



## WHAT'S NEW?

**Check out the City's blog:**  
takomaparkmd.gov/news/city-blog

### More FY17 budget info

Details on page 8

### Registration open for TKPK5K

Details on page 13

### City Council's response to Montgomery College master facilities plan

Details on page 14

### Trash/recycling collection

No changes this month

### Special-Event Road Closures

Saturday, April 30, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Montgomery County Greenfest

On Maple Avenue from

Philadelphia Avenue to Lee Avenue

Sunday, May 1, 6:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Takoma Park 5K Challenge

Maple Avenue between Philadelphia

Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway

For more information, visit

www.takomaparkmd.gov.



Takoma Park resident Kit Gage, president of Friends of Sligo Creek, shared this photo of her rain garden. Read her article on p. 13.

## FY17 budget process gets under way

A lot has changed since a year ago when newly appointed City Manager Suzanne Ludlow proposed a budget with a tax rate increase to help fund the second year of a phased-in salary increase for City employees.

Seven months later Kate Stewart was elected Mayor and Peter Kovar and Rizzy Qureshi joined the Council. The new Council continued the previous Council's interest in economic development and environmental sustainability and added affordable housing, youth issues and improved police/

community relations to the priorities the City government would address.

In keeping with these priorities, two key elements of the City Manager's proposed FY17 budget are highlighted below.

### No change in tax rate

This year, an eight percent increase in the assessable property base will yield just enough revenue to offset the final year of the phased-in increases in employee salaries, bringing them up to the market rates

**FY17 BUDGET** □ Page 8

## Public hearing on proposed plastic bag ban

The main objective of the proposed Takoma Park Code amendment banning plastic bags is to decrease litter. The City Council will hold a public hearing on April 13 at 7:00 p.m. (see page 3) to receive public comments on the proposed plastic bag ban. The first reading of the ordinance is scheduled for April 27.

"Plastic bags end up being a large portion of litter that we see in the community," said Daryl Braithwaite, public works director for Takoma Park. "We want to reduce the amount of bags available and get people thinking about what else they can use to carry things."

Proposed by Councilmember Jarrett Smith (Ward 5), the amendment would restrict businesses from offering disposable plastic shopping bags to customers with some exceptions, including bulk food and hardware, frozen foods, prescription drugs, flowers, potted plants, bakery goods, newspapers and dry cleaning. "The idea is to address the litter and

educate people about importance of reducing the amount of plastic bags in circulation," Braithwaite reiterated.

The Council heard testimony from Julie Lawson, director of Trash Free Maryland, to that effect on Feb. 24 when it discussed the draft ordinance. According to Lawson, in terms of their environmental impact, plastic bags are "the most persistent visual blight and linger as a toxic contaminant to waterways and the aquatic food web."

Moreover, the Takoma Park Committee on the Environment (COE) has endorsed the ban on disposable single-use carryout bags: "The COE notes that besides the environmental benefits of a single-use bag ban, plastic bag recycling is not possible at this time through the City of Takoma Park, and litter is a concern in several neighborhoods."

In addition, the COE supports including the farmers market in the ban with an implementation date that allows time for

**PLASTIC BAG BAN** □ Page 14

## Budget Highlights

- Proposed addition of an Environmental Code Enforcement position to provide education and enforcement of the City's environmental laws.
- Creation of a Neighborhood Services division in the Police Department, responsible for the enforcement of property codes, environmental laws and parking restrictions.
- Funds for an economic development study and pursuit of redevelopment and investment in the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor, building on the coming of the Purple Line.
- Funds for affordable housing efforts, building on recommendations coming out of February's Affordable Housing Community Conversation.
- Funds to help advance the City's education and lobbying efforts related to tax duplication so that Takoma Park taxpayers do not pay twice for services they only receive from the City of Takoma Park.
- Continued work on plans for the renovation and expansion of the Takoma Park Library.
- Significant investment in the ongoing Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape and Flower Avenue Green Street projects.
- Completion of three park projects: Colby Avenue Park, Sligo Mill Overlook Park and the dog park, if not completed in the current fiscal year.
- Street repair, new sidewalk construction and ADA sidewalk improvements at the full annual commitment level of \$500,000 each.
- Continued funding for the City's match to the State's Homeowner Tax Credit program for lower-income homeowners.

The proposed budget will be posted on the City's website before the City Manager's April 6 presentation. To see her recent presentation to the City Council explaining tax rates, go to takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings.

Public comment on the proposed budget is encouraged, either by testifying at a public hearing on the budget or by sending comments via email to the City Council at council@takomaparkmd.gov.

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

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## Inside



### Summer Camps

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### Q&A with Suzie Ludlow

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### Five Questions for Merrill Leffler

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# DOCKET

## City Council & Committee Calendar

**OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS**  
TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

**CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS**  
Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Monday, April 11, 7:30 p.m. (Budget Work Session)  
Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m. (Budget Work Session)  
Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.  
Monday, April 25, 7:30 p.m. (Budget Work Session)  
Wednesday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.  
Meetings take place in the TPCC Auditorium, unless noted otherwise. Detailed agendas are always available for review online: [takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas)

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**  
Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Council Conference Room

**COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**  
Monday, April 4, 7:15 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

**COMMEMORATION COMMISSION**  
Tuesday, April 12, 7:00 p.m.  
TPCC Atrium Room

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**  
Thursday, April 28, 7:00 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

**FAÇADE ADVISORY BOARD**  
Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

**GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE**  
Tuesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Council Conference Room

**NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE**  
Tuesday, April 12, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Azalea Room

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
Thursday, April 21, 7 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

**SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE**  
Monday, April 18, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Lilac Room

**TREE COMMISSION**  
Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.  
TPCC Rose 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](http://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/sign-up-council-agendas](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/sign-up-council-agendas).

**NOTICE ON ADA COMPLIANCE**  
The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services or accommodations is invited to contact Emily Cohen, at 301-891-7266 or [emilyc@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:emilyc@takomaparkmd.gov) 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](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

**ORDINANCE 2016-3**  
**Adopted Feb. 3, 2016**  
Budget Amendment  
*Authorizes FY 2016 Budget Amendment No. 2.*

**ORDINANCE 2016-4**  
**Adopted Feb. 24, 2016**  
Noise Ordinance Amendment  
*Amends the Noise Control Ordinance to provide for increased measures of enforcement of excessive noise levels and noise disturbances violations.*

**ORDINANCE 2016-5**  
**Adopted Feb. 24, 2016**  
Housing Code Amendment  
*Amends Takoma Park Code, Chapter 6.16 Landlord-Tenant Relations, Section 6.16.090 Fees to limit fees that may be assessed to tenants by landlords.*

**ORDINANCE 2016-6**  
**Adopted Feb. 10, 2016**  
Replacement Police Vehicle  
*Authorizes the purchase of a Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle from Apple Ford at the cost of \$27,882.*

**ORDINANCE 2016-7**  
**Adopted Feb. 10, 2016**  
Replacement Police Vehicle  
*Authorizes the purchase of a vehicle for the Police Department from Criswell Chevrolet at the cost of up to \$34,000.*

**RESOLUTION 2016-4**  
**Adopted Feb. 24, 2016**  
Council Priorities  
*Affirms the City Council’s 2016 Priorities.*

**RESOLUTION 2016-5**  
**Adopted Feb. 24, 2016**  
Committee Appointment  
*Appoints Douglas Parsons (Ward 3) to the Committee on the Environment for a term to expire June 30, 2017.*

## VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

*Interested in serving? A great first step is to review information at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees). Then, attend a meeting to see if it is a good fit for you. If you have questions, contact the committee, or talk to your City Councilmember or the City Clerk. Appointments are made by the City Council. Apply by completing the online application and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications.*

The following groups have vacancies as of March 24, 2016:

The **Arts and Humanities Commission** advises the City Council on ways in which the City might best serve the public with regard to matters involving the arts; encourages and aids the appreciation and awareness of, and participation in, the arts among all Takoma Park residents; encourages cooperation and coordination among individuals, organizations and institutions concerned with the arts in Takoma Park; and facilitates employment opportunities for artists and the development of self-sustaining arts programs. Up to five vacancies.

The **Board of Elections** plans and conducts regular and special City elections in coordination with the City Clerk; encourages voter registration in the City; conducts voter education programs and prepares and distributes voter outreach materials; recommends to the Council amendments to the City’s elections law and regulations when it deems such amendments are necessary and will provide for the improved conduct of elections; and periodically reviews City elections procedures. One vacancy (currently no members from Ward 6).

The **Commemoration Commission** documents, maintains, and preserves past, present, and future memorials, commemoratives, and recognitions in the City; recommends to the City Council procedures and programs to honor and commemorate individuals, organizations and businesses that have made significant contributions to the social, cultural, historical, political, economic, or civic life of the City as a whole or to a neighborhood/ local area as well as programs for individuals to honor others; implement such programs within its scope and budget; and decide on recognitions after opportunity for public review and comment. Four vacancies

(currently no members from Wards 4 or 5). The **Committee on the Environment** advises the City Council on all environmental issues, including, stormwater management, greenhouse gas reduction, air quality, tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning and restoration, energy use, transportation, energy conservation, and recycling; serves in partnership with the City Council and Takoma Park City staff to work together to achieve sustainability and other environmental certifications that may help the City meet and be recognized for its environmental goals. One vacancy (currently no members from Ward 5).

The **Emergency Preparedness Committee** assists in reviewing the City’s Emergency Operations Plan and other supporting emergency documents and recommending changes; explores the formation of volunteer teams that can assist City in carrying out emergency activities when called upon; coordinates with the City, County, and other agencies to educate residents on their individual responsibilities in preparing for emergencies; provides information on what residents can expect from the City and County during an emergency; collects and provides research and data and comments on emergency-related events for the Council; identifies and promotes volunteer opportunities in emergencies; and advises the City on strategies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of City preparedness activities. One vacancy (currently no members from Wards 4, 5 or 6).

The **Ethics Commission** provides written advisory opinions; investigates, hears, and decides in ethics inquiries and complaints; conducts a public education program; recommends legislative changes and improvements to the Ethics Ordinance; and promulgates regulations to accompany the Ethics Ordinance. Two vacancies (currently no members from Wards 3 or 5).

The **Grants Review Committee** evaluates applications for funding from a variety of programs including the City’s Cultural and S.T.E.M. grants, Program and Operational Support grants, and Capital Project grants, and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. One vacancy. The **Noise Control Board** assists and advises the City on noise control issues, including administration and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance. The Board adjudicates noise disturbance complaints. Board members serve staggered three-year terms. Five to seven vacancies. The **Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee** oversees implementation and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act and provides public information and issues related to the Ordinance. One vacancy (currently no members from Wards 2, 4, or 6).

The **Recreation Committee** advises the City Council on how best to serve the diverse recreation needs of Takoma Park residents, including but not limited to reviewing and recommending policies and programs that concern recreational opportunities within the City, with a special emphasis on youth and seniors and broad and diverse participation. Five vacancies (currently no members from Ward 4). The **Safe Roadways Committee** advises the City Council on transportation-related issues including, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and safety, traffic issues, and transit services and encourages Takoma Park residents to use alternatives to driving, including walking, bicycling, and transit. Five vacancies (currently no members from Wards 1 or 4). The **Personnel Appeal Board** adjudicates employee appeals of the City Manager’s decisions regarding employee grievances or dismissals. The Board meets annually unless called to convene a hearing. Three vacancies.



## PUBLIC HEARINGS IN APRIL

### Notice of Public Hearing Ordinance Restricting the Commercial Use of Plastic Single-Use Carryout Bags Wednesday, April 13, 2016 – 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

The City Council will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance to amend the Takoma Park Code to restrict the Commercial Use of Plastic Single Use Carryout Bags on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. The ordinance is available for review at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). First reading of the ordinance is scheduled for April 27, 2016. All interested persons should attend the public hearing and sign up to speak. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or by email to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov).

### Notice of Public Hearing City Manager's Proposed FY 2017 Budget Wednesday, April 13, 2016 – 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the City Manager's Proposed FY 2017 Budget on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. The budget will be presented to the City Council on April 6, 2016 and will be available for review at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). All interested persons should attend the public hearing and sign up to speak. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or by email to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov).

### Notice of Public Hearing Streetscape Manual Wednesday, April 20, 2016 – 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the draft Takoma Park Streetscape Manual on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. The streetscape manual is available for review at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/streetscape-manual](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/streetscape-manual). All interested persons should attend the public hearing and sign up to speak. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or by email to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov).

### Notice of Public Hearing FY 2017 Budget Wednesday, April 27, 2016 – 7:30 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

The City Council will hold a public hearing on the Proposed FY 2017 Budget on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. The budget will be presented to the City Council on April 6, 2016 and will be available for review at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). First reading of the budget ordinances is scheduled for Wednesday, May 11. All interested persons should attend the public hearing and sign up to speak. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or by email to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov).

### NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF A PERSONAL RECOGNITION PROGRAM

An administrative regulation is being proposed to implement a Personal Recognition Program developed by the Takoma Park Commemoration Commission. The Commission is charged with recommending to the City Council procedures and programs to honor and commemorate individuals, organizations and businesses that have made significant contributions to the social, cultural, historical, political, economic, or civic life of the City as a whole or to a neighborhood/local area as well as programs for individuals to honor others; implement such programs within its scope and budget; and decide on recognitions after opportunity for public review and comment. The first program introduced is the Personal Recognition Program.

