May 2012

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

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Budget proposal includes three staff positions, slightly increased revenues

Budget review begins; Council to finalize this month

By Virginia Myers

In the life of a City budget, two years can make a big difference.

In 2010, the Takoma Park City Council slashed the equivalent of seven full-time staff positions due to budget constraints; this year, City Manager Barbara Matthews has proposed three new positions, a sign that the City is beginning to recover from difficult cuts brought on by the recession and the resulting impact on the State and County budgets

Matthews' budget proposal, presented to the City Council April 9, is still cautious, however. Although property values have remained relatively strong, continued low interest rates have dramatically reduced the City's investment income over the last few years. No significant increase in services and few new initiatives are proposed in the budget.

Three new full-time positions are proposed to help staff meet Council

BUDGET ☐ Page 8

WHAT'S NEW?

City budget hearing
April 30, 7:30 p.m.
Community Center

Bike to Work Day, May 18
Bike to School Day, May 9
More for bikers, page 3

Farmer's Market Seasonal Kick-off

The Takoma Park Farmer's Market is waking up with spring, as seasonal vendors join those who sell year round. It's also a time when street musicians come out to play, along with young jugglers, below.

Photos by Selena Malott

Photos by Matt Mahaney

Taking a hike, moving a mountain

Takoma dancer walks 500 miles to document mountaintop removal

By Virginia Myers

Cassie Meador has gone out for a walk. A long one.

Meador, artistic director of the Takoma Park-based Dance Exchange, set out on April 10 to walk 500 miles from her home in Takoma, D.C. to the coal-mining country of West Virginia. Her mission: to trace the route electricity takes to get from its source to her home.

Along the way, Meador will visit energy plants (including the one in nearby Dickerson, Md.), wind generating sites and waste resource recovery facilities, in an effort to understand the path energy takes before it lights our living rooms, turns on our heat and fires our cookstoves. The eight-week journey will also involve "Moving Field Guides," a collaborative effort with the U.S. Forest Service, naturalists, scientists and artists that will combine nature walks with interactive dance-making.

And, Meador will collect stories – 500 of them, one for each mile she walks – speaking with community members along the way about their personal, cultural and historical experiences related to their home communities. She will weave the tales into choreography and eventually create a dance, "How to Lose a Mountain," slated for performance at the Dance Place next spring. A web site, www.500miles500stories.com, features an interactive map of the stories, and includes video, audio and written vignettes.

LONG WALK ☐ Page 14

Mayor & Council
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Takoma Park, MD 20912

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Inside:

AZALEA CITY ART *Page 6*

SUMMER B-BALL *Page 10*

SWEEP THE CREEK *Page 16*

DOCKET

TAKOMA TOPICS:

"The New Ave Walking Tours are a popular download on TheNewAve.com. Help us update: How do you use them? Do you walk the whole route? What other information should they have? What other tours can you suggest? http://thenewave.com/explore/walking-tour"

City Council & Committee Calendar

CITY COUNCIL

Thursday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.

Mondays, May 7, 14, 21, 29, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC auditorium

For agendas, see www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 10, 8:30 a.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Monday, May 14, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 8, 6:30 p.m.

TPCC Lilac Room

Wednesday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.

TPCC Council Conference Room

FAÇADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, May 8, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL LAND USE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 15, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE

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

TPCC Council Conference Room

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, May 22, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

*All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. For the most up to date information, check www.takomaparkmd.gov/committees/calendar. Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Ave. (TPCC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail should contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or clerk@takomagov.org.

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 the Deputy City Manager at 301-891-7229 or suzannel@takomagov.org at least 48 hours in advance.

CityCouncilAction

RESOLUTION 2012-14

Adopted (March 12)

Granting a fee waiver for use of the auditorium for the 2012 Azalea Awards

The $670 rental fee for use of the auditorium on Saturday, April 28, 2012 for the Takoma Foundation Azalea Awards will be waived.

RESOLUTION 2012-15

Adopted (March 12)

Agreeing to City sponsorship and granting a fee waiver for use of the auditorium for "Securing and Improving School Food in Montgomery County"

The City will sponsor the program and waive the standard $440 rental fee for use of the auditorium on Saturday, June 2, 2012 for the panel discussion and presentation.

RESOLUTION 2012-16

Adopted (March 19)

Adopting a policy for new sidewalk design and installation

The new policy supercedes the Toole Design Group Priority Ranking System for prioritizing new sidewalk installation projects adopted by Resolution 2010-14.

RESOLUTION 2012-17

Adopted (March 26)

Recognizing Arbor Day in Takoma Park

The annual Arbor Day event was scheduled for Saturday, April 21, 2012.

RESOLUTION 2012-18

Adopted (March 26)

Providing for reappointments to the Façade Advisory Board

Isaac Smith (Ward 4), James DiLuigi (representing Historic Takoma, Inc.), and Caroline Alderson (alternate representative of Historic Takoma, Inc.) were reappointed.

RESOLUTION 2012-19

Adopted (March 26)

Providing for reappointments to the Emergency Preparedness Committee

Jennifer Kurtinitis (Ward 1) and Andy Kelemen (Ward 1) were reappointed.

RESOLUTION 2012-20

Adopted (March 26)

Extending the term of the Council Compensation Committee

This committee was scheduled to sunset on February 24, 2012. At the request of the committee, its term is extended to June 30, 2012.

RESOLUTION 2012-21

Adopted March 26

Providing for appointments to the Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee

Linda Rabban (Ward 2)and Patricia Shaw (Ward 1) were appointed to the committee.

RESOLUTION 2012-22

Adopted March 26

Providing for appointments to the Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee

Paul Gunter (Ward 1) and Linda Kanazaki (Ward 3) were appointed, and Jay Levy (Ward 1), Jacob Rini (Ward 1) and Robert Rini (Ward 1) were reappointed to the committee.

RESOLUTION 2012-23

Adopted March 26

Providing for an appointment to the Recreation Committee

Carolyn Leary Bobb (Ward 6) was appointed to the committee.

ORDINANCE 2012-10

Adopted (First Reading March 12; Second Reading March 26)

Authorizing execution of a contract for auditing services

The City manager is authorized to enter into a five-year contract with Reznick Group, P.C. for the audit of the City's financial statements.

ORDINANCE 2012-11

Adopted (First Reading March 12; Second Reading March 26)

Authorizing execution of a contract for preparation of the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

The City manager is authorized to enter into a five-year contract with Lindsey & Associates, LLC for the preparation of the City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report.

ORDINANCE 2012-12

Adopted (First Reading March 12; second reading March 26)

Repealing Takoma Park Code, Ch. 9.08 Restricted Relations with Burma

CITY COUNCIL ACTION ☐ Page 4

WARD NIGHTS

WARD 5 NIGHT WITH THE CITY COUNCIL – MONDAY, MAY 7

The City Council will hold a reception in the Atrium Lobby for residents of Ward 5 on Monday, May 7, from 7 – 7:30 p.m., to provide an opportunity to residents to chat, one on one, with members of the City Council. The first part of the City Council meeting, beginning at 7:30 p.m., will be dedicated to hearing from residents of the ward. For additional information, contact Jessie Carpenter (301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org).

Ward Night Schedule:

Monday, June 4 – Ward 4 Night; Monday, June 18 – Ward 6 Night;

Monday, July 9 – Ward 1 Night; Monday, July 23 – Ward 2 Night

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

MAYOR WILLIAMS welcomes comments and suggestions from the community. Residents are invited to meet with him during his office hours on Tuesdays:

2 – 5 p.m. by appointment;

5 – 6 p.m. drop-in hours (check in at the information desk and let the receptionist know you are here to see the Mayor); or

6 – 7 p.m. by appointment.

For additional information or to make an appointment, contact Executive Assistant Peggye Washington at peggyew@takomagov.org or 301-891-7230. Note: If Monday is a holiday, office hours may be Tuesday or Wednesday. Contact Washington to confirm.

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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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 is printed on recycled–content paper.

Takoma Park celebrates ...

BIKE MONTH

By Erkin Ozberk
Planning Division

May is National Bike Month, celebrated in the Takoma Park area this year with a series of community events that promote cycling in the City. In spite of all the hills, bikes are commonplace in Takoma Park, and that's a good thing, as the growing number of cyclists on the road contributes to cleaner, friendlier, more sustainable communities.

As part of National Bike Month, the first-ever National Bike to School Day will take place on May 9. Local events across the U.S. will encourage children to safely bicycle or walk to school, much like Walk to School Day. Takoma Park Safe Routes to School, in tandem with the Safe Kids Coalition, will host an event at Piney Branch Elementary School. Students, parents, and staff of all five Safe Routes participating schools are encouraged to gear up and ride to school on May 9.

