of sanctuary, including the Underground Railroad, the Kindertransport rescue of Jewish children before World War II, Holocaust rescues, and the 1980s Sanctuary Movement. She also will analyze the Trump administration's current political attacks against sanctuary cities. Takoma Park officially declared itself a sanctuary city more than 30 years ago in 1985.



Linda Rabben

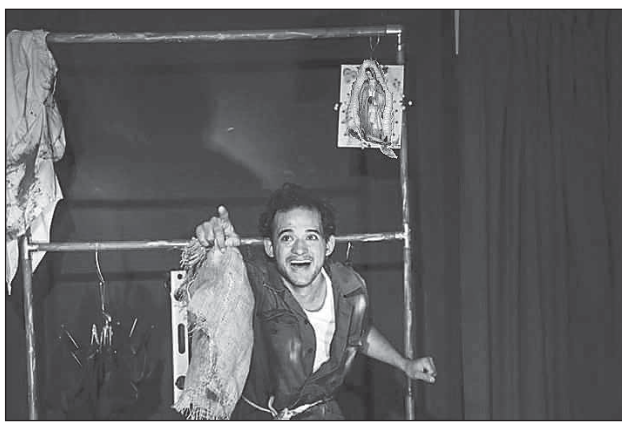
Rabben is a longtime Takoma Park resident, human rights activist, and associate research professor of anthropology at the University of Maryland, who has written about migration issues for 20 years.

Vintage Movie Night: Sex Education Films

Thursday, June 14, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium – Free event

From a 1919 silent film about venereal disease to WWII training films and embarrassing 1950s classroom films about puberty and menstruation, sex education films are almost as old as cinema. Join local filmmaker Richard Hall for his curated selection of the history of vintage sex education and health films. This screening is presented by the City of Takoma Park's *We Are Takoma* cultural series in partnership with Docs in Progress.



Edwin Bernal

Desde el Andamio ("From the Scaffold") - One-Man Spanish Language Play

Friday, June 8, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium Free event with \$10 suggested donation

Award-winning actor Edwin Bernal will perform a one-man play in Spanish titled *Desde el Andamio* ("From the Scaffold") by Argentinian playwright Carlos Maria Alsina. Perched on a scaffold on a high-rise building, a construction worker observes the bustling street life below. He reflects on life, love, and loneliness in his own private world that mixes fantasy with reality. The play will be simultaneously translated in English on screens next to the stage.



Photo: Rebecca Dupas

Bele Bele Rhythm Collective

Celebrating 40 Years of Folk in Takoma Park

NOW & THEN: Takoma Park Folk Festival 40th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, June 16, 2 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium – Free event

In 1978, local activist and future Takoma Park Mayor Sam Abbott founded the Takoma Park Folk Festival with some friends, creating a small one-stage event that has grown during four decades through the tireless work of volunteers who promote a diverse range of folk music and dance.

"Sam Abbott started the festival in a spirit of activism. It was both a rallying cry for some causes and a fundraiser for various groups," folk festival board member Kevin Adler said. "It was a one-time event that became a local institution."

Supported by grants from the



Trifilio Tango Trio

City of Takoma Park, the folk festival now raises funds for youth groups and features music and dance representing folk traditions from around the world. On June 16, the NOW & THEN event will celebrate the 40th anniversary of the festival, including its music, mission and history. The 90-minute event will feature performances by folk musicians and a multi-media program about the festival's history, including photos, videos, and vintage festival posters and T-shirts.

"NOW & THEN looks back to the roots of the festival. There will be a few musicians there who performed during the first years of the festival," said Adler, who also serves on the City of Takoma Park's Arts & Humanities Commission.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the next folk festival on Sept. 16 at Takoma Park Middle School. For more info, go to www.tpff.org.

Third Thursday Open Poetry Reading

Thursday, June 21, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium – Free event

All poets are welcome to read their original work at this open reading. Poets don't have to be Takoma Park residents or have published work, and you don't need to reserve a spot. Just show up and read your work to a friendly crowd! A reception will follow the reading.



Tonight We Leave Theatrical Performance

Friday, June 22, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium – Free event

Tonight We Leave is a theatrical collage of original stories reflecting the refugee experience in the United States written and performed by asylum seekers Meaza Gebregiorgis from Ethiopia, Emile Ivan Minang from Cameroon, and Jean Junior Morisset from Haiti. The performance draws its themes from their past experiences, current realities, and future hopes and dreams. Directed by Takoma Park resident Leslie Sapp, the performance is

supported by grants from the City of Takoma Park and the Takoma Foundation. The one-hour event will be followed by a Q & A session with the audience.

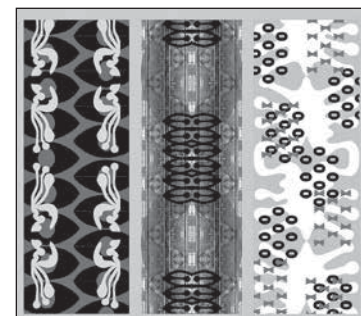
Pump House Pop-Up Presents: Caesura Obscura Opening Reception

Saturday, June 2, 2–4 p.m.

Hilltop Road between Maple Avenue and Geneva Avenue in Takoma Park

Free event

Filling the dilapidated remains of a small building next to Sligo Creek, artist Clara Cornelius has created a fantastical environment where magical nomads left imagined messages and stories over a millennia, including patterns representing the natural and cosmic worlds. The reception will include music, refreshments, and art activities. The rain date is June 3, 2–4 pm.



