

June 2019

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 58, No. 6 ■ takomaparkmd.gov



WHAT'S NEW?

130th Independence Day Parade & Program

Thursday, July 4
Details, p. 12

6th Annual Adult Play Day

Saturday, June 15
7-10 p.m.
Details, p. 4

City offices closed

Thursday, July 4

Trash/recycling collection

No changes this month
July 4
Thursday trash, recycling and food waste collection will happen on Friday.



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 our values. It embodies



Mayor Kate Stewart

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.

BUDGET PROCESS □ Page 3



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 leg-



Shayla Davis speaks in April at a criminal justice reform forum in Takoma Park.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE □ Page 4



Nota del editor

Spanish:

Busque este ícono junto a los artículos del boletín que puede leer en línea en otros idiomas usando la función de traducción en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park. Después de hacer clic en el enlace del artículo, busque en la esquina superior derecha de la página web junto a la barra de navegación y seleccione el idioma que desee con el cuadro desplegable.

Amharic:

ክፍሉን ያለውን ደህን ክፍል ይፈልጉ የዚህ መጽሔቱ ስርዓት ራስዎ ናቸው በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ተርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታኩማ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የገጽ ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀስዎ ለሌሎች ክፍሎች ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንግ ላይ ታንባለቱ የአሰሳ ክፍሉን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልጭ ሳሉን።

English:

Look for this icon next to newsletter articles that you can read online in other languages using the translation

feature on the City of Takoma Park’s website. After clicking on the link for the article, look in the upper right hand corner of the web page next to the navigation bar, and select the language you want using the drop-down box.

French:

Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que vous pouvez lire en ligne dans d’autres langues à l’aide de la fonction de traduction disponible sur le site Web de la ville de Takoma Park. Après avoir cliqué sur le lien de l’article, regardez dans le coin supérieur droit de la page Web à côté de la barre de navigation, puis sélectionnez la langue souhaitée à l’aide du menu déroulant.

Setting the tax rate

During our many discussions about the budget, we debated trade-offs and considered the best ways to address residents’ needs and priorities given the resources available. In addition, given increases in property taxes at the county level and changes regarding deductions people can make on their federal taxes, we also discussed how we can best help those who may be struggling to stay in their home and pay their property taxes.

All of us on the Council understand that while we are setting the budget for the City, individuals and families are doing the same for their own households. Therefore, it was central to our discussions to ensure fiscal responsibility while delivering on the services residents rely on and have come to expect, and at the same time address the needs and priorities for the future. This year we have set aside additional money for tax rebates for those in need in our community. We will be deciding on the criteria for these rebates this summer.

The City’s main source of revenue is property taxes. And this year, after much deliberation, the Council voted 6-1 to set the rate at .5397 cents (per \$100 of assessed value). This rate reflects constant yield, which is the tax rate that would provide the same revenue as last fiscal year, plus the Employment Cost Index (ECI). The ECI is published by the Bureau of Labor Statics and shows the compensation cost for state and local government workers including health care benefits.

To put this into context, for a home assessed at \$500,000, if there’s no change in the assessment, the new rate of .5397 would mean an increase in the local property tax from \$2,646 to \$2,698. Of course, what individuals actually pay will depend on both the value of their homes and how their assessments have changed. Some residents saw a decrease in their assessment while others saw an increase.

—K.S.

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

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Inside



New Sharrows
Page 4



SummerQuest Kick-Off
Page 8



Thunderbolts Season Opener
Page 11

DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, June 5, 7:30 p.m.
Meeting at the Takoma Park Recreation Center,
7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Wednesday, June 12, 7:30 p.m.
(TPCC Auditorium)

Wednesday, June 19, 6–7:15 p.m.
Meeting with the Recreation Committee and
Recreation Department in the Azalea Room,

Wednesday, June 19, 7:30 p.m.
(TPCC Auditorium)

The City Council will not meet on June 26 or July 3.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Monday, June 17, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

June/July dates to be announced

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, June 3, 7:15 p.m.

Monday, July 1, 7:15 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 27, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, June 11, 6:30 p.m.