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 online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov). To obtain further information about the proposed regulation, contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7267. Written comments on the proposed regulation may be sent to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912 or by email to [clerk@takomagov.org](mailto:clerk@takomagov.org). The deadline for receipt of public comments is May 15, 2016.

### TAKOMA PARK NOTICE OF A PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City Council of the City of Takoma Park proposes to increase real property taxes.

1. For the tax year beginning July 1, 2016, the estimated real property assessable base will increase by 6.0%, from \$1,980,734,983 to \$2,099,990,347.
2. If the City of Takoma Park maintains the current tax rate of \$0.585 per \$100 of assessment, real property tax revenues will increase by 6.0% resulting in \$697,644 of new real property tax revenues.
3. In order to fully offset the effect of increasing assessments, the real property tax rate should be reduced to \$0.5518, the constant yield tax rate.
4. The City of Takoma Park is considering not reducing its real property tax rate enough to fully offset increasing assessments. The City of Takoma Park proposes to adopt a real property tax rate of \$0.585 per \$100 of assessment. This tax rate is 6.0% higher than the constant yield tax rate and will generate \$697,644 in additional property tax revenues.

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate increase will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 27, 2016 at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland.

The hearing is open to the public, and public testimony is encouraged.

Persons with questions regarding this hearing may call 301-891-7267 for further information.

## STAY CONNECTED!

The City of Takoma Parks strives to keep residents engaged and informed in a variety of ways including social media, the new City website, public safety notifications via email and text, and this newsletter, to name a few. As we begin a new year, we want to provide you with some tips for staying on top of the goings on around the City.

- Visit [takomaparkmd.gov](http://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](http://takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert)
- Access special messages from the Mayor and City Manager on the City's blog: [takomaparkmd.gov/news/city-blog](http://takomaparkmd.gov/news/city-blog)
- Make a service request or report an issue using "My TkPk," an online and application based reporting tool: [takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk](http://takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk)



### THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley  
Assistant: Sean Gossard  
[www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)  
Vol. 55, No. 4

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, [takomaparkmd.gov](http://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](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov)

[takomaparkmd.gov](http://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.



## Important City Department Phone Numbers

City Clerk.....	301-891-7267
City Manager .....	301-891-7229
City TV .....	301-891-7118
Finance .....	301-891-7212
Housing & Community Development.....	301-891-7119
Library .....	301-891-7259
Police .....	301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
Public Works.....	301-891-7633
Recreation/Facilities Rental.....	301-891-7290





# BUILDING COMMUNITY

## Keeping it groovy

Check any parking lot around town, and many of the cars have one thing in common. The ubiquitous oval bumper magnet, TKPK, “Keep Our City Clean, Green and Groovy,” can be found on any make, model or year of car and has even been spotted as far away as Denver, Colorado. Alone on the tailgate or wedged in between other messages of all kinds, our groovy anti-litter branding says something about Takoma Park.

With all these bumpers advertising our clean and green city, we shouldn't have a litter problem, but we do. Residents sporting the anti-litter message are making a statement that we are all in this together. And that is what the Anti-litter Initiative is all about: keeping our City clean together. We all have a responsibility not only to pick up litter when we see it, but to not throw it down in the first place. The Anti-litter Initiative is built on the idea that the residents and City government will work together to keep our city clean, green and groovy. And here's how.

### Seasonal Litter Clean-ups

April is Anti-Litter Month. This is the best and easiest time to find a way to join the effort to rid Takoma Park of litter. School groups from elementary all the way through the university level have clean ups scheduled.

The Takoma Langley Crossroads Association has regular clean ups advertised on their website: [takomalangley.org](http://takomalangley.org).

Main Street Takoma invites residents to come out on Saturday, April 16, [www.mainstreettakoma.org/event/spring-community-clean-up-day](http://www.mainstreettakoma.org/event/spring-community-clean-up-day).

The Alice Ferguson Foundation hosts the Potomac River Watershed Clean Up with sites all over the region, to volunteer visit: [fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/potomac-river-watershed-cleanup/volunteers](http://fergusonfoundation.org/trash-free-potomac-watershed-initiative/potomac-river-watershed-cleanup/volunteers).

Many residents make Sweep the Creek a tradition and on April 23-24, you can too: [www.fosc.org/sweepthecreek.htm](http://www.fosc.org/sweepthecreek.htm).

The Anti-litter Initiative owes a special thank you to the hundreds of students

from Takoma Academy and Washington Adventist University who will participate in clean ups all around the City on April 6 and April 15. When you see these students and others in the community who are spending their time picking up litter to make our City Clean, Green and Groovy, please say, “Thank you!”

### Adopt-a-Spot

Adopt-a-Spot allows individuals or groups to adopt areas located within Takoma Park for regularly scheduled litter pick-ups. The City recognizes the individual or group with a sign bearing the group's name at the spot. The City will also provide cleaning equipment, such as trash bags and gloves.

Examples of eligible locations include parks, landmarks, schools, vacant lots, walkways or trails, campuses, public grounds, or any sites prone to litter. Many groups are already committed to keeping a spot litter free. Sister Eden, Ace Hardware and the Young Activists Club were the first to agree to regular monthly clean ups. The Green Elf Takoma Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops will join them this Spring. Download the application from the City website: [takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/anti-littering](http://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/anti-littering).

### Sick of Signs

During Sick of Signs Week in September, the City urges residents to put “Street Spam” back in the can by tearing down illegally posted signs in the public right-of-way. Don't wait for September, go ahead and take down illegal signs anytime.

“Street Spam” can be signs that offer to buy your house, advertise summer camps, or ask for your scrap gold. Throughout the week, residents collect signs from bus shelters, utility poles, and transformer boxes, then bring them to a sign tally at the Community Center. The Housing and Community Development department awards prizes and provides refreshments at the sign tally. Sick of Signs Week involves the community in eliminating the paper trails that clog public spaces and eventually become litter.

## Keeping tenants safe

A primary focus of a rental housing inspection is to look for life safety code violations. Some of the basic requirements that all living spaces should have include hot water, heat, cooking facilities and sanitary facilities.

Fire safety is a major concern. Smoke alarms must be on the ceiling of every level of your home and both inside and outside bedrooms. Being able to escape in case of a fire is vital, so all bedrooms must have an outside window or exterior door for egress. Egress windows may not have bars unless they are breakaway bars approved by the Montgomery County Fire Marshall. In basement bedrooms, a code conforming window well may be required if the window is not large enough for a tenant to escape or a firefighter to enter.

Doors to the outside may not have keyed locks on the inside and must be openable with a thumb latch. There must be a safe, clear path to the outside



door or to a required egress window. This means no trip hazards in a unit. Additionally, all stairways must have handrails. Nothing should be stored near a furnace or water heater. Electrical fixtures should be installed properly, outlets and switches should be properly covered (not cracked, arcing or sparking), and there should not be any extension cords or cable wires running through doorways or windows.

Although this list is not all inclusive, this covers the basic safety housing requirements to ensure everyone has a safe place to live.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS – NOTICE OF FINAL ACTION

Notice of Final Action - Administrative Regulation establishing Maximum Fees Associated with Residential Rental Facilities, in accordance with Chapter 6.16.090 of the Takoma Park Code-Fees-General provision, permitted fees, optional fees, prohibited fees.

The January 2016 edition of the Takoma Park Newsletter included notice of the City's intention to adopt an administrative regulation establishing general provisions for the levying of fees as set forth in City Code Chapter 6.16.090-Fees and establishing maximum fees for optional services and amenities in residential rental facilities.

The notice of the City's intention to

adopt an administrative regulation was published in accordance with the requirements of the “Administrative Regulations Ordinance” (Authority: Chapter 2.12, Administrative Regulations, of the Takoma Park Code) to allow citizens the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The notice stated that the proposed regulation was available for inspection at the City Clerk's Office. A limited number of public comments have been received by the City Clerk's Office since the notice appeared and have been considered. This notice is to inform residents that the final regulation will become effective on May 1, 2016.



## Volunteers Needed! The Takoma Park Independence Day Committee

Want to help make this year's Takoma Park 4th of July Celebration our best yet? The Takoma Park Independence Day Committee, which organizes the annual parade and fireworks, is seeking new volunteers.

We need volunteers for all sorts of roles, but we're especially looking for help with marketing and communications, fundraising, neighborhood raffles sales and procuring trucks and antique cars for use during the parade. On the 4th we need help directing parade divisions, controlling traffic and setting up the review stand and other materials.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Tara Egan at [tara.marie.egan@gmail.com](mailto:tara.marie.egan@gmail.com) or 240-863-8837. Or join us at TPIDC's monthly meeting held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Historic Takoma to learn more.





## We Share the Planet with Animals

**Saturday, April 16, 4 p.m.**

In this spellbinding and participatory performance, storyteller Candace Wolf spins tales from the ancient storytelling traditions of world cultures. The stories in "We Share the Planet with the Animals" celebrate the relationship people have shared with animals since the beginning of human memory. This performance is recommended for families with children over six years old.



# THE ARTS

## CULTURAL EVENTS



### Devoted to Nature: The Religious Roots of American Environmentalism

**Thursday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.**

Evan Berry, associate professor at American University, discusses the development of the American environmental movement, raising questions about how values, science and religious ideas have been combined throughout the movement's history.

### The Sons with Two Moms

**Saturday, April 9, 4 p.m.**

Local author Anthony Hynes will read passages from his self-published

memoir, which chronicles his childhood as a black boy adopted by two white mothers in D.C. in the 90s. When cancer afflicted one of Hynes' mothers, and the courts threatened his legal guardianship, Hynes had to decide what his identity and his definition of family looked like.

### DREAM: An American Story Thursday, April 14, 7:30 p.m.

Juan Gomez, one of thousands of undocumented young people who despite living in this country since infancy, has no permanent right to stay in the U.S. Juan speaks flawless English, is academically gifted, and believes in the American Dream. Despite a future at Georgetown University and a promising career on Wall Street, the polarized political climate around immigration reform presents him, and so many others, with road blocks. Director Aldo Bello, a Docs in Progress Fellow, will hold a Q&A after the screening.

### Third Thursday Poetry Reading Thursday, April 21, 7:30 p.m.

The popular "Third Thursday" poetry series features the work of a wide range of poets from across the region. If you have not sat in on the readings yet, stop by on any third Thursday of the month and check it out.

## EXHIBIT

### Impressions

**Exhibit can be viewed through May 2.**

The artists of *Impressions*, the current exhibit at the Takoma Park Community Center, are interested in re-invention. Mike Guy, Helen Higgins and Mary Welch Higgins, Gladys Lipton and Emalie Lorens repurposed personal histories, their predecessors' work and outside disciplines in their artwork featured in this exhibit.

### Featured Artists:

**Mike Guy** received formal training from Indiana University of Pennsylvania where he studied liberal arts under Fyuko Matsubara with a focus in silk painting and printmaking. Since then he has exhibited at galleries throughout the region. As the principal operator of Stops Rust Murals, he has organized artist groups to complete large scale mural jobs for local, small businesses, such as Three Stars Brewing and Hagerstown FIT Labs.

**Helen Higgins** was born and raised in Washington, D.C. where she received her B.A. and M.F.A. at the Catholic University of America. Her master's thesis, a garden sculpture group illustrating the life of St. Francis of Assisi, is a permanent installation in the university's art department. Helen married and raised nine children while continuing her artwork and exhibiting with D.C. groups and with galleries in North Carolina.

**Mary Welch Higgins** received a B.F.A. from the Corcoran School of Art in 1986 and an M.A. in visual information tech-

nologies from George Mason University. Her artistic education began many years earlier under the tutelage of her mother, Helen Schrider Higgins. She was exposed to art history at a young age on many family visits to the National Gallery of Art and the Museum of American Art as well as many trips to local D.C. galleries.



"Time Zones," a mixed-media abstract by Gladys Lipton

**Dr. Gladys C. Lipton** is a former teacher of French and Spanish, who headed New York City's foreign language program and similar programs in the Anne Arundel County public schools. She turned to artistic endeavors several years ago and studied with artist Aniko Macranczy. She has shown her work at numerous galleries, including the National Institutes of Health, Clinical Center; the Montpelier Arts Center and the Fox Hill Gallery.

**Emalie Lorens** was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota and moved to Washington, D.C. in 1955. She has lived in Takoma Park for eight years. She is an award winning artist, who has been painting for 70 years. Her work appears in many private and corporate collections, including the Skowhegan School and Georgetown University Hospital. She received her B.A. from Goddard College and an M.A. in expressive therapy from Lesley University.

## ART HOP TAKOMA APRIL 9-10

Takoma's commercial district (DC and MD) will transform into a lively arts district showcasing the talents of both emerging and established visual artists while welcoming visitors to our eclectic mix of local businesses. Come explore the local shops, restaurants and cafes and see the work of more than 100 artists on display all weekend. You can also enjoy the free performances or programs scheduled throughout the weekend.





# RECREATION

## TOTS

### DROP IN

**Community Playtime**  
*Ages 6 months - 6*

Enjoy open playtime, read stories, work on craft projects, enjoy the playground and socialize. Organizers provide toys, craft supplies, story time and snack. Community Playtime is not open when the City of Takoma Park buildings are closed. Visit [www.TakomaPlaytime.org](http://www.TakomaPlaytime.org) for more information.