Artwork by Clara Cornelius

RECREATION

TOTS

CAMP



Rookie Sports Camp

Have the little ones join us for a week of unique activities, including T-ball, soccer, bowling, kickball, relays and more exciting daily events. Sessions take place in a safe, structured environment, and sports are played through a series of games and activities. All the sports promote hand-eye coordination, motor skills, group participation and communication skills. All participants must wear sneakers and dress appropriately. Paperwork will need to be submitted prior to the first day of camp.

Takoma Park Community Center
Rose Room
7500 Maple Avenue
3-4 years
Monday-Friday
1 Week Sessions:
June 25-June 29
July 9-July 13
August 6-August 10
9 a.m.-12 p.m.
Resident: \$80 / Non-resident: \$90

YOUTH

CAMP



New Ave. Adventure Camp

Get ready for a fun-filled summer of adventure, games and activities with our New Ave Adventure Camp! Campers will go swimming, have a weekly field trip, create arts and crafts projects and play various games based on the theme of the week. Before and after care is available for an additional fee. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp. Please bring a non-perishable lunch every day.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
5-12 years
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Week 1: Me, My Family and Community
June 27-29 (No camp 6/25 and 6/26)
\$75



Visual Arts Camp

Have fun and express yourself through color, shape, drawing and design! Each session includes a new art-related theme and group of art processes and activities. Sharpen your drawing skills, explore new materials and exercise your imagination with inspiring art projects. Two hours of drawing in the morning using graphite, pen and ink, colored pencils, charcoal pencils, pastels, oil pastels or conte crayon, etc. followed by two + hours of painting and/or collage and assemblage in the afternoon. Different media, such as watercolor painting, sumi-e, mixed-media painting, texture and found-object assemblage, will be explored. Art-related movies, access to the game room during the day and outdoor art adventures are all included in what will certainly be a memorable summer experience. All materials included. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp. Please bring a non-perishable lunch every day.

Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
11-14 years
Monday-Friday
1 Week Session:
July 9-July 13
9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Resident: \$295 / Non-resident: \$325

EXTENDED CARE



After The Bell Childcare 2018-2019 School Year

After The Bell childcare program is offered at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Avenue). This program will provide a safe environment for children grades K-5 where they will engage in daily indoor/outdoor group activities and holiday based events. Each day kids will receive a snack, have time to complete homework, and enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, and more. Parents can arrange transportation through MCPS by calling 301-879-1062 to change your bus route to (New Hampshire Towers), and we will meet them at the bus stop.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Kindergarten-5th Grade
MCPS school year
3:30-6:30 p.m.
\$1,250

TEENS

DROP-IN

Power Hour

Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. We are the perfect balance of academics and fun. Students are given quiet time to complete homework or to read. Staff is available to assist and can review the completed assignments. Upon completion of work, students are invited to lounge, play games, and/or participate in activities. Registration is not required.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Monday-Thursday, though June 13
3:30-4:30 p.m.
Free

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.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Ongoing
Monday-Friday
Through June 29: 3-7 p.m.
Starting July 1: 4-7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed
Free

SPORTS

After Hours Basketball

This program, in its fourth summer, will provide a drop-in service for the teens and young adults ages 16-24. The Recreation Department is partnering with the Takoma Park Police Department to offer Tuesday and Thursday late night basketball. This program will be from 9-11 p.m. during the summer. We are looking to provide safe and fun activities for the young adults in our community as well as build the relationship between the community and the Takoma Park Police Department. This program will run from July 5 to August 16.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16-24 years
Tuesdays and Thursdays
July 5-August 16
9-11 p.m.
Free

Y.E.S. Summer Basketball League: Grades 9-12

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 Middle School
Gymnasium
7611 Piney Branch Road
9-12 Grades
5 Week Season
Tuesdays, June 19-July 24
(No games the week of July 4)
6-8 p.m.
Resident Fee \$25 / Non-resident Fee \$35

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. It 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. Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt

Takoma Park Community Center
Rose Room
7500 Maple Avenue
16 and older
8 Week Session
Wednesdays, July 11-August 29
7-8:30 p.m.
Resident: \$125 / Non-resident: \$145

SPORTS



Adult Summer Basketball League

Join our Adult Basketball League this summer at our new location. Put together your winning team and go against other area teams to win the league championship. Teams will be provided uniforms. For more information please email tpsports@takomaparkmd.gov.

Silver Spring Intermediate Park
7801 Chicago Avenue
18 years and older
6 Week Season
Wednesdays & Thursdays
June 20-August 9

6-8 p.m.
Team Fee \$200

Adult Summer Basketball League: Free Agent

Join our Adult Basketball League this summer. Individual participants will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if space becomes available. If space becomes available, you will be responsible to pay your registration and any other associated fees to that team. Spaces are not guaranteed.