TPCC Auditorium

NOISE CONTROL BOARD

Tuesday, June 18, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

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

TPCC Hydrangea Room

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, June 19, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 20, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, June 11, 6:45 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

YOUTH COUNCIL

Monday, June 3, 6:30 p.m.

TPCC Rose Room

Monday, June 10, 6:30 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

Monday, June 24, 6:30 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

*All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. Schedule changes can occur after the *Takoma Park Newsletter* deadline. For the most up to date information, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on "Events and Meetings." Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue (TPCC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail can sign up at 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

Only no votes or abstentions are reported here. Resolutions and ordinances are published online after adoption.

Only negative votes or abstentions are reported here. Resolutions and ordinances are published online after adoption.

The City Council met on **April 17, 2019**. At the meeting, Seth Grimes (Ward 1) was appointed to the Committee on the Environment by **Resolution 2019-18**, and Nicholas Corcoran (Ward 2) was appointed to the Facade Advisory Board by **Resolution 2019-19**.

On **May 1, 2019**, the Council adopted **Resolution 2019-20** supporting refugee resettlement in Takoma Park and encouraging other jurisdictions in Maryland to adopt similar resolutions. **Resolution 2019-21** was adopted, appointing Bill Crandall (Ward 2) to the Arts and Humanities Commission. **Ordinance 2019-6** was adopted at second reading. The ordinance approved the exchange of the property at 422 Jackson Avenue for the Takoma Park Recreation Center property. The Council adopted **Ordinance 2019-14** authorizing award of a contract for tree maintenance and removal to Takoma Tree Experts. The contract amount is \$45,575.

DOCKET Page 9



Important City Phone Numbers

City Information	301-891-7100
City Clerk	301-891-7267
City Manager	301-891-7229
Finance	301-891-7212
Housing & Community Development	301-891-7119
Library	301-891-7259
Neighborhood Services	301-891-7113
Police	301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
Public Works	301-891-7633
Recreation/ Facilities Rental	301-891-7290

Presentation and Public Hearing on Proposed Administrative Regulation for the Implementation and Enforcement of Takoma Park Code, Chapter 11.12 Streets – Permits and Improvements, to regulate the installation of certain telecommunications facilities and equipment in City rights-of-way

There will be a presentation and public hearing on the proposed regulations on Wednesday, June 12, 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. The regulation address permit applications, process for review of applications, requirements for approval of applications, aesthetic requirements, fees, and continuing obligations of permittees.

Pursuant to the requirements of the "Administrative Regulations Ordinance" (Authority: Chapter 2.12 "Administrative Regulations," of the Takoma Park Code), notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation must be publically noted, allowing residents the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The proposed regulation is available for review at www.takomaparkmd.gov. To obtain further information about the proposed regulation, contact Daryl Braithwaite, Director, Department of Public Works, 301-891-7615, daryl@takomaparkmd.gov.

Written comments on the proposed regulation should be submitted online: www.takomaparkmd.gov/regulations. The deadline for receipt of public comments is Wednesday, June 12, 2019 (the date of the public hearing).

Schedule for Review

- Publication of Proposed Regulation – April 30, 2019
- Presentation and Public Hearing – Wednesday, June 12, 2019
- City Council Work Session Discussion – Wednesday, June 19, 2019
- Publication of Regulation and Notice of Final Action – July 2019 City Newsletter
- Effective Date – July 15, 2019

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 instill 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 observe a meeting. Meetings are listed on the City Calendar on the website. Additional information is available at takomaparkmd.gov/government/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.

BUDGET PROCESS

■ From page 1

The work on the budget is most intense every spring, but it starts much earlier in the year when the Council works with staff and residents to update and set priorities. The Council priorities are used as a tool to guide policy and budget decisions. We have improved the process this year thanks to residents' input and staff work, and I look forward to doing more next year.

Currently, we face both opportunities and challenges. As every year, we want to advance our priorities and continue to uphold our core values while holding down costs. The arrival of the Purple Line, increased growth in population in the region, and the need to continue to provide affordable, quality housing – these are three of the evolving realities confronting us. So is the urgency to mitigate and adapt to climate change and the need to resist the harsh policies of the Trump administration.