Heffner Park Community Center  
English Session: Ongoing Mondays, until June 6  
Spanish Session: Ongoing Fridays, until June 10  
10 a.m. - noon  
Free

### CAMPS

**Rookie Sports Camp**  
*Ages 3 - 4*

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.

TP Community Center Rose Room  
Monday - Friday, June 27 - July 1,  
July 11 - July 15, Aug. 1 - 5, 9 a.m. - noon  
TP residents \$80  
Non-residents \$90



**Tots Nature Camp**  
*Ages 3 - 4*

Tots Nature Camp introduces children to the artistic beauty of one of the world's greatest creations, Earth. In this camp, children spend time connecting with nature through a series of fun activities such as making bird feeders and nature scrapbooks. The best part is that they make their creations using all recycled materials that they collect, which also teaches them about the importance of preserving nature's beauty by being responsible. This camp allows children to expand the creativity within them that comes naturally. Paperwork will need to be submitted prior to the first day of camp.

TP Community Center Rose Room  
Monday - Friday  
Session 1: July 18 - July 22  
Session 2: July 25 - July 29  
9 a.m. - noon  
TP residents \$125  
Non-residents \$145

### EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

**Zumbini**  
*Ages newborn - 3*

Zumbini is a music and movement class for children, 0 to 3 years, to attend with their music-loving caregiver. We combine original Zumba-style music with dancing, singing, instruments, and scarves to create a fun and engaging 45-minute class. Each participant will receive a "Bini Bundle," which includes two copies of our class music and a beautifully

illustrated story book.

TP Community Center Lilac Room  
Saturdays, April 9 - June 11, 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.  
TP residents \$110  
Non-residents \$130

## YOUTH

### ART

**Clay for Kids**  
*Ages 4 - 8*

In this class, children will receive instruction on how to utilize a variety of techniques (coil, pinch, slab work) to create one-of-a-kind sculptures and vessels out of clay. Caregiver participation required. There is a \$15 materials fee (per child) due to the instructor on the first day of class. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon.

TP Community Center Art Studio  
Wednesdays, April 20 - May 25, 4 - 5 p.m.  
TP residents \$130  
Non-residents \$150

### CAMPS



**Girls Developmental Basketball Camp**  
*Ages 8 - 14*

Participants will learn basketball fundamentals, which include but are not limited to ball handling, shooting skills, foot work and overall knowledge of the game. Campers will also improve communication skills and teamwork all while having fun. This girl's only camp is operated by Rochelle Coleman a former collegiate (Syracuse University) and professional basketball player and current head varsity girls basketball coach at Paint Branch High School. Paperwork will need to be submitted prior to the first day of camp.

TP Community Center Lilac Room  
Monday - Friday, July 25 - July 29, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
TP residents \$175  
Non-residents \$195

**Visual Arts Camp**  
*Ages 11 - 14*

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 or more hours of painting and/or collage and assemblage in the afternoon. 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 submitted prior to the first day of camp.  
TP Community Center Art Studio  
Monday - Friday, June 27 - July 1, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
TP residents \$295  
Non-residents \$325

### DRAMA/THEATER

**Dungeons and Dragons**  
*Ages 9 - 18*

They creep through the twilight, quiet as shadows muttering a language long forgotten, a language only spoken by ghosts. Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group "survive."  
TP Community Center Auditorium  
Thursdays, April 14 - May 12, 4 - 6 p.m.  
TP residents \$55  
Non-residents \$65

**Kung Fu**  
*Ages 4 - 16*

This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise, which could help the students defend themselves by strengthening hand-eye coordination. The student will gain physical fitness as well as mental and spiritual strength. There is a one-time, non-refundable, fee of \$50 paid to the instructor at the first class for uniform.

TP Community Center Dance Studio  
Saturdays, April 9 - June 18  
Beginners: 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.  
Advanced: 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
TP residents \$100  
Non-residents \$120

**Taekwondo**  
*Ages 5 and older*

Taekwondo is composed of three parts as shown in the English spelling, though it is one word in Korean. "Tae" means "foot," "leg," or "to step on;" "Kwon" means "fist," or "fight;" and "Do" means the "way" or "discipline." There is a one-time, non-refundable, fee of \$50 paid to the instructor at the first class for uniform.

TP Community Center Dance Studio  
Mondays, April 11 - June 27, 1 - 2 p.m.  
TP residents \$100  
Non-residents \$120

## TEENS

### CAMPS

**Counselor In Training (CIT)**  
*Ages 14 - 17*

Sign-up now for a three-day training to become a Certified CIT while becoming First Aid/CPR certified. Work with children ages 5-12 during our youth summer camps and earn your SSL hours while having fun. This is the only opportunity to work with youth this summer and receive SSL hours.

TP Community Center  
Tuesday, May 3 and Thursday, May 5, 4 - 6 p.m.  
Saturday, May 7, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
TP residents \$25  
Non-residents \$35

**Teens on the Move Summer Edition**  
*Ages 13 - 17*

Registration is open and spaces are filling fast. Four weeks of summer fun. Each day is a trip on a new adventure. Broaden your horizons and maximize your courage and strength. Take trips such as rock climbing, horseback riding, zip-lining, etc. Challenge yourself and overcome your fears during this 4-week Adventure Camp. Registration is by the week.  
TP Community Center Teen Lounge

**For more information  
and for a full listing  
of our classes and  
programs, please visit  
[takomaparkmd.gov/  
government/recreation](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation).**



## RECREATION *Special programs*

### Kindermusik

Based on a German model, Kindermusik was developed in the United States over 30 years ago. It is taught worldwide and incorporates the early childhood musical foundations of Kodaly, Suzuki, Orff, and more. Becky Linafelt received her Kindermusik teaching license in 2003 and is proud to be part of the Takoma Park community as a mom and educator. She is a member of the Early Childhood Music and Movement Association (ECMMA), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and the Maryland Music Teachers Association (MMTA). Busy and curious toddlers also love Kindermusik classes that are offered through the Takoma Park Recreation Department. To register for all Kindermusik classes, visit: [www.kmwithbecky.kindermusik.net](http://www.kmwithbecky.kindermusik.net).



## Save the Date: Celebrate Takoma Festival

This family festival will celebrate the cultural diversity of Takoma Park and its residents. We will have food vendors, community vendors, entertainment, games from around the world and crafts. Come join the fun. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and spend the afternoon with your neighbors. Nominal fees for food stands. For more information, contact John Webster at 301-891-7225 or [johnw@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:johnw@takomaparkmd.gov).  
Maple Avenue in front of Piney Branch Elementary School  
Saturday, May 17, 4 – 7 p.m.



### RECREATION

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Monday – Friday, July 5 – July 29, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
TP residents \$120  
Non-residents \$140

### SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

#### Boys 2 Men Fitness

*Ages 16 - 18*

Boys 2 Men Fitness is geared toward coaching teenage boys in valuable techniques used to build muscle. This class will teach the proper way to strength train, cardio exercise, and a variety of at-home workouts to help build and strengthen your physique. If you're interested in being healthy and getting in shape, then this is the class for you. Transportation to the

TP Recreation Center from the TP Community Center is provided by the Recreation Department. The bus will depart at 3 p.m. sharp.

TP Recreation Center Fitness Room  
Wednesdays, April 6 - May 25, 3:30 - 5 p.m.  
Free

#### Step Team

*Ages 6 – 12*

Stepping is a form of dance in which you use your entire body as an instrument to produce rhythms and beats through footsteps, clapping and words or chanting. Members will learn self-expression, coordination, self-discipline and teamwork. No experience is necessary, and we welcome all who are willing to learn.

TP Recreation Center front room  
Ongoing, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 – 7:30

p.m.

Free with a Recreation Center membership card

### ADULTS

#### SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Go-Go Fitness

*Ages 16 and older*

Go-Go Fitness is a comprehensive 60-minute high-cardio, dance fitness workout that incorporates various dance styles, toning moves as well as the classic call and response of a live Go-Go music workout set.

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium  
Saturdays, Ongoing, noon - 1 p.m.  
\$5 drop-in fee

#### Jazzercise

*Ages 16 and older*

Jazzercise is the art of jazz combined with the science of exercise physiology. Each 60 to 70-minute class includes easy to follow fun aerobic-dance routines, weights for muscle strength and stretching exercises all to the beat of great music. The music ranges from oldies to jazz to the newest pop tunes.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium  
Ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays, 7 – 8 p.m.  
Ongoing Saturdays, 8 – 9 a.m.  
\$45 PER MONTH EFT (Easy Fitness Ticket)  
\$120/8-week pass  
\$15 drop-in



#### REGISTRATION UNDERWAY FOR EXTENDED CARE FOR THE 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

##### After The Bell Childcare 2016-2017

*Kindergarten – 5th grade*

After The Bell Childcare is an after-school program offered at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New Hampshire Ave). 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, free play and more. Transportation will not be provided to this program by TPRD but parents can arrange transportation through MCPS.

TP Recreation Center Front Room

10 months – School Year

Monday-Friday, Aug. 29 – June 16, 2017

3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

\$1,250

##### Morning and Afternoon Addition 2016-2017

*Kindergarten – 5th grade*

The Morning Addition program is designed for those families that need early morning options before the school day starts. Staff will be available to provide informal recreation activities and will escort participants to Takoma Park Elementary School and Piney Branch Elementary School. Children will also have time for homework assignments, breakfast (not provided) or prepare for their day at school. During Afternoon Addition, emphasis is placed on providing leisure and recreation programs utilizing our facilities to include but not limited to the computer learning center, dance studio, art room, game room, athletic fields, library and more. We have some exciting activities planned this year including: clubs, special guests, sports, field trips, study time and playtime that will enlighten, empower and enrich minds and imaginations.

TP Community Center Azalea Room

Monday – Friday, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.

10 month – School Year

Morning & Afternoon Addition

TP residents \$2,850

Non-residents \$3,450

Morning Addition (only)

TP residents \$1,300

Non-residents \$1,600

Afternoon Addition (only)

TP residents \$2,100

Non-residents \$2,600

## Summer Youth Employment Program

The City of Takoma Park is proud to announce the third year of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). SYEP is an eight-week employment and job skill development program sponsored by the City of Takoma Park in partnership with local for-profit and non-profit organizations. This year the program will run from June 27 – Aug. 19. This program focuses on learn-and-earn opportunities, life skills, and work skills for teens and young adults and aims to increase teen and young adult employment and educational attainment. Participants (ages 16-21) in SYEP are screened and will receive soft-skills training by the City prior to beginning work.

SYEP provides a chance to gain real-world job experience and preparation for future careers and/or secondary education. We have witnessed the benefits that

summer youth employment can bring to teens and young adults and their community. Participants were connected to the labor force; community members earned needed income, and in turn, supported local economies; and businesses and non-profit organizations gave back to their community by hiring a teen or young adult.

Research has shown that summer employment programs help teens and young adults build new and valuable skills. One study of summer jobs programs found that nearly 75 percent of participants improved their work readiness skills. Another study found that participants in a summer youth employment program were less likely than their peers to engage in risky behaviors, including drug and alcohol use and violence.

If you are a teen or young adult look-



*A past SYEP participant*

ing to learn more about this worthwhile opportunity or to participate, contact Leicia Monfort at [leiciam@takomapark-md.gov](mailto:leiciam@takomapark-md.gov) or 301-891-7290 so that you

may be contacted to attend an interest workshop on Tuesday, April 26 from 7-9 p.m. at the TP Community Center.

FY 17 BUDGET

■ From page 1

for staff of small municipalities in the region. Some additional revenue increases from State and County sources will allow City staff to be able to address Council priorities while continuing to provide municipal services at current levels.

Ludlow proposes to keep the tax rate at \$0.585 per \$100 valuation. This adds \$846,272 to the expected property tax revenue for the coming fiscal year because of the recent increase in property assessments. On average, the owner of a property now assessed at \$400,000 would pay the City of Takoma Park \$13 more in property taxes next year than he/she did in the current year.

If the City wished to receive the same amount of property tax revenue next year as it expects to receive this year, the City’s tax rate would need to be reduced to \$0.5518 per \$100 assessed valuation, the “constant yield tax rate.”

A new neighborhood services division

Ludlow is proposing one new full-time position and an organizational change. The new position is that of an Environmental Code Enforcement Officer. Recent new laws passed by the City Council require a significant amount of outreach and enforcement for them to be effective. These include the Safe Grow pesticide restrictions, polystyrene ban, multifamily and business recycling and a possible plastic bag ban. City laws prohibiting overgrown vegetation and vines growing on trees have been on the books for years, but there has been little capacity for regular enforcement. The new position would coordinate education efforts and oversee enforcement of these laws.