55+

DROP-IN

Bingo
Come and try your luck. Win a prize. Share in the laughter and fun. No registration required.
Takoma Park Community Center Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Tuesday, June 26
12-2 p.m.
Free

BINGO grid with numbers 4, 26, 43, 59, 70, 9, 30, 41, 55, 68, 7, 23, 32, 50, 63, 8, 20, 31, 60, 75, 13, 18, 34, 52, 69

Blood Pressure Screening

Adventist Healthcare will conduct monthly blood pressure screening. Drop-in. No registration is required.
Takoma Park Community Center Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Tuesday, June 26
11:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m.
Free

Game Room Open Play

The game room is available for adults age 55 and older to play pool, table tennis, basketball arcade and other active games. The game room is a great place to join friends for lively conversation and just to "hang out" before, in-between and after classes during the day.
Takoma Park Community Center Game Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Monday-Friday (though June 22): 9 a.m. -1 p.m.
Monday-Friday (June 25-Aug 24): 10 a.m. -12 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m. -12 p.m.
Free

Walking Group

Join your neighbors and friends for indoor lap walking. Drop-in. No registration is required.
Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 and older
Tuesdays, through June 19
12-1 p.m.
Free

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Line Dancing

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise, and an enjoyable social activity that leads to meeting new people and making new friends. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility, and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary. Instructor: Barbara Brown
Takoma Park Community Center Dance Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Wednesdays, 11:45 a.m. -12:45 p.m.
Session 1: through June 27 (No class 6/6)
Session 2: July 11-August 29
Free

Feed Me Seymour

Some of you may remember the 1986 film Little Shop of Horrors where a flower shop assistant Seymour (Rick Moranis) discovers an unusual plant he names Audrey II. Audrey II is a Venus Flytrap-type plant, who is always hungry. No matter what Audrey II eats, she continuously asks for more. This places Seymour in a bind to figure out what can he give Audrey II to satisfy her cravings. Sound familiar? Does Audrey II remind you of your growing teenager who basically lives in the refrigerator and is constantly "starving" and "eating you out of house and home"? Well, you're not alone. Everywhere parents, school officials and youth practitioners are wondering, "Why are teenagers always hungry?"
According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, teens might be hungry constantly because of poor eating habits, including skipping meals. Leaving the house in the morning prior to eating breakfast can cause teens to be hungry all morning (How can they focus if they're hungry?), possibly causing overeating later or making your teen snack throughout the day. Parents can play a big role in helping to change this behavior.
Eating a healthy breakfast is associated with improved memory and cognitive function, a better mood and decreased absenteeism from school. You can ensure that your teen eats a healthy breakfast by making healthy foods readily accessible to them. If time is a problem, look for quick and healthy breakfast options that are perfect for on-the-go meals.
Teens should eat three meals and two snacks each day. If your teen seems to still be hungry after eating all of that, feed them more. Make sure that while



Get out those cookbooks and help teens identify healthy recipes.

at home your teen is receiving and consuming well-rounded meals. Try to cut down fast food meals to no more than once a week.
If you have a healthy food environment in your family, it makes it easier for your teen and family to make better choices. Ask your teen to help with your family's food shopping and meal planning. Encourage your teen to take responsibility for planning and preparing one healthy family meal a week. If your teen starts learning to cook some simple healthy meals now, it sets them up to make better food choices in the future. Also, if your teen feels he has some say about what's on the menu, he's more likely to eat it.
Simple enough right? So your next question is when and where do I begin? Answer: Right here, right now at apm.active-communities.com/takomaparkrecreation.
Register today for Takoma Park's Healthy Eating Program. The Healthy Eating Program is a fun and interactive, hour-long learning course about basic cooking and kitchen skills as well as healthy recipes that are easy to replicate at home. Teens will be able to learn some nutritional components and how to create their own recipes. Teens will also take a trip to the Crossroads Farmers Market and learn about growing and purchasing the right foods. Instruction will be provided by Crossroads Farmers Market. For more information, please contact Ms. Leicia at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.
Well, there you have it, problem solved, and in the end, your entire family can enjoy eating healthier and feeling great!

RECREATION Special Events

Independence Day Celebration
Be part of the tradition and join Takoma Park for its 129th Independence Day Celebration. This year's parade will begin at 10 a.m. and start at Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues and end on Maple Avenue in front of the Community Center. The evening program will start at 7 p.m. at Takoma Park Middle School. Entertainment will be by Elena & Los Fulanos (bilingual folk-rock band), AcroAirs from Washington Adventist University and the Takoma Park Community Band conducted by Gerald Younger. There will be an announcement of parade winners and a welcome by Mayor Kate Stewart as well as a Patriotic Medley and National Anthem vocals by Larry Baizer and David Goethe. The main event of the night will be the fireworks by Bay Fireworks that start at 9:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the excitement. Walking is encouraged. For more information, contact Gene Herman at 301-585-5832 or gene511@aol.com.
Wednesday, July 4
Parade: 10 a.m., starting at Carroll & Ethan Allen Avenues
Evening Program: 7 p.m., TPMS
Fireworks following evening program
All ages
Free
www.takomapark4th.org

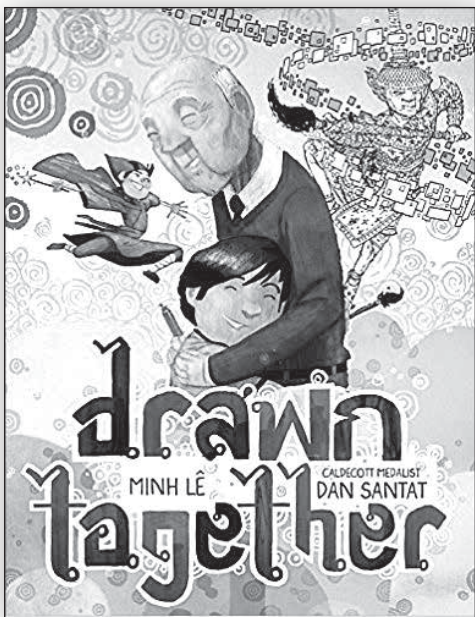




Come together for Minh Le

We're hosting two Takoma Park stars on June 5 at 7 p.m. First, there's Minh Le, a Takoma Park resident, who will be presenting his newest picture book, *Drawn Together*, illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Dan Santat. Then there's a special edible treat, created by Capital City Confectionery to tie in with *Drawn Together*.