Bike To Work Day is the major regional event that brings together the growing number of Washington area commuter cyclists. This year it takes place on Friday, May 18. The free event, co-organized by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) and the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), celebrates bicycle travel with a network of "pit stops" along bike routes and at popular destinations during the morning commute. Takoma Park is joining the network this year, adding three pit stops in the City: at the Old Town Gazebo, on Sligo Creek Trail at New Hampshire Avenue, and by the Starbucks at Takoma/Langley Crossroads.

Registrants for the May 18 event receive a free t-shirt at their designated pit stop, are treated to complimentary morning snacks and will be entered into a drawing to win prizes like bikes, messenger bags and accessories. It is free to register, and commuters can participate whether they are commuting by bike to the office, class or the nearest Metro station.

Bike To Work Day has grown by leaps and bounds in its 10-year history; this year's 58 pit stops are expecting to draw more than 11,000 participants from across the Washington area. To register and learn more, see www.biketoworkmetrodc.org.

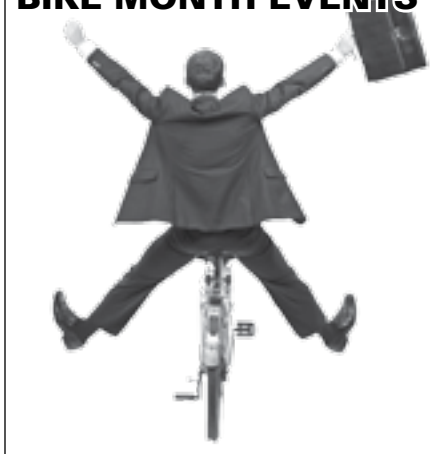
In tandem with these events, the City Recreation Department has organized the Bike-In Movie presentation of a bicycle-themed feature film on May 11. Bike over to Lee Jordan Field for an evening of family-oriented entertainment under the stars!

Investing in Two-wheeled Mobility

Incorporating cycling facilities into mainstream planning and design is gaining momentum at all levels of government. Improvements to local bicycle infrastructure, both underway, and planned include:

- WMATA will continue to enhance bike parking options at the Takoma Metro Station (10 new racks were installed in March).
- Through the Safe Routes to School program, the City is working on the installation of bike, skateboard and/or scooter racks at five participating schools.
- Montgomery County has applied for state funding to expand the successful Capital BikeShare program into the County, with a significant presence in Takoma Park.

BIKE MONTH EVENTS



WEDNESDAY, MAY 9

Bike to School Day

Parents, Piney Branch Elementary staff and students can enjoy a morning bike ride together.

FRIDAY, MAY 11

Bike-In Movie

8 p.m.

Bike over to Lee Jordan Field for an evening of entertainment under the stars.

FRIDAY, MAY 18

Bike To Work Day (www.biketoworkmetrodc.org)

Old Takoma Pit Stop

Location: Takoma Urban Park (Gazebo) - 7035 Carroll Ave.

Times: 6 – 9 a.m.

New Ave at Sligo Creek Trail Pit Stop

Location: Sligo Creek Trail at New Hampshire Avenue crossing (east side)

Times: 7 – 9:30 a.m.

Takoma/Langley Crossroads Pit Stop

Location: Starbucks at Takoma/Langley Crossroads - 7690 New Hampshire Ave.

Times: 7 – 9:30 a.m.

TAKOMA BIKES

Erkin Ozberk

I've been commuting to work from the District by bike since I started working at the City last fall, so I mostly pass cyclists going in the opposite direction, both ways. There isn't a better or faster way for me to get to work and I feel energized when I arrive in the morning. When you travel by bike, you notice the details that make a community tick, so riding in Takoma Park has given me a more nuanced understanding of the city.

Kathy Pruitt

I started biking to work downtown a couple of times a week about four years ago, when my kids went off to college. My memory of bike commuting in D.C. in the early 80s was that I took my life in my hands every day. So I avoided it in the years I had little kids at home. But I was pleasantly surprised to find conditions for bike commuters much improved. Much of my route has dedicated bike lanes, which feel quite safe to me. Also there are so many more of us that I think drivers and cyclists are getting used to looking out for each other.

The two things I like best about bike commuting are 1) getting a "free" 1.5 hour workout squeezed into my regular day, and 2) spending some time outdoors at the beginning of the day and arriving at work feeling fully awake, alive and in touch with the world.

Anna and Jay Keller

Anna and I ride about seven miles (14 round trip) on hybrid bikes, into the Gallery Place area. Jay works at Interfaith Alliance at 13th and New York Avenue NW, and Anna is at American Public Health Association at 8th and I. While we tend to be fair weather bike commuters, we enjoy the exercise, seeing the sights on our way, and the cost saving is $16.40 per day. It takes about the same amount of time to bike as it does to take the bus and Metro. Bike to Work Day is a fun time to feel the collective energy of all those pedals spinning!

Ryan Hunt

I like to commute by bike because it provides a great start and finish to the day. Sometimes you get so bogged down in a routine and traffic that you forget to enjoy moments of the day. Biking allows you to stop and smell the roses, and makes your commute enjoyable.

Lisa Shiota

I commute to Takoma Station (about two miles one way), and occasionally, I'll ride all the way to work on Capitol Hill. When I ride to work, I often take the Metropolitan Branch Trail because it's nice to have an off-road trail to coast to work without worrying about traffic. I commute by bike year round-- it keeps me in shape, and I like to be outdoors as much as possible.

Bob Guldin

I just started a new job in downtown Bethesda, so I immediately checked out possible bike routes from Takoma to Bethesda. Turns out it's a seven-mile ride, with more than half of it on the Capital Crescent Trail, so that's cool. The tricky part is getting through Silver Spring, but I'm working on that.

Lisa May

I commute by bike, because it is the least frustrating way to get to work in the morning. That and it beats trying to fit a workout in my day. Over the past year, I've gone from occasional bike commuter to a regular, partly to help train for a long ride last fall...but mostly because I like the alert feeling when I get to work. The photo is from the finish of Curt's Ride to Cure Cancer last October; I'd just finished 620 miles from Fernandina Beach to Key West.

Robert Goo

Before I commute from Takoma Park to the EPA I ride my daughter to school on our tandem bicycle. Then I come home, get my commuter and ride downtown 7.5 miles to our building across from the Washington monument. I ride rain, snow or shine. EPA has a first class bike room, lockers, community bike tools and showers to promote bicycle commuting. Usually it takes me about 30 minutes to get to work and 40 minutes on the return uphill to Takoma Park. Commuting by bike is far faster than walking to and from the Metro and waiting for the Metro. It also gives me some meditative time to contemplate my day and clear my mind. Having a bicycle downtown is also handy, since I use the bike to efficiently get to meetings around the D.C. metro area.

Takoma Park police officers often patrol on bikes. Here, they participate in the 2011 Montgomery County Memorial Bike Ride in D.C. From left, Andrew Gucciardo (crime analyst), Pfc. Walter Smith, Cpl. Jerome Erwin, Roberto Rojas (parking enforcement) and Pfc. Jeff Demuth.

AROUND **TAKOMA**

Takoma Bistro opens

The new eatery on Laurel Avenue, Takoma Bistro, opened last month. The restaurant, which is in the space vacated by Everyday Gourmet, is the fourth in the Bread and Chocolate group, but is differentiated from the others with a fuller menu and Bistro theme. It opened mid-April with just coffee and sweets, then added the full menu April 23. For more information, see the March Newsletter article or go to www.breadandchocolate.net.

Junction gets new crossing guard

School children have extra help crossing the difficult intersection at Takoma Junction, since a new crossing guard began work there April 10. Hired by the Takoma Park Police Department, the guard will work each morning from 7:20 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. and 8:20 a.m. - 9:20 a.m., and again in the afternoons from 2:40 p.m. - 3:10 p.m., then 3:20 p.m. - 3:50 p.m., and again from 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Times will be adjusted according to the needs of pedestrians.

Grigsby coordinates community development

Roz Grigsby, former Old Takoma Business Association executive director, recently joined the Housing and Community Development Department for the City of Takoma Park as community development coordinator. She will oversee the Community Development Division, working in part on the implementation of the Takoma Langley Sector Plan, the New Hampshire Avenue Corridor Initiative, and other economic development and neighborhood revitalization projects.

Elderly abuse subject for police info campaign

The Takoma Park Police Department is distributing information about the abuse and neglect of elderly people as part of its monthly informational campaign to residents. This type of abuse often goes unnoticed because in most cases, only the victim and offender are involved and the victim is afraid to or incapable of reporting it. It is part of a police officer's duty to report alleged abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation to Adult Protective Services. If a citizen reports an alleged case or voices concern about a specific elderly individual, police will respond to the elderly individual's residence to check his/her welfare and determine if the situation warrants a call to APS. For more information about elderly abuse, contact Takoma Park Police Officer Carla Magnaye, 301-891-7121 or carlam@takomagov.org.