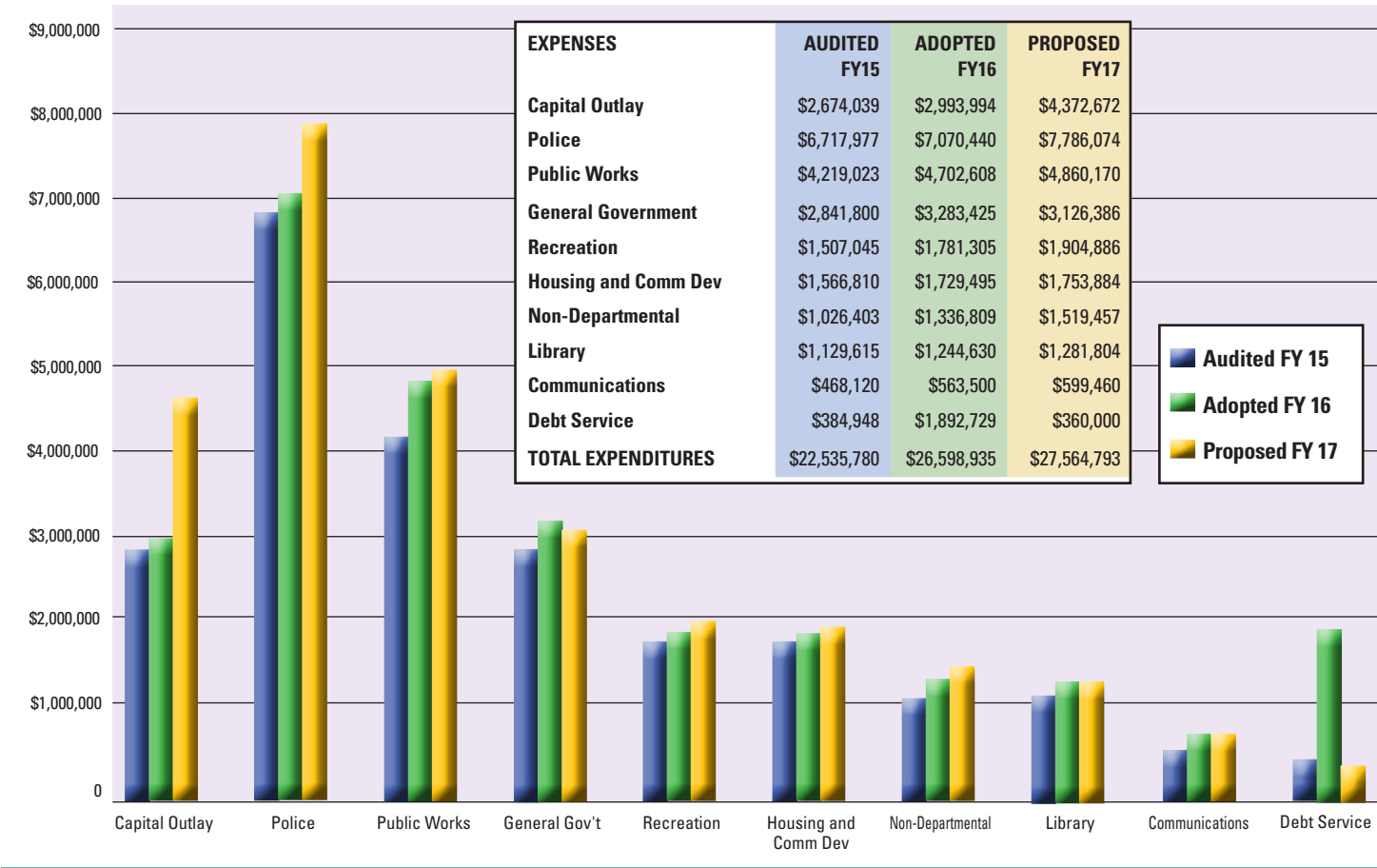
The new position would be part of a new division in the Police Department called the Neighborhood Services Division. The Division would also include the City’s two Property Code Enforcement Officers, currently in the Housing and Community Development Department, and the Police Department’s one full- and one part-time Parking Enforcement Officers. The officers would be cross trained and conduct joint enforcement efforts when needed. They also become part of the community efforts of the Police Department to identify areas that need greater attention (that may have litter, graffiti, or vacant properties) and to continue community outreach with businesses and residents.

The Housing and Community Development Department would focus more on proactive affordable housing and economic development efforts.

The City Manager’s proposed budget will be presented to the City Council on Wednesday, April 6. The Council will consider the details of the budget during special Monday night budget work sessions in April, with votes on May 11 and May 18 on the contents of the budget and the amount of the tax rate. Public Hearings on the budget are set for April 13 and April 27 at 7:30 pm.

The proposed FY17 budget is available at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/budget](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/budget).

Takoma Park Budget: General Fund Expenditures - FY '15 through FY '17



Takoma Park Budget: General Fund Revenues - FY '15 through FY '17

	Audited FY 15	Adopted FY 16	Proposed FY 17
Taxes and utility fees	\$14,768,704	\$15,546,066	\$16,499,374
Licenses and permits	\$76,103	\$78,904	\$76,804
Fines and forfeitures	\$310,977	\$215,500	\$505,000
Use of money and property	\$29,729	\$15,000	\$22,000
Charges for service	\$1,165,614	\$1,171,655	\$1,178,530
Intergovernmental	\$6,089,786	\$5,746,852	\$6,165,493
Miscellaneous	\$149,142	\$135,994	\$71,500
	\$25,590,055	\$22,909,971	\$24,518,701

Income Tax Revenue

Fiscal Year	Income Tax Revenue
2006	\$1,904,784
2007	\$2,016,347
2008	\$2,359,552
2009	\$2,310,208
2010	\$2,138,384
2011	\$2,330,225
2012	\$2,595,845
2013	\$2,437,127
2014	\$2,671,765
2015	\$2,797,878
Est. 2016	\$3,450,000
Prop. 2017	\$3,150,000

Real Property Assessments, Tax Revenue, and Tax Rate

Fiscal Year	Assessed Value	Real Property Tax Revenue	% change	Tax Rate
2006	\$1,159,577,994	\$7,369,473		0.63
2007	\$1,305,972,838	\$8,232,645	12%	0.63
2008	\$1,480,266,902	\$9,032,239	10%	0.61
2009	\$1,669,463,691	\$10,007,250	11%	0.605
2010	\$1,826,785,810	\$10,556,622	5%	0.58
2011	\$1,868,831,518	\$10,858,055	3%	0.58
2012	\$1,934,307,192	\$11,166,179	3%	0.58
2013	\$1,988,548,200	\$11,496,734	3%	0.58
2014	\$1,918,829,231	\$10,974,639	-5%	0.57
2015	\$1,937,581,662	\$11,016,039	0%	0.57
Est. 2016	\$1,943,818,797	\$11,437,750	4%	0.585
Prop. 2017	\$2,099,990,347	\$12,284,020	7%	0.585

■ Indicates triennial assessment year

County may raise property tax rate

Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett is proposing a tax rate increase for Montgomery County property owners, but notes in his proposed budget that the increase may not be needed if the Maryland General Assembly approves legislation to extend the time for the County to pay \$50 million to the State of Maryland. The State lost the Supreme Court’s “Wynne” case and must

refund certain income tax payments paid by Maryland residents. Many of the affected residents live in Montgomery County and a large portion of the revenue went to the County. The State is refunding the money up front, but the County must pay it back in nine quarterly payments if no extension is authorized.

One line item in the County Execu-

tive’s budget is welcome news to many Takoma Park residents: the County Executive is proposing to maintain operation of the Piney Branch Pool for at least the coming year, a change from his proposals in recent years to close the pool.

For more information on the Montgomery County budget, go to [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/budget](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/budget)



# LIBRARY

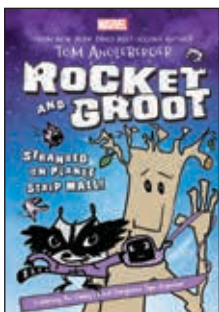


## Authors visit in April

By Karen MacPherson

We have a stellar line-up of authors and illustrators visiting the Library in April, from best-selling *Origami Yoda* author Tom Angleberger to two graphic novelists and a bilingual picture book creator. Politics & Prose bookstore will be selling copies of the authors' books at each event, but the programs are free, and no purchase is required to attend. All of the programs will take place in the Library's Children's Room.

The always-entertaining Angleberger is our first April author. On Wednesday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m., he'll talk about *Stranded on Planet Strip Mall*, the first in a heavily-illustrated new series for ages 7-10 featuring Rocket & Groot, two characters from Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy." In the first book, Rocket and Groot crash-land onto a planet composed entirely of strip malls and must battle hungry toilets, murderous robots, and washing machines with chainsaw arms to survive. In its review, *School Library Journal* called the book "a slapstick romp."



ful new book, *Birdsong*, on Monday, April 11 at 7 p.m. In *Birdsong*, a wordless book for ages 5-8, Sturm pays homage to the Japanese art of "kamishibai" in which storytellers tell a tale using a series of illustrated boards that are placed, one after the other, in a specially-made miniature stage. Each two-page spread in Sturm's book offers an illustration on the right-hand side and a decorated but otherwise blank page on the left-hand side for young readers to supply their own dialogue for the story. *Kirkus* called *Birdsong* an "episode rich in drama, humor, pathos, and thematic depth."

On Tuesday, April 19 at 7 p.m., fans of the *I Spy* and *Where's Waldo?* books will get a treat as author/illustrator Henry Cole unveils his new picture book, *Spot, the Cat*. Done primarily in black-and-white, Cole's book tells the story of a cat named Spot who heads out to see the world, and his young owner who searches frantically for him. Cole invites the reader to try to find Spot and his owner on each of the two-page spreads, which are filled with details presented in a cross-hatched style. In a starred review, *Booklist* noted that "even after readers have found Spot, there are plenty of other stories to see in these pages."



On the next evening, Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m., author/illustrator Ruth Chan will present her debut picture book, *Where's the Party?* Aimed at ages 3-6, Chan's book tells the story of Georgie the Cat who wants to have a party but can't find anyone who will come. But there's a happy surprise for Georgie at the book's conclusion. *Publishers Weekly* noted that Chan's

ink-and-watercolor illustrations "are full of playful details to enjoy." As a special surprise, and in honor of the book's theme, we'll get to enjoy cake and lemonade courtesy of Chan's publisher.

We'll have a special "Dia" (Dia de los Ninos/ Dia de los Libros, Children's Day/ Book Day) on Sunday, April 24 at 3 p.m. when local author/illustrator Lulu Delacre will talk about her new bilingual (Spanish/English) book, *Olinguito de la A a Z/Olinguito From A to Z*. In the book, Delacre cleverly uses the alphabet to introduce young readers to the habitat of the olinguito, a recently discovered mammal that lives in the cloud forest of the Ecuadorean Andes. *Kirkus* called Delacre's book, aimed at ages 4-8, "poetic and informative, a breath of fresh air in the too-often-contrived world of bilingual



Graphic novelist James Sturm will spotlight his beautifully-illustrated, thought-

## CALENDAR

### Circle Time

Every Tuesday  
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

### Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m.  
Led by Senora Geiza

### MOOC Discussion of *England in the Time of Richard III*

Sundays through April 24, 12:30 p.m.  
Computer Room B

### Yoga Storytime for 2-4 Year Olds

Saturday, April 2, 10:30 a.m.  
Registration required; to register, go to [www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents](http://www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents), or call us at 301-891-7259.

### LEGO Club

Sunday, April 3, 1:30-3 p.m.  
Building fun for ages 5-12.

### Bedtime Stories and a Craft

Tuesday, April 5, 7 p.m.  
Join Ms. Kati for this fun monthly program.

### Origami Yoda Author Tom Angleberger

Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.  
Angleberger will talk about *Stranded on Planet Strip Mall*, the first in a new *Rocket & Groot* illustrated chapter book series.

### Picture Book Creator Ruth Chan

Thursday, April 7, 7 p.m.  
Chan will talk about her debut picture book, *Where's the Party?*

### Friends of the Library Big Book Club

Introductory Lecture on *An American Tragedy* by Theodore Dreiser  
Thursday, April 7, 7:30 p.m.  
Our speaker is Dr. Adam Wood. This is the first in a series of discussions about the book.

All are invited. Note: This event will take place at Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Avenue

### Crafts for Kids

Sunday, April 10, 2-3 p.m.  
Our theme is "springtime."

### Graphic Novelist James Sturm

Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.  
Sturm will talk about *Birdsong*, his wordless graphic novel for kids

### Comics Jam

Tuesday, April 12, 4 p.m.  
Come read comics with Dave Burbank

### Beverly Cleary 100th Birthday Celebration

Tuesday, April 12, 7-8:30 a.m.  
Kids and adults are invited to "Drop Everything and Read."  
Refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library.

### Caldecott Club

Monday, April 18, 7 p.m.  
All ages welcome; lemonade and cookies served.

### Picture Book Creator Henry Cole

Tuesday, April 19, 7 p.m.  
Cole will talk about his latest book, *Spot, the Cat*

### Friends of the Library Big Book Club

Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.  
Discussion continues on *An American Tragedy*  
Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park Community Center

### Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Saturday, April 23, 10:30 a.m.  
Led by Madame Marie

### Author/Illustrator Lulu Delacre

Sunday, April 24, 3 p.m.  
Delacre will talk about her new bilingual picture book, *Olinguito from A to Z!*  
Note: This event will be in Spanish and English and will include a craft.