In *Drawn Together*, Le tells the story of a boy whose grandfather comes from his native Thailand. The two have trouble communicating at first, but eventually find a common language through art. *Publishers Weekly* gave Le's book a starred review, noting: "With the grandfather drawing in his idiom and the boy in his, the two defeat the dragon of difference that separates them and discover that they do not need to be able to speak in order to communicate." In its starred review, Kirkus added: "Le's compelling storyline is propelled forward by Santat's illustrations, each capturing both the universal longing to connect and



the joy of sharing the creative process."

This is Minh's second picture book; his first, *Let Me Finish*, was published in 2016. Minh, who is a federal early childhood policy expert, is currently working on a graphic novel for kids, *Green Lantern: Legacy*, which will be published in 2019 by DC Comics as part of its new DC Zoom imprint for kids.

Minh also is one of three 2018 judges for the prestigious Boston Globe/Horn Book Award. He writes a blog, Bottom Shelf Books, about children's literature, and has written reviews for *The New York Times*, *The Horn Book*, and *Huffington Post*.

Politics & Prose will be selling copies of Minh's book at our event, but the program is free, and no registration or purchase is required. Come and meet a rising star in the world of children's literature and enjoy a fabulous treat! Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring our program.

Summer Fare for the Friends' Fortnightly book discussion

Considered by many to be one of the best mysteries ever written, *The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey, examines the real nature of King Richard III through the investigations of Inspector Alan Grant of Scotland Yard, as he recuperates from a broken leg.

Drawn to a contemporary portrait of the infamous king, Grant becomes fascinated with his history: "Could such a sensitive, noble face actually belong to one of the world's most heinous villains – a venomous hunchback who may have killed his brother's children to secure his crown? Or could Richard have been the victim, turned unto a monster by the usurpers of England's throne?" [From the book jacket] He delves into the mystery from his hospital bed – aided by the British Museum,



an American scholar, and a sympathetic nurse – with surprising results.

"*The Daughter of Time* accomplished what previous literary efforts on Richard III's behalf had not: it made research seem romantic, even noble, and made the quest to clear a man's name seem possible for anyone with a library card or willing friends." [Sara Polsky in *The New Yorker*, Mar. 24, 2015]

The Friends Fortnightly Book Club continues its summer tradition of delving into the mystery genre facilitated by Tim Rahn. This discussion will be held on Wednesday, July 11 at 7:30 p.m. in the Azalea Room. Copies of *The Daughter of Time* are available in the library. All are welcome to join the Friends' Book discussions.

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, June 3, 1:30–3 p.m.

Building fun for ages 3–10.

Caldecott Club

Monday, June 4, 7 p.m.

Join us for a look at some early 2019 Caldecott Medal contenders. Lemonade and cookies served.

Picture Book Author Minh Le

Tuesday, June 5, 7 p.m.

Le will present his new book, *Drawn Together*, illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Dan Santat. Our event will include a special edible treat created by Capital City Confectionery and is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

SummerQuest 2018 Kick-Off

Monday, June 11, 7:30 p.m.

Join Library Associate/SummerQuest creator Dave Burbank as he unveils the 2018 version of our popular "read-to-advance" game.

Comics Jam

Tuesday, June 12, 4 p.m.

Kids Art

Sunday, June 17, 2–3 p.m.

Picture Book Creator Juana Medina

Monday, June 18, 7 p.m.

Medina will spotlight her new book, *Sweet Shapes*.

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Saturday, June 23, 10:30 a.m.

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

"Apple Tree" Puppet Show

Saturday, June 30, 3:30 p.m.

Beech Tree Puppets presents another great original puppet show, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library

Alternative Games

Sunday, July 1, 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....

- **Tuesday, July 10, 5–7 p.m.** –Bedtime Stories & a Craft returns! Join Ms. Kati for a program of stories, songs and a craft.
- **Wednesday, July 11, 7:30 p.m.** –Friends' Reading Group discussion of *The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey in the Community Center. All welcome. (see article)

SummerQuest 2018 Kick-Off

It's time for another summer of reading fun with the Library's unique "read-to-advance" reading game, SummerQuest, which is created each year by Library Associate Dave Burbank and sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

The 2018 edition will have a "Once Upon a Time" theme, featuring a story where the SummerQuest character gets lost in books. We'll kick off the fun on Monday, June 11 at 7:30 p.m. when Dave will introduce the story and kids can sign up for the program. If you can't make it on June 11, no worries; you can sign up anytime during the summer.

As always, SummerQuest features 10 reading challenges, which are embedded into an adventure story Dave creates. To play SummerQuest, kids pick a charac-

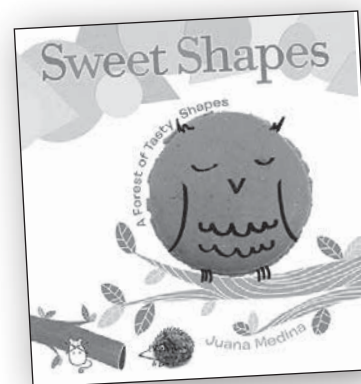
ter or create their own. We keep a copy of each character at the Library and as kids complete each reading challenge, we move their character across a giant Game Board in the Children's Room. Kids get a miniature copy of the Game Board, plus a copy of the story, to take home when they register for Summer Quest.