Police officers promoted

Effective May 1, Takoma Park Police Cpl. Michelle Holmes was promoted to Sergeant, and moved into the Criminal Investigations Division. Pfc. Charles Hoetzel, a gang unit investigator, was promoted to Corporal. A police awards ceremony will recognize their accomplishments, along with other exemplary service on June 1.

CityCouncilAction

■ From page 2

Chapter 9.08 and the Free Burma Committee would be removed from the City Code. Enforcement of the Free Burma Act was suspended on Oct. 23, 2000 because the law was invalidated by a U.S. Supreme Court decision striking down the Massachusetts Burma law on the grounds that it was preempted by the Act of Congress that imposed federal sanctions on Burma.

ORDINANCE 2012-13

Adopted (March 26)

Authorizing the purchase and installation of police vehicle equipment

Allows the installation of emergency lights, sirens, computer docks and related equipment from Priority Install, LLC on four recently-purchased police vehicles.

ORDINANCE 2012-14

Adopted (March 26)

Awarding a contract for landscape maintenance and management for Lee Jordan and Ed Wilhelm fields

The contract goes to Level Green Landscape LLC.

ORDINANCE 2012-15

Adopted (March 26)

Authorizing the purchase of replacement servers

Four replacement servers with the associated operating system software, database software, and virtualization software will be purchased from TigerDirect.

ORDINANCE 2012-16

Adopted (March 26)

Authorizing execution of an indefinite quantities sidewalk and streetscape construction contract with Cylos, Inc.

Cylos, Inc. will work on a number of streetscape and sidewalk projects. Individual work orders would be issued by the City as funding becomes available and projects are finalized.

ORDINANCE 2012-17

Adopted (March 26)

Authorizing execution of an indefinite quantities sidewalk and streetscape construction contract with Romero Construction, Inc.

Romero Construction, Inc. will work on a number of streetscape and sidewalk projects. Individual work orders would be issued by the City as funding becomes available and projects are finalized.

CITY **NOTICES**

Vacancies on Council-Appointed Boards, Commissions and Committees

There are numerous opportunities for Takoma Park residents to serve on City boards, commissions and committees. If you feel you can make a positive contribution, please consider volunteering. Appointments are made by the City Council. To be considered, complete an application form and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications. Additional information can be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267) or clerk@takomagov.org .

Arts and Humanities Commission (vacancies, terms expiring June 30)

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (vacancy, terms expiring June 30)

Emergency Preparedness Committee (vacancies)

Ethics Commission (vacancies)

Façade Advisory Board (vacancy)

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancy)

Personnel Appeal Board (vacancies)

Recreation Committee (vacancy)

NOTICE OF WARD 5 CITY COUNCIL VACANCY AND SPECIAL ELECTION

Notice of Council Vacancy

Ward 5 City Councilmember Reuben Snipper has announced that he will resign from the City Council effective Tuesday, May 22, 2012. Pursuant to Section 308 of the City Charter, if a vacancy on the City Council occurs more than 240 days before the next regularly scheduled City election, a special election shall be held to fill the vacancy.

Notice of Special Election

The Ward 5 special election will be held on Tuesday, July 17, 2012. The single polling place will be located at Washington Adventist University, Campus Center Building, 7600 Flower Ave., Takoma Park, Md. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Council Term

The term of office for the person elected will be from July 30, 2012 to November 5, 2013. Subsequent term(s) will follow the normal two-year Council term schedule, with elections held in November of odd-numbered years.

Qualifications of Candidates

Candidates for the Ward 5 City Council seat shall have resided in Ward 5 for at least six months immediately preceding the election (at least since Jan.17). Candidates shall be registered voters of the City. Councilmembers shall maintain their principal residence in the City and in their ward during their term of office. Councilmembers are prohibited from holding other publicly elected offices during their term of office and are prohibited from serving on any City board, commission or other body that has authority to adjudicate or otherwise resolve disputes.

Petitions for Candidacy

In order for a candidate's name to be placed on the special election ballot, he or she must submit a petition at least 20 days prior to the election, on a form provided by the City Clerk, and signed by at least ten eligible voters in Ward 5. There is no nominating caucus for the special election. Petitions must be received by the City Clerk by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 27.

Voter Registration

Only voters registered at an address in Ward 5 may vote in the special election. The voter registration cut-off date for the election will be June 18.

Additional information will be posted at http://www.takomaparkmd.gov. Questions may be addressed to Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, 301-891-7267, or jessiec@takomagov.org.

A sample ballot will be mailed to all Ward 5 registered voters prior to the special election.

AVISO DE UN PUESTO VACANTE DE CONSEJAL DEL DISTRITO 5 Y DE UNA ELECCIÓN ESPECIAL

Aviso de puesto vacante de consejal

Reuben Snipper, consejal del distrito 5, ha anunciado su resignación de consejal del distrito 5, la cual se hará efectiva el martes, 22 de mayo del 2012. Conforme a la sección 308 de la Carta Constitucional de la Ciudad, si hay un puesto vacante en el Consejo con 240 días antes de la próxima elección ordinaria de la Ciudad, se convocará a una elección especial para cubrir dicha vacante.

Aviso de eleccion especial

La elección especial del distrito 5 será el martes 17 de julio del 2012. Los puestos de votación será ubicado en la Universidad de Washington Adventist, Wilkinson Hall, 7600 Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. Los puestos de votación estarán abiertas desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 8:00 p.m.

Periodo de mandato de consejal

El periodo del mandato para la persona que resulte electa abarcará desde el 30 de julio del 2012 hasta el 5 de noviembre del 2013. El(Los) periodo(s) subsiguiente(s) seguirá(n) el programa regular de consejal de dos años, con elecciónes todos los años impares, en noviembre.

Cualificaciones de los candidatos

Los candidatos para cubrir la posición de consejal del distrito 5 deberán haber residido en el distrito 5 por lo menos seis meses justo antes de la elección (al menos desde el 17 de enero del 2012). Los candidatos deberán estar inscritos para votar en la Ciudad. Los miembros del Consejo deberán tener su residencia principal en la Ciudad y en su distrito electoral durante su periodo de mandato. Los miembros del Consejo tienen prohibido ocupar cualquier otro puesto para el cual hayan sido elegidos públicamente, durante su periodo de mandato y tienen prohibido servir en un consejo de administración de una ciudad, comisión u otra entidad que tenga autoridad para actuar como árbitro o bien para resolver litigios.

Peticiones para la candidatura

Para que el nombre de un candidato aparezca en la boleta de la eleccion especial, él o ella deberá presentar una petición al menos 20 días antes de la elección, utilizando un formulario que le facilitará la Secretaria Municipal. Dicha petición deberá estar firmada por lo menos por 10 votantes aptos del distrito 5. No se formará una reunión electoral para esta elección especial. La Secretaria Municipal deberá recibir las peticiones antes del miércoles 27 de junio del 2012, a las 5:00 p.m.

Inscripción de los votantes

Solamente los votantes que estén inscritos en una dirección del distrito 5 podrán votar en esta elección especial. La fecha límite para la inscripción de los votantes para esta elección será el 18 de junio del 2012.

Se publicará información adicional en la siguiente dirección del sitio web http://www.takomaparkmd.gov. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta, llame la Oficina de la Secretaría Municipal, al 301-891-7214 o a través del correo electrónico jessiec@takomagov.org

Antes de las elecciones extraordinarias, se les enviará por correo una boleta de muestra a todos los votantes del distrito electoral 5 que se hayan inscrito para votar.

AT YOUR SERVICE

New senior advocacy group reaches out

Wolfgang Mergner wants to know: what do seniors need? He is coordinator of the city's new committee, "Seniors and Those Who Care for Them," designed to first determine, then help meet the needs of the growing older population in Takoma Park.

According to the 2010 census, 15.7 percent of Takoma Park's residents are aged 60 or older—that's 2,625 out of 16,715, and up from 11.8 percent in 2000. As Recreation Director Gregory Clark likes to say, it's a "silver tsunami."

The City reaches many of its older residents through popular Recreation Department programs like Bone Builders, open studio art-making sessions and computer classes. Enthusiastic participants praise these services, led by senior activities coordinator Paula Lisowski. But most participants live in senior living facilities like Victory Towers and the Franklin Apartments. Mergner would like to reach out to people who live in single family homes and individual apartments as well.

What would draw them out? What are their primary concerns? Health? Environment? Do they want more opportunities to play sports? Socialize? Hear music?

Mergner isn't sure, but has plunged in with a few basic topics to start. Each month, he is hosting a presentation, and as he gets more feedback from participants, he will plan additional events according to community needs.