### Favorite Poem Evening

Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m. (see article)

### Graphic Novelist Kevin McCloskey

Thursday, April 28, 7 p.m.  
McCloskey will spotlight his newest non-fiction beginning reader comic, *The Real Poop on Pigeons!*

### Looking ahead....

- **Friends of the Library Big Book Group** continues *An American Tragedy* discussions on Wednesday, May 4 and May 18, 7:30 p.m., Hydrangea Room, Takoma Park Community Center
- **Children's Book Week Celebration** with picture book author Mac Barnett (Monday, May 2, 7 p.m.; kids' author and humorist Dave Barry (Friday, May 6, 7:30 p.m.) and Caldecott Honor picture book creator Molly Idle (Saturday, May 7, 3 p.m.)

## Favorite poem evening: A Takoma Park tradition

By Ellen Robbins

The "Favorite Poem Evening," sponsored jointly by the Takoma Park Maryland Library and the Friends of the Library, is now in its 19th year. Last year's event drew a record number of readers and poetry enthusiasts. This year's celebration of poems will be held in the library on Tuesday April 26 at 7:30 p.m.

If you would like to participate, choose a poem you have read and admired by a published poet other than you or your friends. Poems written in languages other than English are welcome if they are accompanied by an English translation. There are plenty of ideas for possible choices in the library's poetry collections.

Send the name and author of the poem you have chosen and your own name and generic occupation for inclusion in a printed program to Ellen Robbins at the Takoma Park Maryland Library or by e-mail to [ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov). The deadline for submission is Thursday, April 21.

Originally conceived as a national

event by poet laureate Robert Pinsky, the Favorite Poem Evening in Takoma Park has been a lovely, warm and community building event for the past 18 years. It was based on the idea that poetry has meaning to everyone, and everyone has a "favorite poem" at some point in their lives and would enjoy the opportunity to share it. Pinsky founded the Favorite Poem Project shortly after his appointment as the 39th Poet Laureate of the United States in 1997.

During the one-year call for submissions, 18,000 Americans wrote to the project volunteering to share their favorite poems – Americans from ages from 5 to 97, from every state, representing a range of backgrounds and kinds of occupations. During that first year, the Library had its own favorite poem event in conjunction with the English Department at Washington Adventist University. And we have carried on the tradition ever since.

Join us on the 26th to read or simply enjoy hearing the readings by others. There will be a reception afterwards with refreshments provided by the Friends of the Library.



# Ludlow shares highlights from her first year as City Manager

“My nicest memories come from the supportive words I heard from community members as I took on the new role as City Manager,” says Suzanne Ludlow of her first year on the job. “It made the transition to the position easier for me.”

In this interview, Ludlow shares highlights from her first year in her new position: what’s been accomplished, what lies ahead for the City, and what she is most looking forward to as she begins her second year on the job.

## TP News: What has surprised you the most in the past year?

**Ludlow:** I’ve been most pleasantly surprised by the enthusiasm of the Council to jump in and help on City efforts. This is the most active Council I’ve worked with, both on their own constituent service matters and on setting priorities as a group and working on them. In addition, they have pitched in on cleanup efforts during the big snow storm, they’ve come to staff events, and they want to be asked to help on lobbying efforts and in making connections to other jurisdictions and agencies. It’s really great—it’s a team effort.

## TP News: What were your biggest challenges as you began your new role last year?

**Ludlow:** My biggest challenge was to hire an excellent Deputy City Manager to help share the work load. It helped that many talented people wanted to work for the City of Takoma Park, so we had great applicants from which to choose. Jason Damweber has been on the job eight months. He jumped in with both feet and has made my job so much easier. He has already made significant improvements to



Suzanne Ludlow

many of our technology and communications systems, and he is building strong relationships with Councilmembers, staff and residents.

My second biggest challenge was dealing with the brief stay of the person we hired as a Finance Director when Yovonda Brooks retired. Fortunately, our Budget Specialist Susan Cheung has stepped into the director role and will perform well in that key position. This experience reinforces the need for succession planning in all City departments. We need to ensure that the excellent and critical work we do will continue when planned or unplanned vacancies occur.

## TP News: What was your greatest opportunity, and how have you been able to capitalize upon it?

**Ludlow:** My greatest opportunity was the big snow storm in late January. With the City’s new website and ability to do blog posts, I was able to give frequent updates before and during the storm. Residents want to know what’s happening during an emergency event, and we were able to get that information out.

More than that, I was able to tell the stories of our public works staff and police officers as they rose to the challenges they faced. It’s nice to be able to show that City staff is made up of real people who really care about Takoma Park. In getting the word out in this way, Councilmembers and residents found it easier to share information with each other and then back to me, so problem areas could be promptly addressed.

Now we have shown to ourselves that this higher, and more personal, level of communication is well-received and helps show what is special about Takoma Park. News blogs from individual Councilmembers and the Mayor on behalf of the whole Council, and from key staff and the City Manager on behalf of the City staff, will go out regularly to keep people informed about activities in the City. And they will continue to be used most effectively in times of emergency. I’m so glad it worked well. It’s a nice new part of the Takoma Park experience.

## TP News: Of what accomplishments are you most proud?

**Ludlow:** It seems too early to talk about accomplishments. A lot of improvements have been made over the past year, but it feels more like most things are a work-in-

progress. The new website is so much better than the old one, and I love the Project Initiatives page on the website and the My TkPk app. I was really pleased with staff’s work in organizing the first Community Conversation on affordable housing, and there are many internal system improvements that have been made that the public can’t see but that help staff do their work well. If there is one improvement of which I’m proud, it is that staff members see the importance of communication as a key part of our work. There’s more to be done here as well, but we have advanced so much in this area that I feel really good about it.

## TP News: What kinds of “challenges” do you anticipate during the remainder of this year?

**Ludlow:** We have huge projects and initiatives in the works: Takoma Junction, the look of the renovated library, improvements to the intersection of Ethan Allen and New Hampshire Avenues, economic development initiatives along New Hampshire Avenue, how to serve young people in the community that most need a leg up, and many more. It will take a lot to balance the work load and accomplish the goals the Council has set out in its excellent priorities document.

## TP News: What are you most looking forward to as you begin your second year as City Manager?

**Ludlow:** A vacation! In May after the budget is passed, my husband and I will take a few days to help our son move to Florida for a summer job, and I hope to take some time off with my husband in August.

## AUTHORS VISIT

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books.” Delacre’s event will end with a craft related to her book.

Graphic novelist Kevin McCloskey rounds out our April line-up when he talks about his new science comic book for beginning readers, *The Real Poop on Pigeons*, on Thursday, April 29 at 7 p.m. Aimed at readers ages 4-8, McCloskey’s book combines information about pigeons with a comic book illustrations and a humorous writing style. In its review, *Kirkus* called the book “another feather in McCloskey’s cap.”

Finally, mark your calendars for our incredible celebration of Children’s Book Week, May 2-8. We’ll kick it off with award-winning picture book author Mac Barnett on Monday, May 2 at 7 p.m., who will talk about his new book, *Rules of the House*. Then on Friday, May 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium, author and humorist Dave Barry will regale everyone with his latest kids’ book, *The Worst Night Ever*. We’ll conclude the week on Saturday, May 7 at 3 p.m. when Caldecott Honor picture book creator Molly Idle spotlights her newest *Flora* book, *Flora and the Peacocks*.

# Drop everything and read event on April 12

By Karen MacPherson

Kids and adults – mark your calendars to come Drop Everything and Read at the Library on Tuesday, April 12 from 7-8:30 p.m. We’re celebrating the 100th birthday of Beverly Cleary, beloved creator of the *Ramona*, *Henry Huggins*, and *Mouse on a Motorcycle* books. There will be snacks – including a birthday cake – and drinks courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Here’s the idea. Our event will provide time and space for folks of all ages to focus on reading, something that can be difficult in our often too-busy world. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy silently reading his or her own book (or in the cases of pre-readers, parents are welcome to quietly read aloud to their children), have some cake and snacks and honor one of the best authors for children of our time.

April 12, Cleary’s actual birthday, was designated several years ago as national Drop Everything and Read Day, but this year is especially important because it’s her 100th birthday.

Cleary began her career as a children’s librarian, but started to write after young patrons asked her to recommend books for “kids like us,” and she found few possibilities. Her first book, *Henry Huggins*, was published in 1950, but it was the books about the irrepressible Ramona Quimby that really rocketed Cleary to fame in the children’s book world. She won the 1984 Newbery Medal for her stand-alone novel, *Dear Mr. Henshaw* as well as two Newbery Honors, one in 1978 for *Ramona and Her Father* and another in 1982 for *Ramona Quimby, Age 8*.

Cleary published her final book, *Ramona’s World*, in 1999. Her books are regarded as trailblazers in the realm of realistic

fiction for children. Critic Peter Sieruta noted, “For many, the names of Beverly Cleary’s best-known characters read like a list of very special friends.” According to Sieruta, Cleary “remains one of those rare authors who are both critically acclaimed and immensely popular with young readers.”

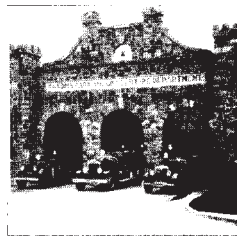
Cleary now lives in California, but she lived for many years in Portland, Oregon, and that’s where a number of her books take place. In fact, Klickitat Street, where *Ramona*, *Henry Huggins* and their families live, is a real Portland street. The nearby Grant Park has a Beverly Cleary Sculpture Garden where there are sculptures of her characters.

So please help us celebrate the 100th birthday of a wonderful children’s author by joining us on April 12 to Drop Everything and Read!

## Library Renovation Survey

Please go to the bottom of the City website’s front page. It will lead you to updates on renovation options, and an important survey that you are encouraged to fill out with open-ended comments. Or go directly to: [takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/library-renovation](http://takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/library-renovation).





## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Feb. 29, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel assigned to the station have responded to 94 fire-related incidents in 2016. The department addressed or assisted with 538 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 632. Totals for 2015 were 102 and 483, representing an increase of 47 incidents.

During February Takoma Park vol-

unteers put in a total 1,309 hours of standby time at the station, compared to 1,527 in February 2015. Grand totals as of February were 2,544.5 hours compared to 3,009.5 hours in 2015, an increase of 465 hours.

### Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of March 31, 19 people have died in fires compared to 21 in March 2015.

### Safety message: It's spring clean-up time

Let's this be the time to rid your home of potential fire hazards. Check your basement, attic, closets and other storage areas and remove old newspapers, paints, flammable liquids, thinners, solvents, oily clothes, old wrapping paper, forgotten games and other rubbish that should be discarded. Don't give fire a place to start!



### County Fire Chief awards unit citation

On Nov. 8, 2015, several units from Montgomery County responded to Prince Georges County to assist with a massive vehicle collision. Several victims had life-threatening injuries and some were trapped in the vehicle. Ambulance 702 responded from Takoma Park, staffed by EMS Master Jorge Alfaro, MCFRS FF Nick Chrissides and FRC Candance Washington. A job was well done by all. Lives were saved!

Pictured L-R Chrissides, Chief Scott Goldstein, Division Chief Alan Hinde and Alfaro. Not pictured: Washington

## Lifelong Link

This is a new feature that connects City of Takoma residents with resources. It is brought to you by the Lifelong Takoma Program.

**Q: I am having some difficulty paying my mortgage. Who can I call for help?**

**A:** You can call the Maryland Legal Aid Property Assistance Foreclosure Line at 888-213-3320. This resource is for home owners of all ages. The Foreclosure Legal Assistance Project represents low-income homeowners throughout Maryland at all stages of the foreclosure process, including mediations, motions to stay and dismiss sales, bankruptcies, exceptions to



sales, motions for order of possessions and evictions. Advice and referrals are provided to those who they are unable to represent. To learn more about other Maryland Legal Aid services, please view their website: [www.mdlab.org/get-help-services](http://www.mdlab.org/get-help-services).

**Q: I am a senior resident and believe that I was treated unlawfully. Could you please refer me to a phone number that I may call?**

**A:** You may call the Maryland Senior Legal Helpline at 866-635-2948. The Senior Legal Helpline is a free telephone service for persons living in Maryland aged 60 years or older. Attorneys who staff the helpline provide legal advice, brief legal

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## Takoma Park student safety: School emergency plans and what you can do

**Lock down, evacuate, shelter:** Remember these words and what they mean. They are the basic strategies the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS)\* use for ensuring the safety of students in Takoma Park in case of emergencies, such as a shooter, fire or severe weather.

**Lock down** is used in case of imminent danger, such as an active shooter. Public address system announcements tell everyone it's a lock-down situation: "Secure yourself." Doors are locked; windows are covered.

**Evacuate** is used in cases of fire, bomb threats and gas leaks. Getting out of the building safely and quickly is the objective. Again, announcements tell everyone to leave now, and practice drills should make the exit path and process familiar. Montgomery County holds 10 fire drills at each school annually, two in the first 30 days and one each 30 days thereafter. Fifty percent of the drills are not announced in advance. Since the August 2011 earthquake, there are also earthquake practice drills.

Schools can become **shelters** in cases of public safety needs, such as severe

weather, hazardous spills outside or area robbery. In those cases all students and staff are brought inside to the safety of the school.

As mandated by the state of Maryland, there are six practice drills each school year dealing with lock-downs, evacuation and sheltering. Each school has a plan tailored to its layout and location, which is updated each summer.