For the youngest readers, we have a separate hand-out of suggested books and activities; just ask for it at the main desk once SummerQuest launches. And grown-ups: If you're looking to spice up your reading, use our 10 reading challenges as a guide! Among the challenges: "Read a book that shows you how to make or do something, and then make or do it," "Read an award-winning book," and "Read a book about someone different than you."

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Award-winning picture book author and illustrator Juana Medina

will showcase her newest book, *Sweet Shapes*, on Monday, June 18 at 7 p.m. In the book, which is a follow-up to two others, *1 Big Salad* and *ABC Pasta*, Medina creates a series of animals from yummy desserts. In its review, *School Library Journal* said: "Medina creates a feast of sweet treats in the forest, from a rice treat wolf to a strawberry fox." Politics & Prose will be selling copies of Medina's books,



but our program is free and no purchase or registration is required.

The popular *Beech Tree Puppets* returns with a new show, *The Apple Tree*, on Saturday, June 30 at 3:30 p.m. The half-hour show tells the story of a woman who lives in the countryside with her dog, cat, and sheep. She decides to plant an apple tree, so she can make a pie for her birthday and is surprised by a special helper. The show is

aimed at ages 2–8, but all ages are welcome! Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring our show.

Program gives TP residents a look into City's police department

By Sean Gossard

Ever wonder what goes into training to be a member of the Takoma Park Police Department?

Well, for the past five years, the City has given residents the opportunity to go through a several-week program to give them a sense of what it's like to be a Takoma Park police officer.

"We wanted to include the community and show them what the police department does on a daily basis, not just the administrative offices, but what the officers are actually out there doing," said Cathy Plevy, public information officer for the Takoma Park Police Department. "They get a look behind the scenes at areas like use of force and get an understanding of why we do what we do."

Even Mayor Kate Stewart got in on the action, participating in this year's Community Police Academy Program. "Overall it's an amazing class that far exceeded my expectations," Mayor Stewart said. "It was especially great to go through it with members of the community."

Takoma Park stands out in Montgomery County for having its own full-service police force that does everything from traffic enforcement to solving murders. And this class is an opportunity for the community to come in and see how the department operates on a day-to-day basis, Mayor Stewart said: "It was really helpful to have the officers and staff come and share their experiences. We have different policies and a way of doing things that's specific to our community."

Class topics range from drugs, K9s and gangs to traffic and DUI enforcement. There's even hands-on sections where participants can use police equipment to get



Credit: Takoma Park Police Department

Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart takes aim during a simulated firing instruction during the Community Police Academy.

a feel for what officers go through, that includes Simunition target practice that replicates what it's like to shoot with a police weapon. Two participants also got to volunteer to be shocked with a police Taser.

The firearm training especially gives participants the opportunity to understand the firepower the police department uses and helps them gain a level of respect for the weapon and what police have to go through before they pull the trigger.

"I really got the most out of the use-of-force class," said 2017 Community Po-



Credit: Takoma Park Police Department

Participants at this year's Community Police Academy got hands-on experience with some of the tactical gear police use.

lice Academy participant Tracy Burke. "I didn't realize how many things a police officer goes through in order to make a decision about what kind of use of force is appropriate for the [situation]."

The program also helps to open up a discussion between the residents participating and the city's police force. "It gives you a perspective on the police department that I don't think you would get otherwise," said Takoma Park City Councilmember Kacy Kostiuk (Ward 3), who participated in this year's Community

Police Academy. "I was just really happy with all the interactions we had with police officers."

The department believes that the success of any law enforcement agency depends heavily on the cooperation and support from the community it serves. The Community Police Academy helps with that by putting faces to the police department to make it more accessible to the community as a whole. "I can't imagine anything that's more important than the relationship between our police and our community," Stewart said of the importance of the class.

The program is slated to return next year, with sign-ups usually beginning late-November.

Some changes slated for next year include the possibility of expanding the program, taking participants to a live-ammunition firing range, and getting more people in the Hispanic community of Takoma Park to participate.

"There's been an apprehension in the Hispanic community to call the police because of fears of immigration issues," Plevy said, "but we want to reach out to show them that we aren't here to deport people."

And at the end of the course, the participants get the chance to role-play as officers and experience what police go through on a daily basis, from just talking with people to actually making an arrest and clearing a room.

"I would recommend it to anyone in the community to take the class and find out that there's a lot behind that statement, 'To Serve and Protect,'" said Cherwanda Oliver, who was one of two volunteers this year to be tasered.

In celebration of diversity

By Helen Lyons

A twitter storm took place on Friday, May 18, when President Donald Trump's use of the word "animals" to describe members of the gang MS-13 was interpreted as the expression of a broader sentiment towards illegal immigrants and immigrants in general.

The very next day, residents of Takoma Park gathered at Piney Branch Middle School in a celebration of all things Takoma—including and perhaps especially, the sanctuary city's diversity.

Celebrate Takoma is an annual block party that brings together members of the community for food, games and entertainment. "Last year and this year, we've been trying to make it more about the variety of cultures that we have here in Takoma and supporting the immigrant population that we have locally," explained Danielle Murphy, an office manager in Takoma Park's Recreation Department.

"With the current political climate, we're trying to show that we support everybody," she continued. "Everybody's welcome here. We're a sanctuary city and that's something we're proud of." Months of planning from more than 25 staff and

volunteers came to fruition on one rainy Saturday when residents filled the middle school.