In February, a representative from Montgomery County Aging and Disability Services spoke to about 40 seniors about the myriad services offered by the county. These include in-home care, respite care (for short-term breaks for caregivers), assistance navigating health insurance and Medicare/Medicaid, family caregivers support, financial assistance, food and nutrition programs, and transportation and housing support.

AGING AT HOME

May 24, 9 a.m.
TP Community Center, Azalea Room

On March 15, transportation was the topic. The discussion included a presentation from the Jewish Council on Aging, which maintains a free hotline to information about services including transportation (seniorhelpline@accessJCA.org or 301-255-4200). There was also a review of improvements to local services from City staff. Among the topics were crosswalks and sidewalks, taxi cab restrictions, and resources for finding rides to and from medical appointments and other important places.

April's meeting considered care at home, and outside-the-home daycare for seniors.

In May, the meeting, at 9 a.m. May 24, in the Takoma Park Community Center Azalea Room, will explore how residents can stay in their homes as they age. With minor adjustments, many houses and apartments can accommodate the limitations seniors sometimes face, with, for example, easy-to-turn door knobs, wheelchair-level kitchen counters, and no-slip floor surfaces. The meeting also covered home care and day care for seniors.

Mergner is also interested in the "village" approach to senior care. Several neighborhoods in the Washington suburban area have developed "villages" of individuals who share their resources and skills to support one another; sometimes volunteers help seniors with grocery shopping, or take them to appointments. Other arrangements involve trading services and time – an older, less physically capable neighbor might trade cat sitting, for example, for snow shoveling.

Mergner urges seniors to contact him with other topics and programming suggestions. Call 301-891-7290 with your suggestions, or attend the meeting May 24. Breakfast will be included.

Lions Club awards officer of the year

Takoma Park Police Officer, Pvt. Peter Marable, was selected as Police Officer of the Year by the Takoma Park Lion's Club in April. From left, Brian Geraci, President of the Lion's Club; Chief Ronald A. Ricucci, Takoma Park Police Department; Pvt. Peter Marable, Takoma Park Police Department; and Chief Thomas Musgrove, Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department.

THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Mar. 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 147 fire-related incidents in 2012. The department addressed or assisted with 754 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 901 this year. Totals for 2011 were 200 and 728, representing a decrease of 27 incidents.

Fire Department reaches 90th Year Milestone

On April 17, 2012, Takoma Park VFD reached its 90th year milestone since its incorporation. The department and its members continue to be actively involved in providing our community with services in the areas of suppression, EMS, fire and life safety education, and taking part in our community's broad range of events throughout each year.

Fire Safety Message

The most important thing when a fire occurs is to get out of the house immediately and stay out, then call the fire department (Dial 9-1-1). If you are behind a closed door, feel it with the back of your hand before opening it. If the door is hot, look for another possible exit out of the room. Make sure windows can be unlocked and opened. If you are passing through a smoky area, stoop low so that your head is beneath the smoke. If your clothes catch on fire, stop, gently drop to the ground, cover your face and roll to smother the flames. Do not try to fight the fire, that will only delay your escape. Leave your possessions behind, and never go back into a burning building for any reason. Unattended cooking is still the number one cause of home fires.

What YOU Can Do To Prevent Falls

Falls are not just the result of getting older. Many falls can be prevented. Falls are usually caused by a number of things. By changing some of these things, you can lower your chances of falling.

1. Begin a regular exercise program.
2. Make your home safer.
3. Have your health care provider review your medicines.
4. Have your vision checked.

Takoma Park VFD needs junk vehicles

If you have an old junk vehicle that you would like to donate to the fire department, please contact Chief Glenn Butts at the fire station (240-773-8954). The vehicles will be used for training. We will pick up the vehicle and dispose of it, once we finish training with it.

ARTS & *Humanities*

Poetry springs up all over

Since 2007, Takoma Park has been abloom with poetry from spring into fall along the sidewalks of Carroll Avenue from Takoma Junction to Old Town, City parks, and the community center. Colorful posters showcasing the poems are designed by graphic arts students at Montgomery College, under the direction of Andrea Adams.

Stroll the poetry walk, which is a project of the Friends of Takoma Park Library, and you will read poems by familiar poets: among them Emily Dickinson, Robert Frost, William Carlos Williams, D.H. Lawrence and Derek Walcott. You will also read striking poems by poets who will be new to you: in all, about 30 works that reflect the diversity of world poetry.

In addition to the students at Montgomery College, those who have made Spring for Poetry a reality are the poets and writers who select poems, including past Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker, poet/novelist Ian March, poet Rosanne Singer, and Ann Slayton and current Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler, who first conceived of the idea; Michele Morgan, whose original poster designs led to the collaboration with the college; and Clair Garman, who made all of the frames.

To learn more, see http://www.ftpml.org.

Open poetry reading welcomes local poets

Thursday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.
Community Center Auditorium
Free

"Poetry is what makes me laugh or cry or yawn, what makes my toenails twinkle, what makes me want to do this or that or nothing."

— Dylan Thomas

Takoma Park has many secret pleasures – among them, the Third Thursday open reading at the Takoma Park Community Center. For an hour on Thursday, May 17, local poets—published and unpublished alike—get an opportunity to share their original work with the community. Gathered around are friends and neighbors who enjoy the chance, as Dylan Thomas once put it, to have their "toenails twinkle."

Initially organized by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Don Berger, the Third Thursday is now hosted by Martin FitzPatrick, who will wrap up the series' sixth season next month. The monthly readings typically feature the original work of two to four poets from the area.

To learn more about the series, check us out on Facebook or contact the Arts and Humanities Commission at 301-891-7224 or sarad@takomagov.org.

This painting by Aimee Miller, a student at the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School, is part of an exhibit of VAC work being shown at the Takoma Park Community Center Atrium Gallery. A reception celebrating the work, and the artists' upcoming graduation, will be held Friday May 11, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Azalea City, Farewell showcases work from Visual Art Center

Atrium Gallery,
Takoma Park Community Center

May 11 through June 9

"Azalea City, Farewell" is an exploration of the work of some of the talented graduating students from the nationally recognized and highly competitive Visual Art Center (VAC) program based at Albert Einstein High School in Kensington: Aaron Fellows, Aimee Miller, Ben Hammer, Cameron Robinson, Carine Riley, Dylan Burke, Emily Ettlinger, Hayden Butler, Jackson Schaeffer, Lena Meyerson and Molly Swyers. Many of these emerging artists grew up together in our community, and began their art studies with Ann Spera at the Takoma Park Middle School or Katie Dell Kaufman at the Takoma Park Community Center. The work featured in this show was created while studying with award-winning VAC art teachers Michael Piechocinski and Jane Walsh.

Established more than 20 years ago, the Visual Art Center offers selected students a comprehensive and rigorous advanced studio art curriculum and portfolio development. Participating students develop a broader understanding of the fields of fine and commercial arts and gain some perspective on potential careers in the visual arts. Graduates often go on to study fine art or related fields at many prestigious art programs. Over the years, VAC students have won many national and local awards for their portfolios and, as a group, have garnered over $19 million in scholarship offers during the last 12 years.

Please join us on Friday May 11, from 6 to 8 p.m., as we celebrate and support this unique art program in our public schools and our local graduates as they head off to art schools, colleges and universities around the country.

W E A R E T A K O M A

Sephardic songs highlight Jewish history

La Rondinella: Sephardic Songs

Presented by We Are Takoma

Saturday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.

Suggested donation $15, $10 for seniors, students

Takoma Park Community Center auditorium, 7500 Maple Ave.

"La Rondinella's performance was simply stunning, remarkable in its fullness of sound. The care and spirit infused into the performance was wonderful, particularly in those pieces that give a sense of longing and wandering, a very well-known feeling among the Sephardim."

Jewish history is replete with stories of exile, hope, faith in redemption, and the yearning for an eventual return to the Holy Land. For the Sephardim, the Jews of Spain, the concept of exile and return is embodied in their very name. Expelled from the Iberian Peninsula in 1492, the Sephardim settled in North Africa, the Middle East, France, Italy and parts of northern Europe, but were most warmly welcomed in the Ottoman Empire. In exile, they maintained their language, Ladino, and their oral culture. Songs were passed through the generations, usually by women, and new songs were composed about love, loss, daily life, holidays and history.

The singing of Sephardic songs has always depended on the time, place and personality of the performers. Music was an everyday expression of a culture and a way of life. The songs were sung for personal amusement, to relate to history, and to teach lessons. Nothing in music is done in isolation, not now, or in past centuries. Before their exile from Spain, Sephardim heard the music of their Arab and Christian neighbors, which was reflected in their own song.