The full proposed budget document is available on the City website at tinyurl.com/yvh85bkj (though it's very important to note that, based on recent Council discussions and decisions, expenditures – and the corresponding tax rate – will be less than what is included in this document). For a list of the services the City provides residents, please visit takomaparkmd.gov/about-takoma-park/city-services-your-dollars-at-work, and major projects we are working on over the next couple of years can be found at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory. For more background on the budget and some highlights of what is in the FY2020 budget, please continue reading.

Overall approach to the budget

As I have noted over the last few weeks, when we start getting into the budget, it is easy to get lost in the details and to only see the trees and not the forest. Therefore, I have kept the following four principles front and center in our discussions to make sure our overall budget does the following:

1. Takes advantage of opportunities.

We want a budget that allows us to take advantage of good ideas and opportunities that may come our way as we did last year in protecting Dorothy's Woods and adopting a single-use plastic straw ban. With the Purple Line moving forward, the City gaining ownership of the New Hampshire Recreation Center, and the moving of Washington Adventist Hospital, we have put an emphasis

The Process: How we get a budget

- Every year in early April, the City Manager submits a recommended budget to the City Council for the upcoming fiscal year beginning July 1.
- 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.
- 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.
- The foundation for our budget discussions began back in January when the Council established the 2019 Priorities.
- 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 these events.

2. **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 available for a 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.

3. 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 towers and other attacks on our authority to pass laws locally and have had to do more to fight preemption attempts at both the federal and state level.

4. Ensures stability and fiscal responsibility.

As discussed in more detail below, the Council has voted for a tax rate that is .5397. 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 a 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 fulltime, which will greatly enhance our ability to advocate on behalf of renters and housing associations.

- Assistance for residents moving to homeownership:

- 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 to 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.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR AN IMPROVED & EQUITABLE 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 enable us to have significantly 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: \$73,500 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 Expansion project, including up to \$50,000 in City funding for commercial district improvements.
- Develop and host workforce development workshops and "Success Fairs."
- \$75,000 for community engagement and planning associated with the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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

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

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. Sharrow is 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.



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

TAKOMA PARK FOLK FESTIVAL

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 Busboys & 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.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

■ From page 1

islatures 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. “A lot of people want to be seen doing things, and that’s fine, but a lot of hard work goes into you being able to take that picture in the first place.”

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.

Donations to the band and Let's Play America are greatly appreciated, but not required.

This is a fun, FREE event for ages 21 and over.

Flyer design donated by Pital One Studios



letsplayamerica.org

Giant Crocheted Octopus Finds a New Home



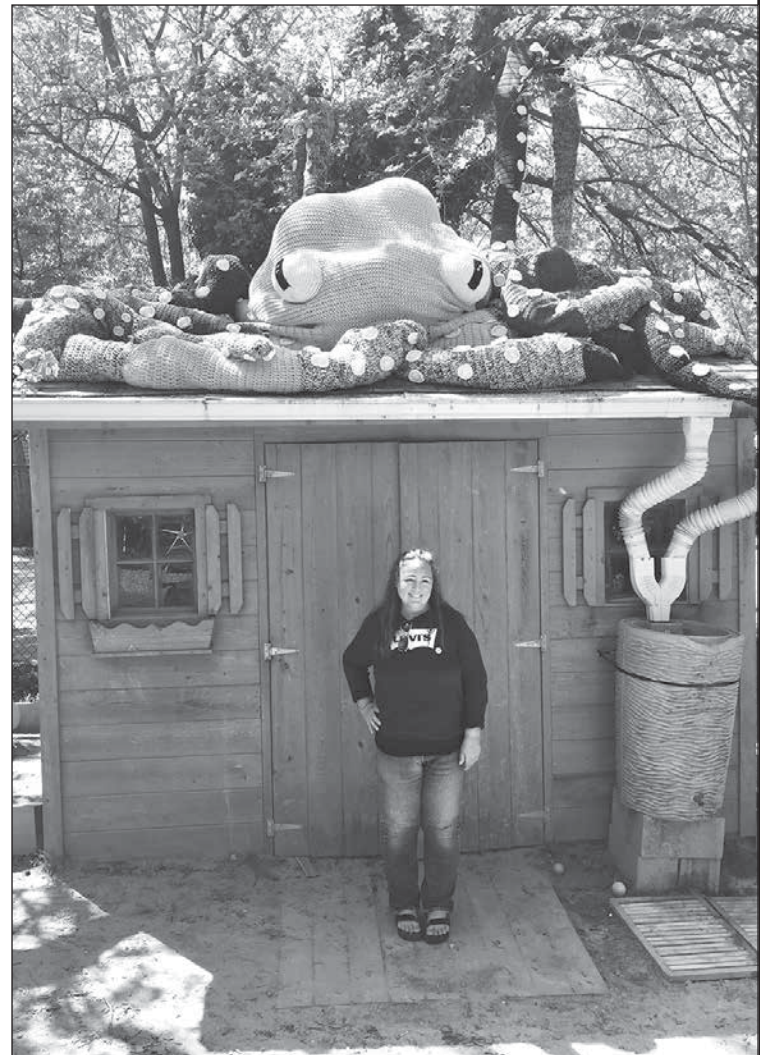
The octopus lived on the Takoma Park clock tower for six months.