*\* If the student is not in a MCPS, contact the school ASAP to get specific information about their procedures and to give them your contact information.*

### What you can do:

- Sign up for Takoma Park Alerts, so you are notified of any school related emergency: [www.takomaparkmd.gov/alert](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/alert)
- Each school has a specific plan, which includes where to pick up the student, onsite or off-site. Find out about yours.
- For students with disabilities, families should discuss options and processes directly with the school.
- Make sure the school has your latest contact information.
- Establish a parent-child re-unification

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## HOUSING MAILBOX



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

### A tenant whose one year lease ends in July contacted the Mailbox and wants to know if her lease automatically becomes month-to-month at the end of the current lease term?

This is a question that a number of tenants and landlords contact us about. The short answer is, "No, your lease does not automatically become a month-to-month lease at the end of the first year." Section 6.16.170 of the Takoma Park Landlord-tenant Law indicates that your landlord is required to offer you the opportunity to renew your lease in writing for an additional year at least two months prior to the end of the initial one year term unless:

- You have given the landlord a notice of your intent to vacate; or
- The landlord has given you a one month (for cause) or two month (no cause) notice to vacate; or
- The landlord has given you a written statement at least two months prior to the expiration of the initial lease

detailing the landlord's reasonable cause for not renewing the lease or for offering a new lease term of less than one year.

Reasonable cause situations include landlord is experiencing hardship, the landlord is selling the rental facility within a year, the landlord or a family member intends to occupy the rental unit, or substantial rehabilitation is planned for the rental unit or rental facility that cannot be accomplished while the facility/unit is occupied. Any displaced tenant would have the right to lease the rental unit when the rehabilitation is completed.

If your landlord fails to offer you a one-year renewal of the initial lease in writing two months prior to the end of the first year term, you may extend the term for an additional one year from the end of the initial term by providing written notice to your landlord. Your written notice must be provided to your landlord within two months of the expiration of the initial lease term.

After the second year, however, your lease does become a month-to-month lease if neither you nor your landlord take action to officially renew it at the end of the second year.

Tenants and landlords with questions regarding the City's Landlord-Tenant and COLTA Laws can contact me at 301-891-7215 or [mosesw@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:mosesw@takomaparkmd.gov).



# Feedback and fellowship for filmmakers

By Rick Henry

“It starts with a story,” says the tagline on a brochure for Docs in Progress (DIP), one of the 2016 City of Takoma Park Community Grant recipients.

And while it’s true that a good story is at the heart of every good documentary, it’s also true that a good story is not enough. The path from good story to finished product is a long, arduous journey for filmmakers whether they are amateurs or professionals. It is also often a solitary one, so feedback along that journey can be invaluable.

So it was in 2004 that two DC-area documentary filmmakers, Adele Schmidt and Erica Ginsberg, decided over dinner that it would be great if there were a space where local filmmakers could get and give feedback on each other’s documentary works-in-progress. They grabbed a pen and a napkin, jotted down their idea and the seeds of Docs in Progress (including its name) were born.

“When we first started we were just a little club for filmmakers,” said Ginsberg, the organization’s executive director. “We soon realized that what we were doing was resonating, there were a lot of people who liked documentaries and were inter-



Adele Schmidt and Erica Ginsberg

ested in making them, and we needed to branch out to serve that community.”

From those beginnings, the organization quickly morphed into the broader organization it is today, one that offers training and professional development, public programs and screenings, consulting services and advice, sponsorship, networking and summer camps. Equally as important as the variety of services is the fact that they serve everyone who is interested, whether rank amateur or professional, said Ginsberg:

“On one side are people who have other careers and decide they want to try documentary filmmaking, but may not know how to use and old the camera properly. On the other are the professionals who need help with fundraising, distribution and those types of things.”

Kathryn Pasternak is an example of the latter. On a recent Wednesday night at the Takoma Community Center, Pasternak was showing her film *Doeville* at a screening sponsored by DIP and We are Takoma. Pasternak, a full-time independent media producer who spent 16 years at National Geographic Television, knows her way around a camera and a production studio. But she says Docs in Progress has been a critical resource for her in all phases of developing and distributing the movie, her first independent, feature-length documentary.

“I have taken a lot of classes at DIP, but the first thing I took was a crowdfunding seminar, which I really needed for this film,” she said. She obviously took what she learned to heart as she raised more than \$30,000 for the film through a crowdfunding campaign she launched in 2013.

Education, such as the crowdfunding seminar Pasternak took, is a fundamental component of DIP. Ellen Kessel,

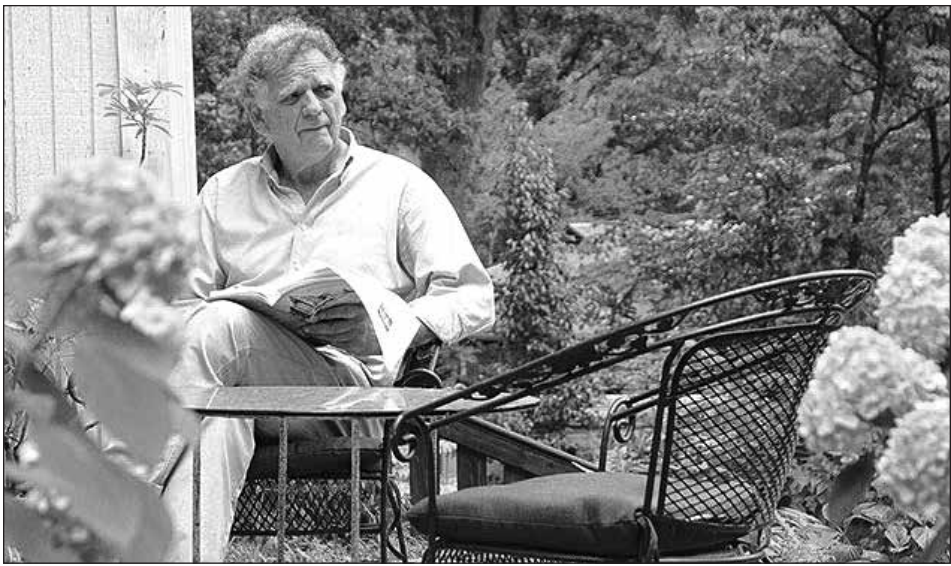


Photo Credit: www.takomaparkmd.gov

Takoma Park Poet Laureate, and de facto Third Thursday Poetry emcee, Merrill Leffler in his back yard

## Five Questions for Merrill Leffler, Takoma Park Poet Laureate

Takoma Park Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler, his wife Ann Slayton and their two young sons moved to Takoma Park in March 1977 and rented part of a house on Holstein Street near Columbia College (now Washington Adventist University). They bought their home on 15 Sherman Ave. in October 1979 and have lived here since.

When the family first moved to Takoma Park, Leffler was an assistant professor of English at the U.S. Naval Academy. He left full-time teaching in the early 1980s to become a science writer for the University of Maryland Sea Grant Program, focusing on Chesapeake Bay research and policy issues. At the same time, he began publishing literary books under the Dryad Press imprint ([www.dryadpress.com](http://www.dryadpress.com)).

Leffler was named Takoma Park Poet Laureate in 2011. He is the author of three books of poems: *Mark the Music* (2012), *Take Hold* (1997), and *Partly Pandemonium, Partly Love* (1984). Some of his most memorable moments as the City’s poet laureate have been speaking at Takoma Park’s unveiling of the Sam Abbott memo-

rial bronze at the Community Center and composing a poem for that occasion, representing Takoma Park at a number of literary events during the last several years, including In the Company of Laureates at George Mason University; emceeing the outdoor reading each year of poems from Spring for Poetry in Takoma Park at the Sunday Market and introducing poets at the city’s on-going Third Thursday Poetry Reading series.

In honor of National Poetry Month, Merrill is featured in the second of our series of “quick-question” interviews.

**1. Favorite Place/Activity in Takoma Park:** Walking from Takoma Junction to Old Town and on neighborhood streets and stopping off at one of the city man’s eateries

**2. Best Thing about Living in Takoma Park:** The feeling that this is home -- seeing and speaking to people I know on the streets or getting together, at our house or at a café

MERRILL LEFFLER □ Page 14

### Doc Around the Clock

Friday, April 15 at 7 p.m. to Sunday, April 17 at 11:55 p.m.

An intensive weekend where you will eat, breathe and sleep documentary film as your team races to produce a short documentary! Both amateur and professional filmmakers are welcome to participate. Teams of 2-5 participants will gather on Friday night at 7 p.m. at Docs In Progress to hear the final guidelines and size up the competition. During the following two days, teams will plan, shoot and edit short documentaries of no more than five minutes. Final projects must be submitted by the crack of dawn on Monday morning. For more information or to register, visit [docsinprogress.org/events/354/doc-around-the-clock](http://docsinprogress.org/events/354/doc-around-the-clock).



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## Bike to Work on May 20!

This year Bike to Work Day is on May 20 at three “pit stop” locations in Takoma Park:

- 1. Takoma/Langley Crossroads (7-9 a.m.)
- 2. Sligo Creek Parkway at New Hampshire Ave. (7-9:30 a.m.)
- 3. Old Takoma at the Gazebo (6-9 a.m.)

The event is free and fun for all ages. Register today at [biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://biketoworkmetrodc.org). If you would like to volunteer at the event or are a business that can sponsor with in-kind donations (food, giveaways, etc.), contact Erkin Ozberk at [erkino@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:erkino@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7213.

2ND ANNUAL

Montgomery County

FREE!

GREEN FEST

Saturday, April 30 • 11 am - 4 pm

Takoma Park Community Center

7500 Maple Avenue, near Takoma Metro

inspirational speakers • films • electric vehicles • music • food • activities for all ages • vendors • DIY workshops

Featured guest speaker: **Gina McCarthy,** EPA Administrator

To request ASL interpretation or other accommodations at this event, visit our website.

MontgomeryCountyGreenfest.org



## LIFELONG LINK

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services or a referral to another lawyer or to an appropriate public or private agency. Seniors can get help with their legal problems without having to leave home. You can also contact Montgomery County Legal Aide at 240-314-0373; financial qualifications apply.

### Looking Ahead

On April 26, 10 a.m. to noon, in the Community Center's Azalea Room, the Aging Well Network will host an event, "Planning Ahead, Advanced Directives." What are they, and what are their possible benefits? An attorney will be on hand to facilitate a conversation on this topic. Also, if there is time, she will take ques-



During the Celebration of Takoma Park Elders event (Feb. 23), 45 residents danced to infectious beats and made new friends.

tions on living wills. On a lighter note, there will be free food and music for listening or dancing afterwards. This event is hosted by the Lifelong Takoma Program and the Village of Takoma Park. Registration will be taken on site at the event. For more information, please call Karen Maricheau, Lifelong Takoma Program Manager, at 301-891-7232.

May 2 is "Law Day." The Maryland State Bar Association will provide free legal support for residents who are interested in completing their advanced directives. To schedule your one-on-one session with an attorney, please contact Karen at 301-891-7232. Sessions are 30 minutes in length.

### Did you know?

**Maryland Legal Aide also helps with long-term care.** The Long-Term Care Assistance Project (866-635-2948) provides free legal assistance to help low-income persons obtain long-term health care. They help clients get the services and support they need, wherever they want to live, whether it be in their homes, in the community through assisted living, or in nursing homes.

## FILMMAKERS

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educational program coordinator, oversees DIP's educational programs, which include 10-15 regular classes that are offered throughout the year as well as two youth programs, including a two-week summer day-camp experience.

Kessel says most of the classes are held on weeknights and weekends to serve working professionals, who may be transitioning into documentary filmmaking or pursuing it as a hobby or part-time career.

Pasternak says that beyond the classes, she also benefitted from DIP's community feedback when she workshopped the

film in 2014: "I got exactly the feedback I needed at the time I needed it to be able to bring the film home," she said. "It's a marvelous community."

Two examples of that community are Richard Hall and his wife Simone Fary. The pair, both filmmakers and producers who attended the *Doeville* screening became affiliated with DIP when they showed one of their films at a DIP event.

"We were helped enormously," said Hall. So much so that they decided to give back to the organization and the community by conducting roundtable support groups that allow filmmakers to receive critiques and feedback on their projects. For more information, visit [docsinprogress.org](http://docsinprogress.org).

## NATURAL TAKOMA

# What's a wildlife friendly yard and garden, and why would you try to have one?

By Kit Gage

*Editor's note: Since Takoma Park's founding in 1883, residents have valued its sylvan beauty, parks and abundant wildlife. This new column, Natural Takoma, made its debut in the February issue and will be published periodically. It will explore the wide range of the City's natural treasures and share information and opportunities to celebrate and protect them. Natural Takoma is a collaborative effort involving the Friends of Sligo Creek, Historic Takoma, the Takoma Horticultural Club, the Takoma Park Committee on the Environment and the Takoma Park Tree Commission.*

### What is a wildlife friendly garden?

A wildlife garden is a planted area designed to support, feed, water and provide shelter to an array of animals, birds, insects or reptiles, which are trying to live in your area. The emphasis typically is on native species, which will most readily and reliably fulfill those needs. Here are some steps you take to develop a wildlife friendly garden:

- **Buy, trade or get splittings of native plants** (among others), species that are still or would have been found in this general area. Planting natives provides a more reliably good food source for birds and bugs and other animals that live here, so it will help support great varieties of animal life as well as plant life.
- **Try to include plants that have berries, nuts, and seeds** that are not sterile as are many cultivars in the marketplace. These are food in the summer but even into the winter.