Little ones gathered around a black and white mural with markers, coloring in pictures of children dressed in traditional clothing representing a variety of cultures. "We try to help everyone feel welcome and have a little reminder of where they're from if they're not from here," said Murphy. "Everyone can learn something new about another culture or feel like they're represented at this event."

Black Masala, a D.C.-based brass band, and Panquility, a Caribbean steel pan ensemble, were on hand to provide the music. On stage, the Piney Branch Elementary Dance Troupe entertained, along with the Thomas Young Ethiopian Dance Troupe and the African Arts, Culture and Education (ACE) Academy Dance Troupe.

"That's one of the things that Celebrate Takoma is all about—celebrating the diversity of Takoma Park," said John Webster, Recreation Manager and the main coordinator for the event. "There are many different races, ethnicities and religions in this community, and that's what makes Celebrate Takoma the successful event that it is. You're bringing all these indi-



Photo: Selena Malott

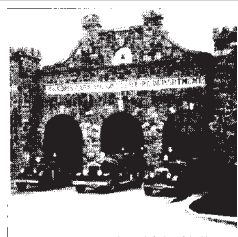
Community dances along with Thomas Young and Dance Troupe

viduals and groups together to celebrate at the same time, and that makes for a special day."

Local vendors set up booths in the halls of the middle school where residents mingled with one another, chatting between bites of Afro-Caribbean and Thai food from Suya 2 Go and Chef Hogate, among others.

The Celebrate Takoma block party's emphasis on the strengths of diversity in a community is one example of Takoma

Park's efforts to amplify its sanctuary city status. "When there are policies in place or statements being made that are anti-immigrant, it's important that we're reinforcing who we are as a city and our values," said Mayor Kate Stewart. "We constantly want to make sure we're thinking about it, and we're aware of what's going on so that people can have the resources they need and feel comfortable coming to the



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of April 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Montgomery County Fire and Rescue personnel assigned to the station responded to 188 fire-related incidents in 2018. The department also addressed or assisted with 946 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,129. Totals for 2017 were 175 and 940, representing an increase of 19 incidents.

During April, Takoma Park volun-

teers put in a total of 1,078.5 hours of standby time at the station compared to 1,335 hours in April 2017. Grand totals as of April 2018 were 4,785 hours compared to 6,509.5 in 2017, a decrease of 1,724.5 hours.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported that as of May 24, 30 people have died in fires compared to 38 in 2017.

Safety message

Don't forget to check your smoke alarms once a month.

Hot vehicle death

As of May 24, 7 children have died across the country in hot vehicles. It's a must that when you leave your vehicle, everyone leaves with you. Check the back seat and don't forget to lock your vehicle.

Mid-Year Emergency Preparedness Test

By Claudine Schweber, Co-Chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

At this 2018 mid-point, it's time to test how much we remember about being prepared for unexpected situations, so we avoid being scared, can take action, and use services Takoma Park has to offer. Here are several questions we received (and the answers) as well as a short quiz.



Question 1: We're going out of town for two weeks, and I'm worried that the empty house will be tempting for burglars. When I told my neighbor—who was just leaving for 10 days—she said “call the police” and drove off. Is she watching too many cop shows?

(A) Yes (B) No, she only watches game shows. (C) The Takoma Park Police Department can help. (D) She was just making a joke.

Answer: (C) If you are away 4-30 days, the TPPD will go around the perimeter of your house once a day to make sure there are no tamper marks and check for cut screens, etc. This service is free. Call 301-270-1100 in advance of your department.

Question 2: My 80 year-old aunt has lots of unused medications in a drawer. She wanted to throw the pills into the toilet. I told her not to do that, but instead to put them in a safe drug disposal box. She said she missed the recent drug take-back event, so she'd have to wait another year. Is she right?

(A) Yes (B) There's a drop off in Takoma Park. (C) She can dispose of the pills in the toilet. (D) She should take them to her doctor.

Answer: (B) The TPPD offers 24/7 opportunity to drop medications in their lobby in the lower level of the Takoma Park Community Center. Open the door, drop the meds in the big green box (looks like a mailbox), and you're done. Go ahead, and do this for your aunt. Note: Some items are not accepted.

Question 3: I have some special jewelry my mother left me and other family items, such as silver candlesticks, art by well-known painters. My friend told me

I should take pictures of all the valuable items and put the photos in a safe place in case of a burglary. Is this correct? What difference would it make in finding them?

(A) Only if you have free time (B) Put the items in a safe place away from your home. (C) Yes, do it now. (D) Think about it for one month and then decide.

Answer: (C) Do it now! Having pictures of the items may help police find them because Maryland law allows police to go into pawn shops to look for recent purchases. Therefore, having the pictures would help in identifying your stolen items.

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



Quick Quiz

Question 4: In case of a fire, how many ways should you learn to get out of your house?

(A) Only one (B) Only 2 (C) At least two (D) At least 6

Question 5: During disasters, shelters/ assistance centers typically allow owners to bring their pets with them. True or False

Correct answers: 4. C and 5. False

What's your EPT score? (Correct answers in for the 5 questions)

4-5 = You are prepared!

3 = Refresher needed.

1-2 = You need a plan.

For more information about the TPPD's Vacant House Check and Prescription Drug Takeback programs, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-and-programs.

Please continue to send your questions or suggestions to the committee at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126.



Passport Services

Passport services are available on first come, first served basis Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Takoma Park staff encourage calling the City's main phone number at 301-891-7100 and checking if the office is open before departing for the Community Center for passport services.

For additional information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports.