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.



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

"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

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.

Occupation of the American Mind Film Screening

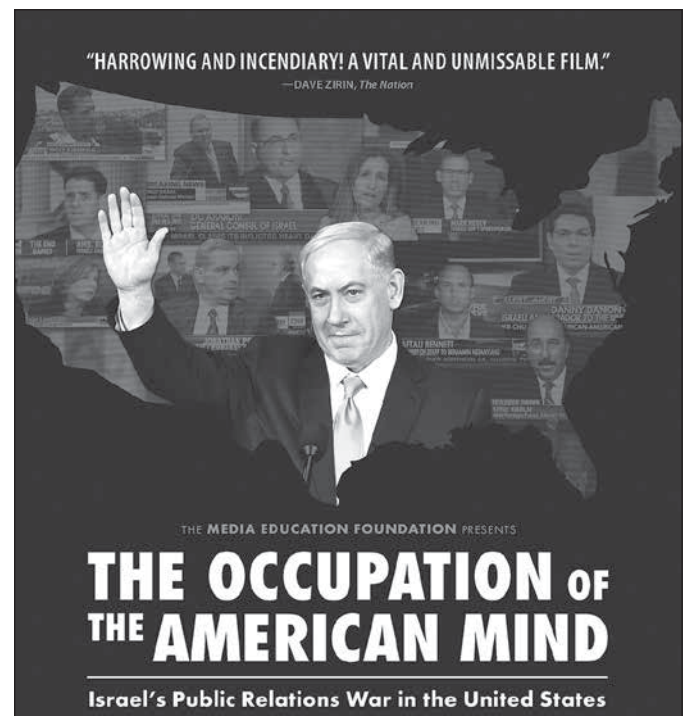
June 13, 7:30 p.m.

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.



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.



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
3–3:45 p.m.
Resident: \$85 / Non-resident: \$95

EXTENDED CARE



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 TPRD. Please contact MCPS Transportation (301-840-8130) to change your bus route to

(New Hampshire 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

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 \$40 uniform fee paid to the instructor at the first class. Instructor: Felix Lindeire

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
6 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
Mondays, June 17-July 22
(No Games the week of July 4)
6–8 p.m.
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35

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.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Summer Hours, starting June 17
Monday-Friday
4–7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed
Free

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
Wednesdays, June 19-July 24
(No Games the week of July 4)
6–8 p.m.
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$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. 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

FITNESS

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: KJ Total Fitness

Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 years and older
Tuesdays and Thursdays
June 4-June 27
6:30–7:30 p.m.
\$45
Drop-in: \$10



Zumba

Come out and enjoy an hour of Zumba. This total body workout combines all elements of fitness with cardio, muscle conditioning, balance and flexibility. Zumba takes the work out of workout, by mixing low and high intensity moves. The class will incorporate Latin music that will easily move you through your workout. Instructor: Laura Stewart

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 years and older
Saturdays, June 1-June 22
11:45 a.m. –12:45p.m.
\$40
Drop in: \$10

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
9 Week Session
Monday, July 1-August 26
7:30–8:30 p.m.
Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$180

55+

DROP-IN

Join Us For Bingo & Blood 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.



SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

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

RECREATION

■ From page 6

room is a great place to join friends for lively conversation and to just “hang out” before, between and after classes during the day.

Takoma Park Community Center
Game Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older

Spring Hours (through June 15)

Monday-Friday: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturdays: 10 a.m.–12p.m.

Summer Hours (June 17-August 23)

Monday-Saturday: 10a.m.–12p.m.

Free

Heart & Core

Move to the high-energy beat to pump up the heart rate followed by 20 minutes of Pilates core floor workout to strengthen the area from shoulders through hips. Instructor: Nancy Nickell

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Gymnasium

7315 New Hampshire Avenue

55 and older

Saturdays through June 22

9:15–10:15 a.m.

Free

Line Dance

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. Instructor: Barbara Brown

Takoma Park Community Center

Dance Studio

7500 Maple Avenue

55 and older

Wednesday, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Spring: through June 26

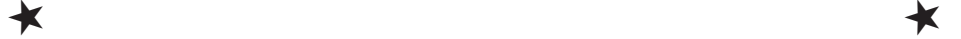
Summer: July 10-August 28

Free



Independence Day Celebration

Be part of the tradition and join Takoma Park for its 130th 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. Details for the evening program will be coming in the near future. Bring a lawn chair and enjoy the excitement. Walking to both of these events is encouraged. For more information, contact Gene Herman at 301-585-5832 or gene511@aol.com.
Thursday, July 4
Parade: 10 a.m.
Evening Program: More details to come
www.takomapark4th.org



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



Teens participate in Healthy Cooking class run by Ariel, Crossroads Farmer's Market.

“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).

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!



Credit: Maurice Belanger

SummerQuest Kick-Off 2018

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 track their own progress on a take-home gameboard they receive after signing up for SummerQuest.

Along with that take-home SummerQuest game board, readers receive a copy of the story, which contains 10 different reading challenges. Kids complete the



Credit: Maurice Belanger

SummerQuest Kick-Off 2018

challenges by reading specific types of books. For example, they may be asked to read an award-winning book or a book about someone who is different than them. A favorite challenge is one that asks kids to read a book that shows them how 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. First, we've urged parents to join their

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

Books to Action: A Social Justice Book Club for Kids & Families

Saturday, June 1, 2 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate LGBTQ Pride Month by reading some great books and creating a rainbow-themed memento.

LEGO Club

Sunday, June 2, 1:30–3 p.m.
Building fun for ages 3–10.

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Saturday, June 8, 10:30 a.m.

Madame Marie leads songs and rhymes in French.

Kids Art

Sunday, June 9, 2–3 p.m.

SummerQuest 2019 Kick-Off

Monday, June 10, 7:30 p.m.

Come launch your summer reading with our SummerQuest game. (See article)

Comics Jam

Tuesday, June 11, 4 p.m.

Join Dave Burbank for our fun comics book club.

Caldecott Club

Monday, June 17, 7 p.m.

We'll be reading and discussing books that are great possibilities for the 2020 Caldecott Medal. Lemonade and cookies served.

Alternative Games

Saturday, June 29, 2–4 p.m.

Join Dave Burbank for a rousing session of *Dungeons & Dragons*. Ages 8 up.

COMING UP....

Friends of the Library Book Club

Wednesday, July 10, 7:30 p.m.

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]

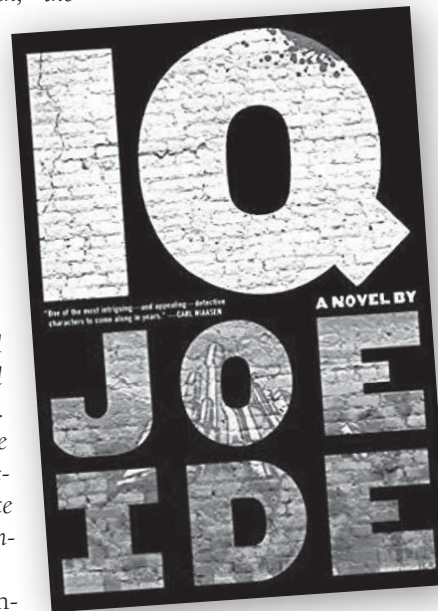
Joe Ide won the Anthony, Macavity, and Shamus Awards, and was nominated for the Edgar Award for Best First Novel. *IQ* was named one of the best books of the

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 Azalea 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!