La Rondinella has approached the music from a somewhat more Western point of view, adding chords and harmonies and using such Renaissance music instruments as the lute, recorder and viol in addition to certain folk instruments like the kamenj, lyra and guitar. On occasion, they make use of the most contemporary of percussion instruments, the chicken shake (a plastic egg filled with buckshot), and a more ancient one, the guiro (a dried and hollowed-out gourd played with a metal rasp), more commonly heard in Latin American music.

Performing as La Rondinella are founding members Howard Bass (lute, guitar, percussion), Paul Bensel (recorders, crumhorn, percussion), Alice Kosloski (vocal soloist) and Rosalind Brooks Stowe (bowed strings, recorder, percussion) with Tina Chancey (bowed string, percussion, vocals).

HOUSING

HOUSING MAILBOX

By Moses A. Wilds, Jr.
Landlord-Tenant Coordinator

I am a renter in Takoma Park and I want to know: when is it okay for my landlord to enter my apartment? What are my rights? And if I'm not home when he comes in, how will I know he's been around?

If your landlord enters your rental unit when you are not at home, the law requires that he or she leave a report of entry. Under Takoma Park law (Section 6.16.140), the written entry report must be left in plain view in your unit, with the name of the person(s) who entered, the reason for the entry and the work performed, if any, plus the time of the departure, and the address and phone number of the landlord.

Before revision to the law in April 2010, tenants who submitted an improper entry complaint to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) could only receive actual damages that resulted from an illegal entry. Landlords were similarly limited, if a tenant refused their lawful entry. The law was revised to address these limitations. Now, for damages that are "measurable or actual," COLTA is authorized to award punitive damages of up to $400 for violations of the entry law by landlords and tenants. Proof of actual damage from improper entry, or refusal of entry, is no longer required.

The Landlord-Tenant Relations and Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs laws may be viewed at the City's website, www.takomaparkmd.gov, go to "City Code" on the left.

Tenants or landlords with questions regarding the city's Landlord-Tenant and COLTA Laws can contact me at 301-891-7215 or at mosesw@takomagov.org.

Emergency financial assistance available for City residents

By Moses A. Wilds, Jr.
Landlord-Tenant Coordinator

Are you facing a pending eviction from your rental unit, or do you have a scheduled utility cutoff notice? Do you need financial assistance to purchase a necessary prescription? Takoma Park's Emergency Assistance Fund may be able to help you address these financial emergencies.

Established by the Takoma Park City Council in 2001, the Emergency Assistance Fund provides help to City residents facing a financial emergency that often results from the loss of employment or other financial circumstances beyond their control.

Financial support for the Fund is provided by annual City Council allocations and through generous tax deductible donations from City residents and business owners.

Since 2009, the Fund has been administered by Ministries United Silver Spring Takoma Park (MUSST), which provided emergency financial assistance to 46 Takoma Park residents from July 2010 to June 2011. Among the types of financial assistance provided were rental assistance, prescription drug payments and utilities payments.

If you are a Takoma Park resident facing an emergency financial situation, please contact MUSST to determine if you qualify for assistance. The MUSST office hours are Monday from 2 to 6 p.m., and Tuesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The MUSST phone number is 301-495-9454.

Rent Stabilization Allowance (Annual Rent Increase) 2.8 percent

Effective July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

Takoma Park law (City Code Chapter 6.20 Rent Stabilization) maintains the affordability of rental units in the community by limiting the number and amount of rent increases that may be charged for a specific rental unit. Generally the rent may be increased only once in a given 12-month period, and rent increases are limited to the annual increase in the Consumer Price Index. The rent stabilization allowance is calculated on an annual basis and applies to all licensed multi-family rental facilities with two or more rental units and to all licensed condominium units.

The 2012-2013 Rent Stabilization Allowance is 2.8 percent and will be in effect beginning July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. Landlords required to comply with Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization law cannot increase the rent on occupied units any higher than this allowance.

Multi-family rental properties and individually-owned condominium rental units are subject to Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization laws. However, the following units may be exempt from many of the requirements of rent stabilization. The exemption is not automatic and is subject to the approval of the City.

- Rental units leased to tenants under the Housing Choice Voucher Program;
- Any rental facility that is subject to a regulatory agreement with a governmental agency that controls the rent levels of one or more rental units so that they are available only to low and moderate income tenants;
- Newly constructed rental units for a period of five years after construction; and
- Any two-unit rental facility where one of the units is the owner's principal residence.

If you have any questions about the rent on your unit or Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization law, contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216.

You are invited to a free class

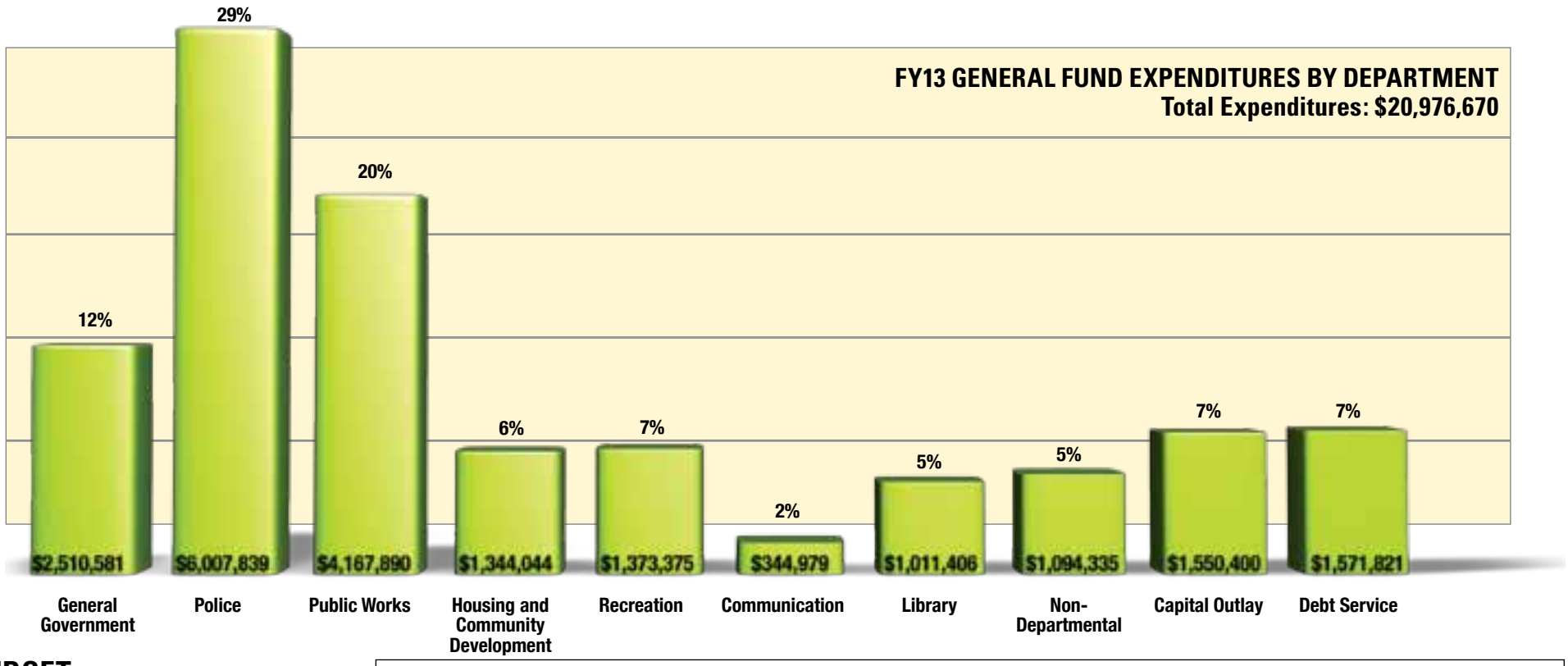
Tenant Rights in Takoma Park

Tuesday, May 8
7 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, Md.

Light Refreshments will be served

To Register: Call 301-891-7215

RECOMMENDED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK - FISCAL YEAR 2013



BUDGET

■ From page 1

and community expectations. "Over the past year, it has become clear that the Council's goals and the City's needs cannot be met with current staffing levels," Matthews wrote in her budget overview. The three new positions include a management assistant that the City Manager's Office will share with the director of the Housing and Community Development Department, a special projects coordinator for the Department of Public Works, and a police communications supervisor/emergency management coordinator. Together, the City will pay about $268,700 for the new positions if approved by the Council.

Speed Camera revenues will fund sidewalk upgrades to meet Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, traffic calming, and design and construction of new sidewalks. Two new speed cameras have been proposed for Carroll Avenue. Work on the Flower Avenue Green Street project will move forward; the State Highway Administration will pay for the FY 2013 work through a transfer of funds and ownership regarding that stretch of roadway. Speed camera revenue will fund design and construction of new sidewalks.