WIND EDITION

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city achieve its greenhouse gas reduction goals, The City of Takoma Park initiated an open proposal process and conducted research on rates, business reliability, power sources, and contract terms. The result is a partnership with CleanChoice Energy, a locally based Certified B-Corporation and renewable energy company that sources 100 percent of its power from wind and solar. For Takoma Park residents and businesses, it will supply 100 percent renewable energy generated in our region. Sourcing from nearby wind and solar farms leads to healthier air and cleaner water, while helping create new jobs in the state of Maryland. If we achieve our goal of 25 percent of the city choosing renewable energy, it will have the impact of avoiding the burning of more than 1 million pounds of coal.

CleanChoice is offering a special limited time rate for the Takoma Park campaign. The residential rate is just 8.6 cents per kWh, or about \$10 more a month than an average Pepco bill. Businesses will see similar special rates as well. This rate will last for one year, and a special rate will be applied again at renewal, although rates may change slightly. The contracts are also great with no cancellation fees, ever. To choose clean energy at this special rate, you must visit cleanchoicenergy.com/Takoma and sign up by Sept. 30, 2018.

A major reason the city chose CleanChoice Energy is its strategy to honor Takoma Park's commitments to improve socioeconomic equity in the city. Low-income households that sign up for CleanChoice renewable energy as part of this campaign will receive an annual rebate to offset the additional cost. Anyone that thinks they may qualify can contact ginam@takomaparkmd.gov for the income qualification

application and more information. You do not have to own a home to qualify.

This summer's sustainability challenge supports the ongoing efforts to implement the 2014 Sustainable Energy Action Plan's seventeen key strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The effort to get as much of the city powered by renewable energy as possible is the next step in the implementation of the plan, following the successful Neighborhood Energy Challenge in 2015 - 2016 and the 2017 Car-Free Challenge.

How can you switch to clean energy? Go to CleanChoiceEnergy.com/go/Takoma or call 1-855-563-9774. Also keep an eye out for CleanChoice Energy representatives this summer, who will be tabling at community events. If you would like to host a neighborhood or team information session where the City's Sustainability Manager and CleanChoice Energy can answer detailed questions, contact ginam@takomaparkmd.gov to set it up.

Already buy clean power? Great! Want to buy from a different supplier? That's okay, too! Simply email ginam@takomaparkmd.gov and let me know which supplier you use and how long you've been buying clean power, so we can count your house in the team challenge and our goal to reach 25 percent of all accounts in the city. If you are already a CleanChoice customer and you'd like to switch to the special rate, call 1-855-563-9774.

About CleanChoice: CleanChoice holds itself to a higher standard than many businesses do. CleanChoice Energy is a Certified B-corporation, a member of the American Sustainable Business Council and the U.S. Green Building Council, and is certified with the highest available rating by Green America's Green Business Network, the first and largest network of socially and environmentally responsible businesses.



LPA's Hopscotch Project Complete: On May 11, 2018, Let's Play America (LPA) completed its tenth hopscotch board on ten playgrounds in Takoma Park, Maryland. LPA received a grant from the Takoma Foundation in January to put the Hopscotch Project into motion. The project consisted of painting a Let's Play America hopscotch boards on 10 playgrounds throughout the Takoma Park area. The grant helped cover two stencils and a dozen cans of spray paint. There are now new hopscotches throughout the Takoma Park area at the following parks: Belle Ziegler, Colby, Forest, Hugh Heffner, Hillwood, Jackson Boyd, Opal Daniels (pictured here), Sligo Creek, Spring, and Toatly-Fraser. Visit www.letsplayamerica.org to see more photographs and learn more about the project.

CELEBRATE TAKOMA

■ From page 9

city government for assistance."

As kids took turns riding a mechanical bull while their parents chatted with representatives from community, vendors like Casa de Maryland and the Jamaican Nationals Association, the controversy of the President's tweets seemed far away, but not entirely out of mind.

Food, fun and games aside, Celebrate Takoma had a loftier goal, prompted by the country's political climate. As Murphy summarized, "We want everybody to feel safe here."



Photos: Selena Malott
Above, Chelsea Nunez tries her hand at bull riding

At left, Devon Cumberbatch with the Panquility Steel Pan Band



OFFICIAL CLEAN ENERGY SUPPLIER OF TAKOMA PARK

We live in one of the few places where utility customers can choose pollution-free energy – regionally sourced wind and solar – with no change in utility, nothing to install, and no cancellation fees.

Choose 100% Clean Energy for Your Home in Minutes. It's Easy.

Visit CleanChoiceEnergy.com/takoma or call 855-651-3392 today.



JUNE '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 July issue is June 15, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning June 29. 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 will not meet on May 30 and June 13.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, June 6, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, June 27, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

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., May 31 through Nov. 28
On Anne Street between University Boulevard and Hammond Avenue (across from the Rite Aid), Takoma Park
Locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs plus pupusas and other prepared food. Please note, Market customers are not allowed to park in the Megamart parking lot or at the 1021 University Blvd. office building next to the market. If they do, they will likely be towed.

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.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

Saturday, June 2, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Public Works Yard
City residents can drop off their Household Hazardous for free while non-residents will be charged a \$10 fee. Event will accept computer components as well as CFL and fluorescent tubes.