DOCKET

■ From page 9

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.

Film: The Nuns, The Priests, and The Bombs

TP Auditorium
Saturday, June 8, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Nuclear disarmament activists challenge the security and legality of America's nuclear weapons when they break into two top-secret facilities: The "Fort Knox of Uranium" and a U.S. Navy Trident nuclear submarine base. Presented by the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee

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, Section 110 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.

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 RhizomeDC (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.



Rachel A. Gates poses with her puppet Able 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, Rhizome, 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 Rhizome; 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 RhizomeDC. There is a suggested donation of \$5-\$10. For more information, visit www.rhizomedc.org.

QUEST

■ 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.

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.

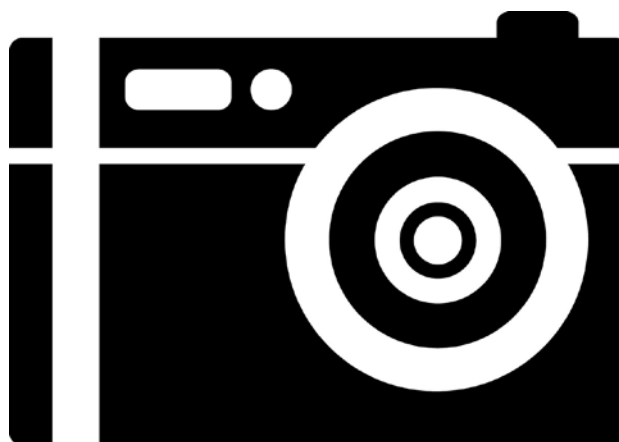
Local photographer Keith Kozloff believes that this teen passion for, and comfort with, photography can be channeled into something bigger, something beyond selfies and Instagram posts. And he has created a perfect outlet to prove it.

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



"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," Kozloff said. "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.

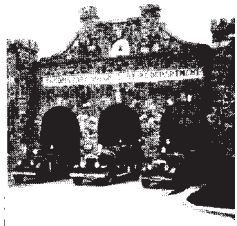
There is a \$100 grand prize, and \$50 prizes will be awarded for winning photographs in specific categories. Separate prizes will be awarded for middle and high school students, and there will be a public award ceremony. Winning photos will also be exhibited at the Takoma Park Community Center and online.

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.tpssvisionscontest.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.tpssvisionscontest.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).

AT YOUR SERVICE



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 172 fire-related incidents in 2019. The department also addressed or assisted with 1018 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 1,190. Totals for 2018 were 188 and 940, representing an increase of 62 Incidents.

During April, Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 1,104.5 hours of

standby time at the station, compared to 1,079.5 in 2018. Grand totals as of April 2019 were 4,462.5 hours compared to 4,785 in 2018, a decrease of 322.5 hours.

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.

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



By Claudine Schweber, co-chair,
Emergency Preparedness Committee

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?
- Packed extra medications and any special items if you are stuck in a vacation area and made a list of allergies and treatment?
- Checked 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?
- Packed 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 tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-8981-7126. Listen to Bea(trice) Prepared the first Sunday of the month on WOWN/ Talk of Takoma; email talk@takoma.com

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.

Did you know about TPPD's Vacant House Check and Residential Home Security Survey Programs?

If you are away 4-30 days and the house is empty, the Takoma Park Police Department can check on the vacant house and grounds. TPPD will go through the perimeter of your house, make sure there are no tamper marks in critical areas, and check for cut screens, etc. This service is free. How can you activate this service? Contact the TPPD, 301-270-1100.

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!

Before going on vacation, you can take advantage of another free service from the TPPD, a Residential Home Security Survey. An officer will do internal and external security assessments, internal checks to look for vulnerabilities, such as lock security and screens, items next to windows (laptops, TV) etc.; external checks include looking at shrubbery near windows, equipment left outside (such as ladders, bolt cutters), whether exterior lights are working as intended, and more.