The City Manager's proposed budget includes $200,000 for environmental sustainability initiatives. Funding is also included for work to enhance Takoma Junction.

2013 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Total revenues, $25,643,000

Total expenditures, $25,512,734

Total General Fund revenues, $21,001,141

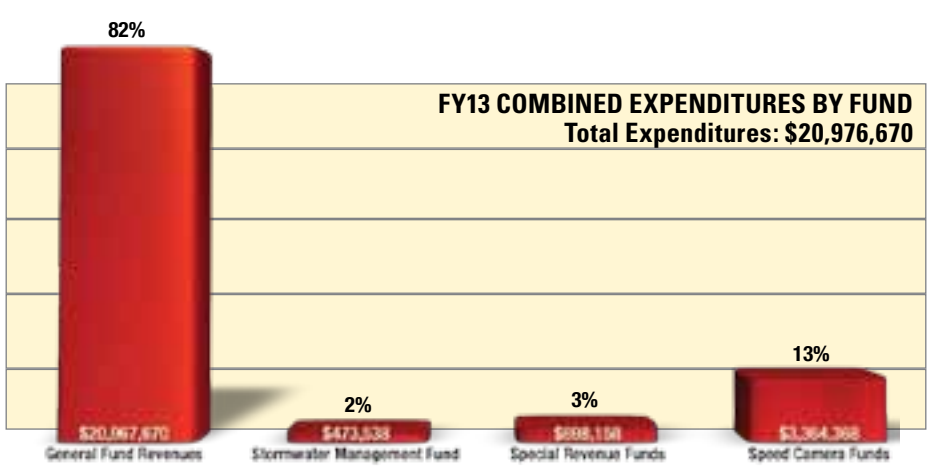
- Assessable real property base (net) projected to increase by approximately $29.19 million or 1.5 percent from FY12
- Real property tax rate remains at $0.58 per $100 of assessed valuation; property tax revenues increase by $203,197
- Tax duplication payments from Montgomery County increase $300,691
- Existing base fee for stormwater management fees increase from $48 to $55 per 1,228 square feet, to pay for a portion of the new special projects coordinator position
- City staff increases by about three full-time staff members: a management assistant, special projects coordinator and police communications supervisor/emergency preparedness coordinator.
- Anticipated General Fund expenditures of $530,000 for gateway and street improvements, and $666,000 for Flower Avenue Green Street Project, to be paid with State Highway Administration funds
- Continued funding ($160,000) to supplement the state's homeowner property tax credit program
- $1 million to the equipment replacement reserve and $250,000 to facility maintenance reserve
- $1.2 million for early redemption of 2010 Suntrust Bank bond
- $750,000 for a new reserve for the partial redemption of the 2005 Community Center renovation bonds in FY15
- Continued financial support for Main Street Takoma ($30,000), Crossroads Farmer's Market ($15,000) and the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee ($13,500) and $7,000 to the Takoma Park Folk Festival Committee
- Continued support for emergency assistance ($15,000) to supplement donations made through stormwater management billing
- Support for the Crossroads Community Food Network ($17,369), the Dance Exchange ($5,000), the Takoma Park World Festival ($8,000), Adventist Community Services for youth swimming lessons ($8,060) and $10,000 for the small community grant program
- $200,000 for sustainability initiatives
- $473,538 for construction, maintenance and repair of storm drains, inlets, channels and ditches, including several bio-retention projects and removal of debris and invasives
- $698,000 for various grant-funded projects spending special revenue from state, county and federal grants, including commercial façade improvements and programs to enhance children's safety walking or biking to and from school
- Anticipated expenditure of $3.4 million from speed camera revenues, including payment to the program contractor, public safety staff, design and installation of new sidewalks, retrofitting existing sidewalks for compliance with Americans with Disability Act guidelines, and police equipment

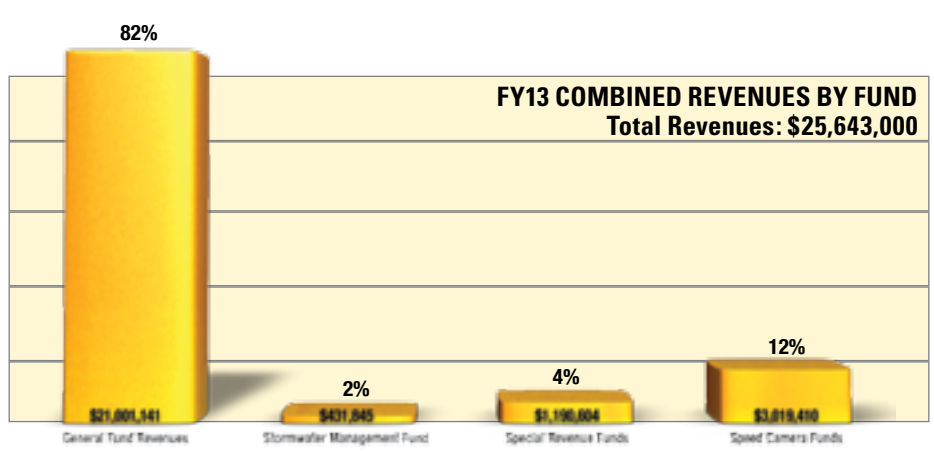
And, in order to reduce expenditures, the City manager proposes to pay off a bond debt early. Interest rates on the debt exceed the City's rate of return on investments. Paying off the debt early will save the City in future interest payments.

Revenues moderately increased

Revenues for FY 2013 are projected to increase by $2.46 million since FY12, to approximately $25.64 million. Of the increase, about $1 million represents special one-time payments from the State and Montgomery County and $1.2 mil-

BUDGET ☐ Page 9





BUDGET

■ From page 8

lion would come from speed camera revenue, including the monies expected to be generated by the proposed new cameras on Carroll Avenue.

Property taxes account for 55 percent of the City's general fund revenues—those revenues that pay for most City services such as trash collection, library services, police, recreation and administrative staff (the other funds are stormwater management, special revenue and speed camera). This year, the proposed property tax rate remains unchanged, at 58 cents per $100 of assessed value. Even at that flat rate, the City will collect slightly more tax revenue this year: about $203,000 more. That's because the "assessable real property base," or the value of all the taxable property in Takoma Park, has increased by 1.5 percent or $29.19 million.

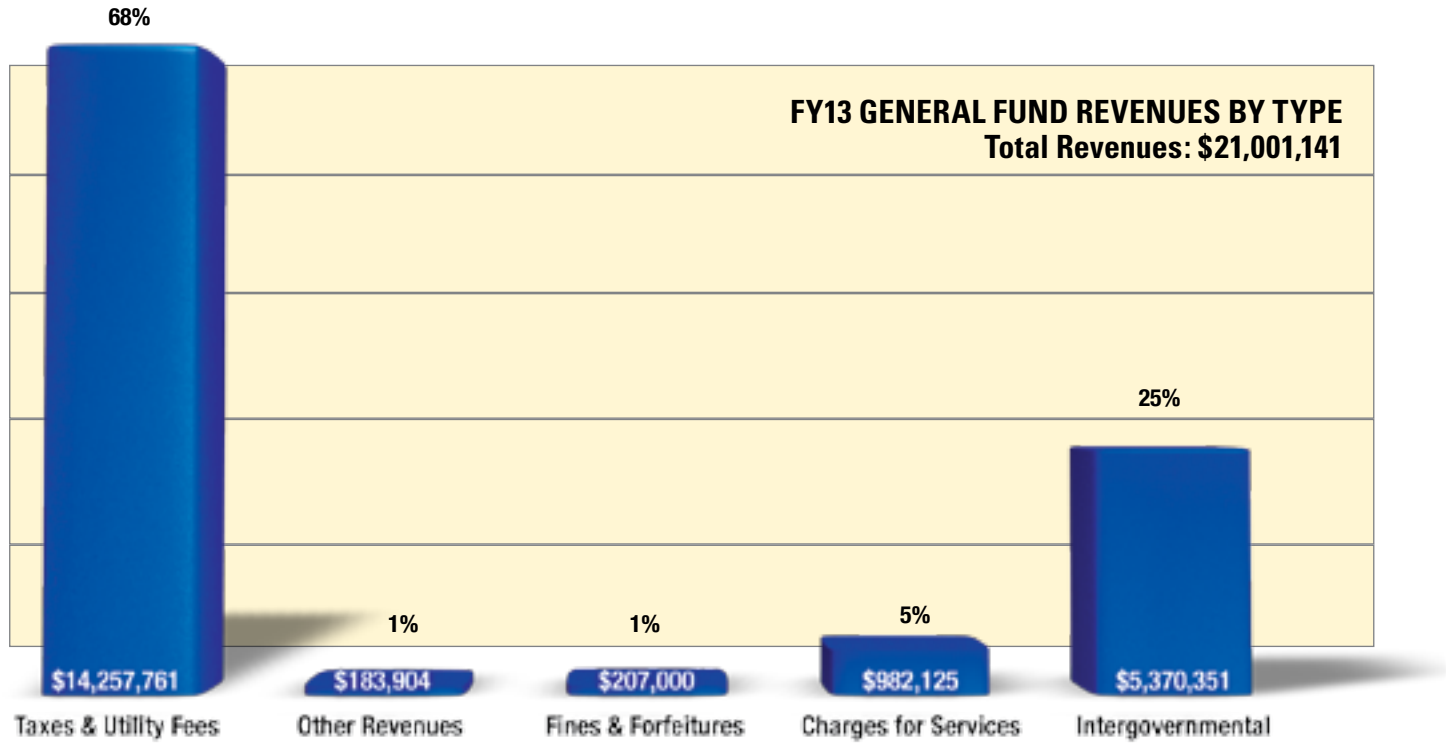
This will be the fourth year the tax rate has been steady. Before that, it decreased, from 66 cents per $100 in FY2006 to 60 cents in FY2009. As in past years, the proposed budget for FY 2013 includes $160,000 to assist homeowners who are paying an excessive percentage of their gross income in property tax. Historically, about 160 households per year have benefited from this City-financed program.