Soapbox Derby

Saturday, June 2, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Birch Ave. between Cedar and Dogwood
Boy Scout Troop 33 will hold its 14th Annual Soapbox Derby. The race will once again be held on Birch Avenue between Cedar and Dogwood Avenues. Baked goods, lemonade and hot dogs will be on sale at the corner of Birch and Barclay. Proceeds go to support the activities of Troop 33. The boy scouts build their own cars learning about tools and the proper way to use bolts, nuts and screws to make a safe car. troop33.takomaparkscouts.org

Takoma Trukgarten

Saturday, June 2, 12 – 5 p.m.
City Parking Lot next to 201 Ethan Allen Avenue
Presented by the Old Takoma Business Association, this one day festival features 10 local breweries pouring 30 different craft beers and a wine tent hosted by the TPSS Coop pouring multiple varietals. There will be local restaurants and food trucks plus live music all day. Early bird ticket pricing available online now. Multiple tasting packages with commemorative glass and non-drinker ticket option available. Under 21 enter free.
www.mainstreettakoma.org/featured-events/takoma-trukgarten

Family Outdoor Movie Night

Saturday, June 2, 7 p.m.
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, "PG" rated hit. The Recreation Department will provide one small bag of popcorn and water per person. Due to limited parking, walking to the event is encouraged. This is a free event.

Fifth annual Adult Play Day

Saturday, June 9, 7 – 10 p.m.
VFW Post, 3420 Orchard Ave.
Let's Play America, with support from the Takoma Park Recreation Department, presents the fifth annual Adult Play Day. Come join Let's Play America for a fun afternoon of indoor play. Free fun for all. It's time for you to let your hair down, put on your comfy clothes and get ready to play. To see a full listing of activities and performances, visit www.letsplayamerica.org. 21 years and older.

Comics Jam

Tuesday, June 12, 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
Come have fun reading comics on the big screen with our comics expert Dave Burbank. At the end of each Comics Jam programs, Dave takes "drawing requests" from the audience. Comics Jam is held on the second Tuesday of each month, September through June, at 4 p.m. No registration required.

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENT

Friendly Visitors Volunteer Orientation

Tuesday, June 19, 1 – 2 p.m.
Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave.
(Please bring quarters for street parking.)
Orientation session for those interested in visiting a TP senior once a week for an hour. Register by calling The Village of Takoma Park at 301-646-2109 or email sandyeganretired@gmail.com.

Dine at Mark's Kitchen to support Takoma Park's Fourth of July

Tuesday, June 19, noon – 9 p.m.
Mark's Kitchen, 7006 Carroll Ave.
Dine at Mark's Kitchen on Tuesday, June 19, and 15 percent of all food and beverage sales will be donated to the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee. The Takoma Park Independence Day Committee organizes the 4th of July parade and evening celebration. To learn more about our work and how you can help, visit www.TakomaPark4th.org.

Blood donation

Saturday, June 24, 9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Ace Hardware Store, 7001 Carroll Ave.
Here's your opportunity to make a difference for a child in need of blood donation. Currently, Children's National is treating over 1,400 kids with sickle cell disease and many, many more with chronicle illness. One unit of blood can help 4-5 children. You can contact the blood donor center at 202-476-5437 to make an appointment.

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENT

The Opioid Crisis and Alcoholism

Thursday, June 28, noon – 2 p.m.
Seventh Day Adventist Church Center, Fellowship Hall, 6810 Eastern Ave., D.C.
Join the Village of Takoma Park Aging Well Network to learn about this topic from Kim Burton of The Mental Health Association of Maryland. Free and open to all, no pre-registration required. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, visit villageoftakomapark.com.

ARTS AND LITERATURE

People's Open Mic

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

Takoma Park Community Band

Mondays, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Heffner Park Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave.
Join the Takoma Park Community Band 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

Twenty Together: A Community Block Party

Saturday, June 9, 1 – 5 p.m.
Dance Exchange, 7117 Maple Ave.
Come celebrate 20 years in Takoma Park and Montgomery County with Dance Exchange and the creative communities that call Dance Exchange home. Join us for an afternoon of live music and performance, connect with programs for the whole family, and enjoy food and drinks from local food trucks and our cash bar. This is event is free. danceexchange.org

2018 SummerQuest Kick-off

Monday, June 4, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
SummerQuest creator Dave Burbank will talk about this year's reading adventure and create personalized SummerQuest characters for participants.

Carroll Café

Friday, June 8, 7:30 – 10 p.m.
Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW
Eleanor Ellis & Back Porch Blues
Tickets and info at <http://carrollcafe.org>

Writing a Village

Monday, June 18, 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.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, June 21, 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.

"Tonight We Leave"

Friday, June 22, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Free of charge; donations welcome.
We Are Takoma presents "Tonight We Leave," a theatrical collage of original scenes and stories reflecting the refugee/asylee experience, written and performed by asylees Meaza Gebregiorgis from Ethiopia, Emile Ivan Minang from Cameroon, and Jean Junior Morisset from Haiti. Conceived and directed by longtime Takoma Park resident Leslie Sapp and funded in part by generous grants from the City of Takoma and the Takoma Foundation, "Tonight We Leave" draws its themes from the past experiences, current realities, and future hopes and dreams of its three actor/creators. The one-hour performance will be followed by a Q & A session with the audience.

Photo Salon

Monday, June 25, 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

Independence Day Celebration

Wednesday, July 4
Parade: 10 a.m., Maple Avenue
Evening program: 7 p.m., Lee Jordan Field at Takoma Park Middle School
Fireworks to follow evening program
Be a part of the tradition. Takoma Park has celebrated our 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. For further details, contact Gene Herman at 301-585-5832 or gene511@aol.com.
www.takomapark4th.org