For more information about these services, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-and-programs.



Pictured from left to right: Clay B. Stamp, NRP, Chairman, EMS Board; Chief Jim Jarboe, Jorge Alfaro, Chief Tom Musgrove, and Theodore R. Delbridge, MD, MPH, Executive Director, MIEMSS

TPVFD EMS Lieutenant Honored

On May 22, at the Maryland State House, the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS) presented the 2019 EMS Awards. The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department was honored to have member EMS Lieutenant Jorge Alfaro receive the "EMS Clinician of the Year Award" for his outstanding service to the department, community and beyond.

STAY CONNECTED!

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

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- **Takomaparkmd.gov:** where you can access information on upcoming Council meetings, agendas, City news, and the status of City projects
- **Monthly Newsletter:** both in print and electronic copy
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The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts: 20 Years in Takoma Park

By Neal Lavon

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 Cal Ripken Sr. Collegiate League 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 Tbolts 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 weeknight 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 plans 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.

Thunderbolt Summer Baseball Camps

Week-long Camps

For kids 7-14

Instruction by TBolts and Koa staff

This is a camp for baseball players; kids have fun, and they learn the game of baseball. Emphasis is on fundamentals, baseball values and discipline, conditioning and healthy lifestyle choices. Each week-long camp session is limited to a total of 50 campers. After camp in the evenings, campers can attend TBolts games where they can cheer on their coaches!

June 17-21, June 24-28; July 1, 2, 3, 5 (no camp July 4), July 8-12, and July 15-19

9 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day

\$245 per week; \$215 (week of July 4)

Three-Day Specialty Camps

For kids ages 11-16

There will be intensive training from Thunderbolt coaches on batting (Day 1), pitching and catching (Day 2), and the camper's choice of an expanded session on pitching or catching (Day 3). There will be a 5 to 1 camper to counselor ratio.

June 24-26 and July 8-10.

9 a.m. – 2 p.m. each day

\$275 for each three-day session

All camps are held at Montgomery Blair Baseball Stadium. For the camps we provide bats, balls and equipment. Campers bring their own gloves and lunch. Each camper gets a Thunderbolts t-shirt. Visit www.tbolts.org, for sibling and multi-year discount information, refund policy and application forms or call 301-983-1358.

BUDGET PROCESS

■ From page 3

- Arts and Humanities program – implementation of the Takoma Park Cultural Plan, Film Screening Series, Lecture Series, We are Takoma performances, and other programs.
- \$20,000 for new public art installations.
- Resources to update the City's Sustainable Energy Action Plan with more aggressive strategies to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions and add resiliency to planning goals.

- Programs to assist low income residents, businesses and multi-family properties with energy improvements: business rebates (\$20,000), low- and moderate-income efficiency rebates (\$45,000), funding for multi-family efficiency projects (\$75,000) and residential rebates (\$5,000). Additionally, there are funds included to develop new sustainability initiatives (\$15,000).
- Flower Avenue Green Street project: The project has started! The city has been able to leverage \$1.2 million of City Funds to receive \$5.1million in other funding. This project is remarkably complex, involving federal transportation funds, utility upgrades, County funds and other grant funds. The resulting "green street" will meet environmental and transit goals as well as provide an attractive gateway into Takoma Park. Sidewalks on both sides of the street will be a major improvement, and the low-impact stormwater facilities will be a major environmental improvement in a location built with almost no stormwater infrastructure. The project has received statewide and Chesapeake Bay watershed-wide atten-

tion already and will be a project for which I expect national attention once completed.

- \$25,000 for Public Land Management planning and implementation, which will have implications for open space, stormwater management, and tree canopy.
- Updating Tree Ordinance and developing tree canopy goals that support the maintenance and growth of the City's urban forest.
- \$6,000 for public outreach and education materials and services about sustainability efforts and programs.
- Pesticide and herbicide free vegetation management program.
- Design and construction of stormwater treatment facilities to capture street run-off and filtering prior to entering the stormwater system: the first phase of the Takoma Branch Stream Restoration project which, when completed, will provide a significant pollution reduction for the City (\$110,000 for design in FY20, with construction expected in FY21); construction of bioretention facilities at Grant and Holly Avenue (\$30,000) and at the rear

of the Parkview Apartments in the City right of way behind Sheridan Avenue (\$55,000); water drainage project at Manor Circle and Carroll Avenue (\$35,000).