- **Provide other kinds of habitat for birds, squirrels and foxes**, such as
  - water sources year round – ponds in the unfrozen months, and heated bird baths in the winter
  - tree shelter, including dead trees where possible, to support birds that eat bugs and for their nests and nest holes. If you have to take down a dead tree, try to leave a "snag," the main trunk of the tree
  - low shelter, including where possible, shrubs or low cover for birds and other animals

### Why make the effort?

You simulate and expand on existing wild areas, which have been vastly reduced in size because of development especially down county. This expansion is critical to provide pathways for wildlife between other native-rich and varied biomes.

You'll see lots of wildlife even out of the comfort of your home, which can be a great experience for you, but also for children to get to understand how nature works and that they exist in a larger environment.

The leaves of native plants (but not generally non-native plants) provide food for and so attract native caterpillars of moths and butterflies, which in turn serve as food for many bird species, especially during nesting season when the adults need soft food (rather than hard seeds) for their young.

*Kit Gage is president of Friends of Sligo Creek and a recipient of the H2O Summit Honor for Leadership as a community volunteer and advocate for restoring stream health.*

# TKPK5K keeping Takoma Park safe and fit

In the summer of 2008, Safe Routes to School invited five area schools to participate in organizing a 5K run in Takoma Park. No promises were made aside from the commitment to produce a well-organized, inclusive event around the theme of pedestrian safety. Nine months later, on the rainy morning of the first Takoma Park 5K Challenge, now widely known as the TKPK5K, the weather did not dampen the spirits of the 350 brave souls who ran together to raise funds for pedestrian and bike safety, health and fitness at our area schools. Each year since then, the TKPK5K has raised between \$1,400 and \$5,000 for each of the PTAs at Takoma Park ES, Rolling Terrace ES, Piney Branch ES, East Silver Spring ES and Takoma Park MS.

Runners in the four events have grown

from the original 350 to more than 1,300 in 2015. Most of the participants are Takoma Park or Silver Spring residents. Many families run together; many runners come back year after year. Some start with the .25 mile; some very young runners even start with the 5K. Some run while holding hands with a parent. Race organizers are expecting close to 1,400 registrants this year.

The Race Committee is made up of representatives from the schools, each taking a role in the planning process. Some committee members have been on board since the beginning. Many of their children have moved up through the ranks of our schools, and they keep coming back. In addition to their role on the committee, these parents assist with organizing a Run Club as part of PTA before or after school

activities. Run Clubs range in size from 15 to 100 students, who gather one or two afternoons a week for several weeks to train leading up to the race.

Each year the committee aims to improve the race in some way. This year the start line has been moved down Maple toward Grant Avenue to allow for a larger starting corral. An option to sign up as a team has also been added. One team, Triangle Park Tribe, has 25 members already. And with a new committee member dedicated to "greening" the race, we are examining all aspects of race management with an eye toward sustainability.

Many local businesses sponsor the race. This year's platinum sponsors are Lusid Media, Finn Family Group and Takoma Bicycle.



The TKPK5K will be held on Sunday, May 1. Events begin at 8:00 a.m.

Interested runners or walkers can find additional information, a full list of race sponsors and a link to the online sign up by visiting [TKPK5K.com](http://TKPK5K.com).

For early bird pricing and a guaranteed t-shirt in your size, register before April 18.

Packet pick up will be held at the TP Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. on Saturday, April 29, from 2 – 6 p.m.

# City Council challenges Montgomery College facilities master plan

In a March 1 letter to Maryland Higher Education Commission Chair (MHEC) Anwer Hasan, the Takoma Park City Council urged the commission to postpone consideration of the 2013-2023 Montgomery College Facilities Master Plan “until the required local stakeholder and municipal government consultation takes place, and the Plan is revised as appropriate based on that consultation.”

Citing a 2002 agreement between the college, the City, Montgomery County and Historic Takoma that requires the college to “consult with the City... and the local community when making any major or substantial changes or alterations to the existing structures designated” (as outlined in the document), the Council stated that this legal obligation had not been fulfilled and expressed concern that “there was never an intent to undertake true community consultation.”

A member of the Takoma Park City Council presented testimony at the Montgomery College Board Meeting on February 1 requesting that the Board postpone its vote on the Master Plan, but the Board approved the Plan without dissent, and it was made public two days later.

Even so, the letter outlined the Council’s major concerns with this plan moving forward as approved by the Board:

- The college plans to build exclusively within the residential neighborhood portion of the Takoma Park-



Silver Spring campus.

- In June the college will be closing its day care facility in the North Takoma neighborhood, which has provided an important service for college employees, students and residents.
- The Plan calls for replacing most of the major College buildings currently located in the residential area with larger structures in the same area, which will cause construction related disturbances for many years and ultimately threaten the integrity of the residential areas.

It concluded by urging “MHEC to reject the Montgomery College Facilities Master Plan (at least as it applies to the Takoma Park-Silver Spring campus), and to require the College to undertake a genuine community consultation process – as required under the 2002 Agreement – before the Plan is considered.”

Read the entire letter at [takomaparkmd.gov/news/city-council-letter-to-the-maryland-higher-education-commission](http://takomaparkmd.gov/news/city-council-letter-to-the-maryland-higher-education-commission).

## PLASTIC BAG BAN

■ From page 1

compliance. However, based on Braithwaite’s reading of the proposed ordinance, the farmers market would be exempt, which would allow for plastic bags to be used to carry home produce, baked goods, meats and so on. (For a list of exceptions, reference section B of the ordinance, which can be found on the City’s website in the agenda materials for the Council’s Feb. 24 meeting.)

Still local farmers are concerned about how the ban would impact their business. As their local representative, Laura Barclay, executive director of the Old Takoma Business Association, has compiled and provided comments to the City Council

on their behalf: “The market is strongly opposed to the market being included in a City-wide plastic bag ban. If the ban is passed, the market requests an exemption as has been made for farmers markets in other municipalities.”

Further, the farmers noted that “the market continues to look for new ways to innovate and promote itself and wants to protect itself from any changes that might create a competitive disadvantage, like a plastic bag ban.”

Anyone interested in offering comments should attend the public hearing and sign up to speak. Written comments may be submitted to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912 or by email to [clerk@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:clerk@takomaparkmd.gov).

## Comments? Concerns? Questions?

Stop by on your way to work to talk about issues important to you. Locations will vary; stay tuned on the City’s e-news and social media for locations.

### Upcoming Community Coffees

Friday, April 15, 8 a.m.	Friday, May 6, 8 a.m.
Capital City Cheesecake	Pupuseria El Comalito
7071 Carroll Avenue	1167 University Blvd

“Starting Friday mornings with coffee and conversations with residents is the best way to get things done in Takoma Park!”

—Mayor Kate Stewart



## STUDENT SAFETY

■ From page 11

plan after an emergency. Do you know and have you taken care of details such as:

- What kind of identification is needed? Who is legally permitted to pick up the student?
- Whether the school knows if additional persons have your permission to pick up the student, and who are they? What kind of identification does he/she need?

Finally, in communities where residents speak multiple languages, MCPS

communicates by:

- using the Connect-Ed notification system that usually comes from the principal in more than one language. This is the format where the principal will record a message and send it to the phone number on the student’s information form. Make sure school has the correct number.
- having some parents to help get the message out by translating the message or by using the MCPS translation service

Many thanks to Michael D. Harting, Cluster Security Coordinator, MCPS for providing this information.

## MERRILL LEFFLER

■ From page 12

3. **On My Desk Right Now:** Literary books that I am working on for Dryad Press ([www.dryadpress.com](http://www.dryadpress.com)), several books I am reviewing, and reading the *Complete Works of Primo Levi* for an interview with translator Ann Goldstein, who’s become best known for translating the quartet of *Neapolitan* novels by Elena Ferrante from the Italian

4. **In Your “Spare Time”:** Spare time? Hmm. Bicycling, the gym, movies, reading

5. **Best Advice You Ever Got (and from who):**

“That which is hateful to you, do not do

to your fellow. That is the whole Bible; the rest is commentary; go and learn.”

—Rabbi Hillel (110 BCE – 10 CE)

“Nothing / is as whole as the space / in the air / you pass through. And it is yours. if / you will take hold of it.”

—From a poem, “Take Hold”

**Bonus Question: If I had a magic wand for a day,** I would add as many hours as possible to make that day into months.

Send your suggestions for future interviews to [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov).



**Sunday, May 1  
8:00 a.m. start**

**Takoma Park  
Community Center**

**[www.TKPK5K.com](http://www.TKPK5K.com)**

**5K RUN, 5K WALK, 1 MILE FUN RUN, 1/4 MILE YOUTH RUN**

East Silver Spring ES · Piney Branch ES · Rolling Terrace ES · Takoma Park ES · Takoma Park MS



**SafeRoutes**



### How did you get the idea for the “Spring for Poetry” posters?

My wife Ann and I were on a hike in a woods behind the high school in Hardwick, Vermont where typewritten poems were hung on posts. What a great idea for Takoma Park, we thought!

Graphic artist Michele Morgan, a friend and neighbor, loved the idea of an urban poetry walk, but instead of using fine typography as we originally planned, she designed a colorful poster of a Robert Frost poem. Her poster design led to our proposing a collaboration with Montgomery College’s School of Art and Design for design students to produce the posters.

The process includes our selecting new poems each year, presenting them to the students, who then submit their draft designs to Michele and me. We have the posters laminated and install them on poles that the city’s Public Works Department has helped in putting up. Clair Garman, who also lives on Sherman Avenue, has made all the frames. Some thirty posters appear each year along Carroll Avenue, in city parks and at the library and community center. The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library sponsor the project and underwrite the costs.

—Merrill Leffler



# Bring relief, joy and energy to your mind, body and spirit

Though we had been exposed to Qi Gong for years, it was 12 years ago when I was suffering from a nasty case of tendonitis that I began to study Qi Gong seriously. As Joann saw the benefits in me, she joined me in developing our daily practice. We have learned many forms in this time, relishing in the calm and energy that the practice of Qi Gong delivers.

When Master Li offered a teacher training program, our practice and learning accelerated. We became certified teachers and continue to reap the rewards of daily practice. We began teaching our own classes three years ago. We are happy to help others embrace Qi Gong for the first time and to support many in deepening their study



and practice.

This spring, beginning on Tuesday April 5 at 7 p.m., we will teach the Lang

Ya Daoist 12 Postures Qi Gong for the first time. The 12 Postures stimulate and nourish all of our meridians. This

series of simple exercises builds flexibility, core strength and alignment as well as preventing stiffness and helping to relieve back/neck pain. If your vital life energy has been blocked by illness, injury or just “winter blues,” then this class is you for you. Learning these standing and seated movements will bring relief, joy and energy to your mind, body and spirit. The energy available when a group practices Qi Gong goes beyond what individuals generate on their own. Be good to yourself; learn how to take better care of your total body and mind. Join us.

— Joann Malone and Patrick Smith, instructors

For more information, see Qi Gong below.

## RECREATION

■ From page 7

### Ladies' Boot Camp

*Ages 16 and older*

A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 5 – May 26,  
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
\$85/8 weeks  
Drop-in \$10

### Pilates

*Ages 16 and older*

This fun and invigorating workout teaches controlled movements utilizing the body's “core” — abdomen, back, and hips. Pilates improves core control, coordination, standing alignment and balance with mat exercises. Pilates is the perfect mind and body exercise for anyone who wants to tone, streamline, and realign their body.

TP Recreation Center front room  
Wednesdays, April 6 – May 11, 6 – 7 p.m.  
\$60/6 weeks

### Qi Gong – 12 Postures

*Ages 16 and older*

This series of simple exercises builds flexibility, core strength, alignment, prevents stiffness and helps to relieve back/neck pain. If your vital life energy has been blocked by illness, injury or just “winter blues,” then this class is for you. Learning these standing and seated movements will bring relief, joy and energy to your mind, body and spirit. No experience is needed.

TP Community Center Dance Studio  
Wednesdays, April 5 – May 24, 7 – 8 p.m.  
TP residents \$95  
Non-residents \$105  
Drop in \$15

### Tai Chi Classes:

*Ages 18 years and older*

Thursdays, April 7 – May 26

**Basics:** 6:15 – 7:10 p.m.

**Form:** 7:15 – 8:10 p.m.

**Continuing:** 8:15 – 9 p.m.

TP Community Center Dance Studio  
TP residents \$80  
Non-residents \$90

### Yoga Classes:

*Ages 18 years and older*

Wednesdays, April 6 – May 25

**Beginners:** 6 – 7:15 p.m.

**Intermediate:** 7:30 – 9 p.m.

TP Community Center Dance Studio  
TP Residents \$100  
Non-residents \$120  
Drop-in \$15

### Beginning Knitting

*Ages 55 and older*

Complete an easy piece during class. Learn basic stitches and how to increase and decrease. Yarn and needles will be provided at no cost.

TP Community Center Azalea Room  
Mondays, April 11 – May 2, 10 a.m. – noon  
Free



## FOREVER YOUNG: 55 PLUS

### DROP IN

#### Bingo

*Ages 55 and older*

Try your luck. Win a prize.

TP Community Center senior room  
Thursday, April 28, noon – 2 p.m.  
Free

#### Blood Pressure Screening

*Ages 55 and older*

Adventist Healthcare will be doing a free monthly blood pressure screening.