Other significant revenue sources include income tax (10 percent of general fund revenues): municipalities in Montgomery County receive 17 percent of county income tax collected within municipal limits. This revenue is difficult to predict, but is expected to decline.

Revenue from Recreation programs are expected to increase this year, due to increasing popularity of its programs and services.

Intergovernmental revenue includes a one-time $696,000 payment from the State Highway Administration for the Flower Avenue transfer, which involves improvements SHA agreed to fund.

Other intergovernmental income involves tax duplication payments for services the City provides, that in areas outside the City are provided by Montgomery County, such as police, crossing guards, and road and park maintenance. This year, the County is expected to reimburse the City $300,691 for money withheld by the County two years ago. In addition, the City Council and City manager have been pressing the County to pay fairer amounts for tax duplication and to renegotiate the current Memorandum of Understanding for the police payment; calculations show that the City has been significantly underpaid for police services. Thus far, attempts to negotiate have met with little success.



> **"Over the past year, it has become clear that the Council's goals and the City's needs cannot be met with current staffing levels."**
>
> ***— Barbara Matthews***
> ***Takoma Park City Manager***

Funding top priorities

Some of the top items on the City's proposed list of expenditures reflect the City Council's strategic plan goals. Among its priorities: environmental sustainability. There are at least eight environmental initiatives in the proposed budget: the Flower Avenue Green Street Project, with rainwater control, gardens and sustainably designed, pedestrian-friendly elements; construction, maintenance and repair of various storm drains, inlets, channels and ditches, bio-retention projects and removal of debris and invasives from parks and other areas; the development and beginning implementation of a sustainability action plan and a greenhouse gas emissions inventory; and subsidies for residents purchasing trees to plant on their Takoma Park properties.

Another ongoing priority has been the enhancement of Takoma Junction; $46,500 has been proposed to advance the recommendations of the Takoma Junction Task Force. Among them are an environmental assessment of the City-owned lot there, special events funding, and a food market coordinator.

In the Recreation Department, there would be more funding for teen ($9,000) and senior ($4,000) programming; another $15,250 would be allocated from various departmental budgets for a new public event, the Takoma Park World Festival. Main Street Takoma, the advocacy organization designed to support the commercial area in Old Town, would receive $30,000; and other outside organizations, including the Independence Day Committee, the Crossroads Community Food Network, Adventist Community Services and others would get money from a pot of $68,929 to support community organizations like them.

Many projects are funded by special revenue, which comes from federal, state and county grants. Among them are programming to encourage school aged children to walk and bike safely to and from school; commercial façade improvements grants; an after school and homework club for school children; intervention programs for at-risk middle school students; and a food-handling certification program designed to increase economic opportunities for local food producers.

Moving forward

The City Council will continue to discuss the City Manager's proposed budget and then pass the final budget in late May. Residents may contact councilmembers directly with their thoughts on the budget, or attend the public hearing, April 30 at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center. The public comment period preceding each City Council meeting presents another opportunity to weigh in, or contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or at clerk@takomagov.org.

For a full copy of the proposed budget, see www.takomaparkmd.gov.

What do *you* think?

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City Council will hold two public hearings at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 30, 2012 in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Ave. The public is encouraged to attend and sign up to speak or send comments to clerk@takomagov.org. Persons with questions regarding these hearings may call Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 or email jessiec@takomagov.org for further information.

■ FY 2013 PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

A public hearing on the proposed real property tax rate will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 30, 2012. The real property tax rate is proposed to remain at $0.58 per $100 of assessment, which is above the constant yield tax rate of $0.5715. The proposed tax rate is 1.5 percent higher than the constant yield rate and will generate $169,329 in additional property tax revenues. The complete required notice is available online at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

■ FY 2013 PROPOSED BUDGET

The City Council will hold a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 30, 2012 to hear comments on the proposed FY 2013 budget. The proposed budget is available for review in the Library and online at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Sixth Time Winners

The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting has been awarded to the City of Takoma Park by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for its comprehensive annual financial report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. This is the sixth consecutive year that the City has received this prestigious award. Named in the award were Yovonda D. Brooks, CPA, Director of Finance, and Barbara B. Matthews, City Manager.

Takoma Park Summer Camps

Wide variety offered through City programs

The Takoma Park Recreation Department offers the traditional range of summer camp activities, along with specialty camps designed to enhance your child's summer and create lasting memories. The Camp Takoma program offers sports, nature, arts and crafts, dance, music, swimming, creative time, cooperative games, and special activities.

Specialty camps are created to give each child a unique summer experience and provide campers with activities in their favorite areas. There are several specialty programs for arts, sports, nature study, science, and digital arts.

Our Counselors In Training (CIT) Program is designed for our 14- and 15-year-olds. It develops leadership skills and character, while providing an excellent opportunity for community service. Supported by an excellent group of counselors and program staff, campers are encouraged to try new things, meet new friends, and most importantly have fun!

To view Summer Camp offerings, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation. For additional information please contact Lew McAllister at lewm@takomagov.org.

RECREATION

Camp counselor Omar Abukar gets mobbed by his campers, who are having a great time at last year's Super Sports Camp. The campers are Stephane MBenga, Tyshawn Evans, Joe Kittner, Slade Hopkins, Raja Azeem, David Bierwirth, Chase Williams, Tyler Daudu and Arturo Delgado.

Photo by Eric Rasch

Girls Lacrosse Clinic

Ages 8 – 11

Lacrosse is one of the fastest growing sports in the area and this popular program is great for anyone who wants to learn the sport. The clinic will emphasize skill development in shooting, passing, catching and field alignments, plus basic rules and interpretations of the game. Lacrosse sticks will be provided. No experience required.
Hodges Field (Behind Takoma Park Elementary)

Wednesdays, 3:45 – 4:45 p.m.,
May 16 – June 13
TP residents $25
Non-residents $35

Tennis Clinic

Ages 7 – 9 and 10 – 13

Participants have fun learning tennis skills, and instructors use tennis as a tool that supports and enhances their personal growth, physical health and academic achievement—we build character, develop discipline and promote physical fitness. Bring your own racquet and a water bottle. If you do not own a racquet, the Recreation Department will provide one for the clinic.
Tuesdays, May 8 – June 5

Ages 7 – 9, 3:45 – 4:45 p.m.

Ages 10 – 13, 4:45 – 5:45 p.m.
Tennis courts behind Takoma Park Middle School

TP residents $25
Non-residents $35

Tai Chi

Ages 16 and older

This class will cover the basic principles and concepts of Tai Chi, an ancient exercise for cultivating physical and spiritual health. The slow, gentle movements and relaxed breathing harmonize energy and flow in the body, and have been proven effective in restoring balance and calm. The class will follow the Yang style short form that was introduced to the West by the renowned Cheng Man Ch'ing.

Mondays, 6 – 6:45 p.m. (on-going)

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Free

Girls on the Rise

Ages 10 – 14

Adolescence is a difficult time in a girl's life. This self-esteem program encourages girls to develop self-respect and healthy lifestyles, learn to navigate through peer problems, explore healthy relationship development, family challenges, appearances, cyber bullying, and school challenges, exploring their physical, emotional, mental and social development.

Thursdays, 7 – 8 p.m. (on-going)

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Free with membership card

Pilates

Ages 16 and older

An invigorating workout that teaches a series of controlled movements utilizing the body's "core"—abdomen, back and hips. Pilates improves core control, coordination, standing alignment and balance with mat exercises, and is designed to create long, lean muscles while enhancing strength, flexibility, balance and posture. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Students are required to bring their own mat and hand weights.