In addition, the work of racial equity runs through all the work we do in the City and in our budget this year we have included \$10,000 for continued training for members of Council appointed boards and committees, \$6,000 for staff to participate in an upcoming regional racial equity cohort training, and \$1,500 for continued membership dues for the Government Alliance on Race and Equity.

Thank you very much for taking the time for reading this recap of the budget. I am happy to answer any questions and look forward to continuing to improve our budget process even further next year.

A slightly different version of this article was published on the City's website on May 15, 2109: takomaparkmd.gov/city-council-and-mayor-blog/idealism-in-action.

**ENVIRONMENTALLY
SUSTAINABLE
COMMUNITY: Prioritizing
actions, policies, innovations,
and new opportunities that mitigate
and adapt to the causes
and effects of climate change.**

JUNE '19

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 14, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning June 28. 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

Wednesday, June 5, 7:30 p.m. (at the Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue)
 Wednesday, June 12, 7:30 p.m. (TPCC Auditorium)
 Wednesday, June 19, 7:30 p.m. (TPCC Auditorium)
 Wednesday, June 19, 6:00 - 7:15 p.m. (TPCC Azalea Room, with the Recreation Committee and Recreation Department)
 The City Council will not meet on June 26 or July 3. Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.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_ss@yahoo.com
www.educare-supportservices.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 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.

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, kids' 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.
 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, 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 Muchui at muchui@aol.com.

Takoma Park Trukgarten

Saturday, June 1, noon – 5 p.m.
 TPSS Co-op
 This one-day festival features local breweries 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, 8 – 10 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 climate 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: Paint a parachute for the earth, Kids' art activities, Local art exhibitions and more

Film: The Nuns, The Priests, and The Bombs

Saturday, June 8, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
 TP Auditorium
 Nuclear disarmament activists challenge the security and legality of America's nuclear weapons when they break into two top-secret facilities: The "Fort Knox of Uranium" and a U.S. Navy Trident nuclear submarine base. Presented by the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off

Saturday, June 15, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 Public Works Yard, 31 Oswego Ave.

City residents can drop off their Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) for free while non-residents will be charged a \$10 fee. Event will accept computer components as well as CFL and fluorescent tubes.

Sixth annual Adult Play Day

Saturday, June 15, 7 – 10 p.m.
 VFW Post 350, 3420 Orchard Ave.
 Let's Play America presents the sixth annual Adult Play Day. Come join Let's Play America for a fun afternoon of 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. The band Granny and The Boys will be performing, and crepes will be available for sale. To see a full listing of activities and performances, visit www.letsplayamerica.org. 21 years and older.

Village of Takoma Park Rides Volunteer Training

Tuesday, June 18, 7 – 9 p.m.
 TP Community Center, Rose Room
 Orientation session for those interested in driving Takoma Park seniors once a month or more. Register by calling The Village of Takoma Park at 301-646-2109, or email sandyeganretired@gmail.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

Puppet Lab

First Saturdays, 10 a.m. – noon
 Rhizome DC, 6950 Maple St NW
 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 Hausner as Reunion Road. Hausner 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. 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.

Music in the Park

Friday, June 21, 6 – 7:30 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 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: 301-585-5832 or gene511@aol.com. www.takomapark4th.org



2019 SEASON HOME SCHEDULE – JUNE

DAY	DATE	OPPONENT
Wednesday	6/5	Bethesda Big Train
Thursday	6/6	Herndon Braves
Monday	6/10	Gaithersburg Giants
Wednesday	6/12	DC Grays
Thursday	6/13	Alexandria Aces
Friday	6/14	Herndon Braves
Sunday	6/16	Gaithersburg Giants
Friday	6/21	Alexandria Aces
Saturday	6/22	DC Grays
Thursday	6/27	Bethesda Big Train