TP Community Center senior room.  
Thursday, April 28, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
Free

## EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

### AARP Driver Safety Course

*Ages 55 and older*

The nation's largest classroom refresher course for drivers 55 and older is designed to help tune up driving skills, explain safe driving strategies, and cover the latest rules of the road and defensive driving techniques. Some insurance companies in Maryland may offer auto-premium discounts to drivers who take this course. Check with your agency.

TP Community Center Hydrangea Room  
Friday, April 15, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Day of class:** Bring your check, AARP Card and driver's license to class. Make checks payable to AARP.

AARP Members \$15

Non-members \$20

### Computer Class

*Ages 55 and older*

Learn to use the Internet, a word processing program, and email. You need a Takoma Park Library card to access the computers, and take this course. Limit of six participants. Instructor: Patti Mallin. Registration is required. Six weeks. Library card fees: Free for Takoma Park residents, \$37 for Montgomery County residents, and \$60 for Non-Mont. Co. residents.

TP Community Center computer lab  
Wednesdays, April 13 – May 18, 10 a.m. – noon  
\$10

## SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

### Cardio Groove

*Ages 55 and older*

High energy and easy to follow music beats designed for aerobics. Start with a warm-up, followed by fast-paced, low impact aerobics that get the heart pumping and feet moving quickly, then a cool down and stretch. Instructor: Nancy Nickell. Registration is required.

TP Community Center dance studio  
Thursdays, April 7 – June 9, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
Free

### Full Body Fusion

*Ages 55 and older*

Low-impact full-body workout to music. Elements of balance, movement, strengthening, and yoga. Bring an exercise mat to class. Instructor: Jaylene Sarracino.  
Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium  
Tuesdays, April 5 – May 31, 1 – 2 p.m.  
Free

### Line Dancing

*Ages 55 and older*

Learn how exercise can be fun with music. Instructor: Barbara Brown.

TP Community Center Dance Room  
Wednesdays, April 6 – June 29,  
11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Free

### Tennis Fun and Fitness

*Ages 55 and older*

This class blends exercise with learning or reviewing tennis skills utilizing special equipment for indoor play. All equipment provided, but you can bring your own racket. Instructor: Coach SJ. For more information contact Paula Lisowski, Seniors Program Manager at 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium  
Thursdays, April 7 – May 26, noon – 1 p.m.  
Free

### Zumba Gold

*Ages 55 and older*

Zumba Gold was designed for the active senior with less intense dance routines for beginners and older adults using modified movements. Instructor: Yesika Flores. For more information contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager at 301-891-7280 or email: paulal@takomaparkmd.gov

TP Community Center Dance Studio  
Saturdays, April 16 – June 25 (no class 4/30),  
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.  
Free

## PETS

### Basic Dog Manners

*Ages 6 months – 6*

Whether you have a “teen” emerging from puppyhood, or an adult dog who needs some training, this class is for you. Using positive reinforcement, we will teach your dog foundation behaviors (Sit, Down, Stay, Here, Leave It), leash manners (not pulling, passing dogs and people), and polite greetings. Dogs should be friendly toward dogs and people. No pinch, prong, choke, or electronic collars in the classroom.

Heffner Park Community Center  
Wednesdays, April 15 – May 20, 6:45 – 7:45 p.m.  
TP residents \$145  
Non-residents \$165

### Advanced Basic Dog Manners

*Ages 6 months – 6*

Build on your dog's basic skills and take your training to the next level. This class will add difficulty (distractions, combining cues, working off-leash), shaping reliable responses (speed and precision), teaching a few tricks and more. Dogs should have completed a basic manners class using positive training, or equivalent private sessions. Dogs should be friendly and must have current vaccinations. No pinch, prong, choke or electronic collars in class.

Heffner Park Community Center  
Wednesdays, Apr. 15 – May 20, 8 – 9 p.m.  
TP residents \$145  
Non-residents \$165

### Puppy Kindergarten

*Ages 8 weeks – 5 months*

If you have puppy, you need Puppy Kindergarten. Early puppy training and socialization has been shown to help prevent behavior problems later on. Each class will include supervised, off-leash play, where you will learn about dog body language and appropriate play. Most of all, we'll have fun. No pinch, prong, choke, or electronic collars in the classroom.

Heffner Park Community Center  
Tuesdays, April 14 – May 19, 6:45 – 7:45 p.m.  
TP residents \$145  
Non-residents \$165

# APRIL '16

## 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 May issue is April 15, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning April 29.

To submit calendar items, email [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto: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

City Council Meeting, Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.  
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 p.m.  
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.  
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.  
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Auditorium

Detailed agendas are always available for review online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas).

#### The Future of the Washington Adventist Hospital Site

Community Discussion hosted by WAH  
Tuesday, April 5, 6:30 p.m.  
The Conference Center on the WAH campus  
WAH will be relocating its main hospital in about three years. While certain medical facilities will remain on the current site, the move provides an opportunity to rethink how some of the vacated property can be used. The goal is to create a thriving and vibrant campus that we can all be proud of.

#### Community Coffee

Friday, April 15, 8 a.m.  
Capital City Cheesecake  
7071 Carroll Avenue  
Join the Mayor and City Councilmembers for coffee and conversation.



#### Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

First Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 2 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](mailto:educare_ss@yahoo.com)  
[www.educare-supportservices.org](http://www.educare-supportservices.org)

#### Share Your Talent

We Are Takoma is now accepting applications for its Fall 2016 event series. Friday, May 13, is the deadline for submitting program proposals online. We encourage lecturers, filmmakers, poets and performers to apply. Visit "Opportunities for Performers" at [takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://takomaparkmd.gov/arts) to submit a program proposal.

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

#### 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

#### Food Truck Fridays

Fridays, 5 – 8 p.m.  
Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op,  
201 Ethan Allen Ave.  
Troh, 232 Carroll St., NW  
Various food vendors

#### GriefShare Support Seminar

Sundays through June 12, 3 – 5 p.m.  
Takoma Park SDA Church, 6810 Eastern Ave., NW  
Help with your journey after the loss of a loved one.  
Contact Mary-Helen Dove at 301-622-4999

and/or email [khadenetaffe@gmail.com](mailto:khadenetaffe@gmail.com) and/or [thetpchurch.org](http://thetpchurch.org).

#### Village Rides Volunteer Training

Thursday, April 7, 7 p.m.  
TP municipal building  
Training for new volunteers with the Village Rides program. To register, or for more information, call 301-646-2109.

#### Devoted to Nature: The Religious Roots of American Environmentalism

Thursday, April 7, 7:30 – 9 p.m.  
TP Community Center Auditorium  
Evan Berry, associate professor at American University, discusses the development of the American environmental movement, raising questions about how values, science and religious ideas have been combined throughout the movement's history.

#### DREAM: An American Story

Thursday, April 14, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
TP Community Center Auditorium  
Docs In Progress presents the story of Juan Gomez, one of thousands of undocumented young people who, despite living in this country since infancy, has no permanent right to stay in the U.S. Juan speaks flawless English, is academically gifted, and believes in the American Dream. Despite a future at Georgetown University and a promising career on Wall Street, the polarized political climate around immigration reform presents him, and so many others, with road blocks. Director Aldo Bello, a 2013 Docs in Progress Fellow, will hold a Q&A after the screening.

#### Takoma Park 5K Challenge Early Bird Registration Ends

Monday, April 18  
Early Bird Registration ends. Challenge yourself at the upcoming TKPK5K. Registration for the May 1, race is open, visit [www.TKPK5K.com](http://www.TKPK5K.com). Events include a 5K run or walk, a one-mile fun run and a quarter mile youth race. Proceeds from the 5K Challenge fund pedestrian safety and health initiatives through the local Parent Teacher Associations.

#### Takoma Park Independence Day Committee Meeting

Tuesday, April 26, 7 – 9 p.m.  
Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave.  
If you have questions, please contact TPIDC President Gene Herman at [gene511@aol.com](mailto:gene511@aol.com).

#### Planning Ahead, Advanced Directives

Tuesday, April 26, 10 a.m. - noon  
TP Community Center Azalea Room  
An attorney will be on hand to facilitate a conversation on this topic. There will be free food and music for listening or dancing afterwards. This event is hosted by the Aging Well Network, the Lifelong Takoma Program and the Village of Takoma Park. Registration will be taken on site at the event. For more information, call 301-891-7232.

#### Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA)

Thursday, April 28, 6:30 p.m.  
A group of concerned parents and others in Takoma Park who love an adult(s) with special needs, such as autism, Down's Syndrome and other developmental challenges as well as psychiatric disorders, meets monthly to provide support for one another. For more information, contact Mary Jane Muchui at [muchui@aol.com](mailto:muchui@aol.com).

#### Montgomery County GreenFest

Saturday, April 30, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
TP Community Center  
A one-day festival focused on the people and environment of the county. The Montgomery County GreenFest is coming to Takoma Park. Join your friends and neighbors in celebrating the people and environment of Montgomery County with a fun-filled day of entertainment, community and learning.

#### 2016 Takoma Park House and Garden Tour

Sunday, May 1, 1 – 5 p.m.  
The 43rd annual Takoma Park House and Garden Tour celebrates the Arts and Crafts Movement philosophy, architecture and design as interpreted in this country and Takoma Park in particular. The self-guided walking tour will be focused on Park, Willow, and Spruce avenues, Valley View and Crescent Place. Tickets and brochures will be available on the day of the Tour at the corner of Philadelphia and Maple avenues across from the Takoma Park Library. Pre-tour tickets will be available online April 1 at [www.HistoricTakoma.org](http://www.HistoricTakoma.org) or can be purchased at the Takoma Park Silver Spring Coop, Mark's Kitchen, and ACE Hardware in Takoma Park. Tour runs rain or shine. Ticket price on the day of the Tour is \$25, pre-tour tickets are \$22.

#### Shedding Light on Cuba

Thursday, May 5, 7:30 – 9 p.m.  
TP Community Center Auditorium  
Jeanne Drewes, chief of BCCD at the Library of Congress, discusses Cuban art and culture through Ediciones Vigia, a book collective in Matanzas, Cuba. Drewes will examine this independent publishing house, founded in 1985 and will offer some of her personal book collection for viewing and discussion.

### ARTS AND LITERATURE

#### People's Open Mic

Sundays, 9 p.m.  
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.  
[www.republictakoma.com](http://www.republictakoma.com)

#### 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](http://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 14<sup>th</sup> 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

#### Shirleta Settles: R&B music

Friday, April 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Carroll Cafe at Seekers Church 276 Carroll St. NW  
Shirleta Settles is a rhythm and blues and gospel vocalists in the Washington area. She will be joined by Wes "Sugar" Biles on bass and Skip Fennel on keyboard. Info: Jesse Palidofsky 301-562-4147 or 202-829-9882 night of show only [carrollcafe.org](http://carrollcafe.org). \$18/adv. \$20/door

#### "The Son with Two Moms" - Book Reading

Saturday, April 9, 4 – 5 p.m.  
TP Community Center Auditorium  
Local author Anthony Hynes will read passages from his self-published memoir, which chronicles his childhood as a black boy adopted by two white mothers in D.C. in the '90s. When cancer afflicted one of Hynes' mothers, and the courts threatened his legal guardianship, Hynes had to decide what his identity and his definition of family looked like. Copies of "The Son with Two Moms" are available at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, Busboys and Poets, Politics and Prose, and on Amazon. A Q&A with the author will follow the reading.

#### We Share the Planet with Animals

Saturday, April 16, 4 – 5 p.m.  
TP Community Center Auditorium  
In this spellbinding and participatory performance, storyteller Candace Wolf spins tales from the ancient storytelling traditions of world cultures. The stories in "We Share the Planet with the Animals" celebrate the relationship people have shared with animals since the beginning of human memory. This performance is recommended for families with children over 6 years old.

#### Writing a Village

Monday, April 18, 7 – 9 p.m.  
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room  
This monthly poetry workshop is for those who love words, led by Anne Becker, poet laureate emerita of Takoma Park. All levels of experience welcome. Contact [annebeck48@gmail.com](mailto:annebeck48@gmail.com) for more information.

#### Photo Salon

Monday, April 25, 7 – 9 p.m.  
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room  
A monthly salon for photographers to show and critique work. Professional, fine art, and amateur photographers are welcome. Contact Rob Rudick at [robrudick@yahoo.com](mailto:robrudick@yahoo.com) or at 301-270-2323 for more information.

#### Spanda: Vibrations Exhibit Opening

Thursday, May 5, 6:30 – 8 p.m.  
TP Community Center Atrium Gallery  
Multi-media artist Shanthi Chandrasekhar will exhibit her paintings, drawings, handmade-paper installations, and sculptures. Exhibit opens with a reception and runs through June 30.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Celebrate Takoma Festival

Saturday, May 17, 4 – 7 p.m.  
This family festival will celebrate the cultural diversity of Takoma Park and its residents. There will be food vendors, community vendors, entertainment, games from around the world and crafts. Come join the fun. Bring a lawn chair or blanket and spend the afternoon with your neighbors. Nominal fees for food and vendor stands. For more information, contact John Webster at 301-891-7225 or [johnnw@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:johnnw@takomaparkmd.gov). Maple Avenue in front of Piney Branch Elementary School

## SAVE THE DATE

For the next Community Conversation, which will focus on youth programming and service needs and be held June 18 at the Takoma Park Community Center. Stay tuned for more details.