Wednesdays 6 – 7 p.m., April 11 - May 16

TP Recreation Center

$60

Double Dutch

Ages 6 –14

Learn the art of Double Dutch through a fun and aerobic endurance workout that includes single rope jumping, double dutch turning and jumping, stretching, toning, jogging and calisthenics. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Tuesdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m. (on-going)

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Free with membership card

Y.E.S. LEAGUE – Summer Basketball

Divisions: Middle School, High School, Young Adult (age 18 or older)

Last summer the Takoma Park "Youth Exposed to Success" summer basketball league was a huge success, serving more than 100 teens in the community. This year the program is expanding with the Young Adult Division. The Y.E.S. League provides a positive venue for youth to express themselves through the game of basketball. Teams will be guaranteed six games and each participant will receive a Y.E.S. League t-shirt. Space is limited – so register today!

Middle School Division, Grades 5 – 8

Mondays and Tuesdays, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., July 9 – Aug. 21

Piney Branch Elementary School Gym

TP residents $30

Non-residents $40

High School Division, Grades 9 - 12

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. , July 11 – Aug. 22

Outdoor basketball courts, Takoma-Piney Branch Neighborhood Park

TP residents $5

Non-residents $15

Young Adult Division, ages 18 years and up

Thursdays, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. , July 12 – Aug. 23

Outdoor basketball courts, Takoma-Piney Branch Neighborhood Park

TP residents $5

Non-residents $15

TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS Go to http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/index.html
For more information by phone, call 301-891-7290

SILVER FOXES

Balance Workshop for Seniors

55 and older

A Matter of Balance: Managing Concerns About Falls is an eight-week program designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. Registration is required. Registration form due by May 7. Limit 16 students. For more information about this program, call 301-891-7280.

Wednesdays, May 9 - June 27, 1 – 3 p.m.

TP Community Center Senior Room

Free

Miniature Golf

55 and older

Get in the swing! Join us for an entertaining round of miniature golf at Rocky Gorge Golf Fairway in Laurel, Md. Bring a picnic lunch. Maximum of 10 participants. Registration is required. For more information, call 301-891-7280.

Tuesday, May 22, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

TP Community Center

$5

Delaplaine Visual Arts Center

Frederick, Md.

55 and older

See a variety of sculptures and paintings by regional artists at the historic, 100-year old Mountain City Mill on the banks of Carroll Creek in downtown Frederick. Bring spending money for lunch at a local restaurant. Meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Bus pick up at Franklin Apartments, Mapleview Apartments, and Victory Tower only. Registration is required, beginning May 2, due May 7. Call 301-891-7280 to register.

Tuesday, May 8, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Free

Senior Celebration

Cambridge, Md.

55 and older

Health screenings, live entertainment, vendors, door prizes, white elephant sale and food, including Eastern Shore crab cakes, all on the banks of the beautiful Choptank River, at the Governor's Hall in Sailwinds Park.Bring your lunch or spending money to purchase lunch. Meet at the Community Center. Bus pick up at Franklin Apartments, Mapleview Apartments, and Victory Tower only. Registration is required, beginning May 2, due May 11. Call 301-891-7280 to register.

Thursday, May 17, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Free

TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER (TP COMMUNITY CENTER)

7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park

Open 8:30 a.m. – 9 :30 p.m.
Monday – Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 10 p.m. Friday

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday

TAKOMA PARK RECREATION CENTER (TP RECREATION CENTER)

7315 New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park

Open Monday – Friday 2:30 – 9 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Catching it all on film

At last year's Video Producer Camp, participants learned by doing: here, they interview Phillo John, as counselor Rita Moreno looks on in the background. Campers are Christopher Isaac, Parker Cookson and Nico Kemp.

Photo by Eric Rasch

Thunderbolts warm up for new baseball season, camps

The Silver Spring-Takoma Thunderbolts, whose games have become a summer ritual for many Takoma Park families, are again gearing up for a season near our town. The Cal Ripken Collegiate Baseball League team is one of ten in the wooden bat league, and includes top college players recruited to the league. Many Takoma Park families host players from outside the area in their homes; if you are interested in hosting a player, call 301-270-0794. Games are open to the community (with admission fee) and begin June 7. For a schedule, see www.tbolts.org.

The team also runs summer baseball camps in June and July. Instruction is from Thunderbolts head coach Jason Walck, assisted by T-Bolts coaches and players. This is a camp for baseball players; kids have fun, and they learn the game of baseball. Emphasis is on fundamentals, baseball values and discipline, conditioning and healthy lifestyle choices. After camp in the evenings, campers can attend T-Bolts games where they can cheer on their coaches! We provide bats, balls and equipment. Campers bring their own gloves and lunch. Each camper gets a Junior T-Bolts T-Shirt. There are two camp choices:

Five week-long sessions for boys and girls ages 7-15, June 18-22: June 25-29; July 2-6 (no camp July 4); July 9-13; and July 16-20, from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. each day. Cost is $195/week except week of July 2 – 6, which is $165.

Three-day specialty camps for boys and girls ages 11-16, June 18-20; June 25-27; and July 2,3,5, from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. each day. Day 1 focuses on batting: hitting fundamentals and batting strategy; Day 2 focuses on pitching and catching; Day 3 offers an expanded session on pitching or catching (camper's choice). Camper/counselor ratio is 3:1. Cost is $250 per 3-day session.

The location is St. Bernadette School, 80 University Blvd. East in Silver Spring, right across the street from Blair High School. We have access to an indoor facility, so camps are held rain or shine. Go to the T-Bolts website, www.tbolts.org, for sibling and multi-year discount information, refund policy, and application forms, or call 301-270-0794.

This is not a Takoma Park Recreation Department program.

Takoma Sports Camps begin planning for summer

Since 1997 Takoma SportsCamps have been providing a full-day sports camp that immerses campers in one sport per week. There's lots of practice, lots of playing time, and lots of fun so kids have a great time and raise their skills considerably.

The camps grew out of the Babe Ruth Baseball program, and carry on the tradition of a "rec" camp: any kid who likes to play is welcome, regardless of skill level.

Campers improve skills, learn the rules of the game and most importantly, have fun! Professional coaches and college and high school athletes will help develop player skills in the mornings and each player will participate in a weeklong tournament in the afternoons.

Baseball sessions begin June 18, basketball July 2 and softball July 16. For more specific information or to download a registration form, see www.takomasportscamps.org or call 301-588-3724.

This is not a Takoma Park Recreation Department program.

LIBRARY

The Friends of the Takoma Park, Maryland Library give generously of their time and resources. Many of the programs listed on these pages are made possible through their efforts, including Spanish Circle Time, Comics Jam, reading groups, crafts event and more.

For more information about supporting the Friends, see http://www.ftpml.org.

CALENDAR

Circle Time

Every Tuesday

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

Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday

10: 30 a.m. with Señora Geiza

Comics Jam

Tuesday, May 1, 4 p.m.

Read comics on the big screen with our graphic novel guru, David Burbank.

No registration

Bedtime Stories

Monday, May 7, 7 p.m.

Come in p.j.s, bring your teddy bear or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs and rhymes in this half-hour program.

Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups

Banned Books Club

Monday, May 14, 7:30 p.m.

We will discuss racist stereotypes in some of the "Tintin" books by Herge

For kids in middle and high school

Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 15, 7:45 p.m.

In the Library

Friends Reading Group

Wednesday, May 16, 7:30 p.m.

Concluding discussion of Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables"

Lilac Room; all invited

Friends of the Library Book Sale

Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

On the Library grounds.

French Circle Time

Saturday, May 19, 10:30 a.m.

Sing songs and rhymes in French with Madame Marie.

WINNING A NEWBERY

Children's author Jack Gantos describes the thrill

By Karen MacPherson

Jack Gantos kept his hopes for winning a Newbery Medal—given annually by the American Library Association to the best-written children's book—in "lockdown mode" as 2012 began. Gantos, 60, had come close to winning the gold Newbery Medal in 2001 for "Joey Pigza Loses Control." But the book was instead awarded a silver Newbery Honor -- still quite a coup, given the thousands of children's books published each year.

So, while Gantos' latest novel, "Dead End in Norvelt" was included in many lists of favorites to win the 2012 Newbery Medal, Gantos himself tried to push the thought to the back of his mind. Then, two weeks before the Newbery Medal winners were announced, "Dead End in Novelt" won the Scott O'Dell Award for historical fiction, and Gantos thought, "OK, maybe it's really on people's minds."

Still, Gantos had decided just to carry on with his day as usual on Monday, Jan. 23, when the awards were announced. Then the phone rang and Gantos thought: "If this is my mother….!"

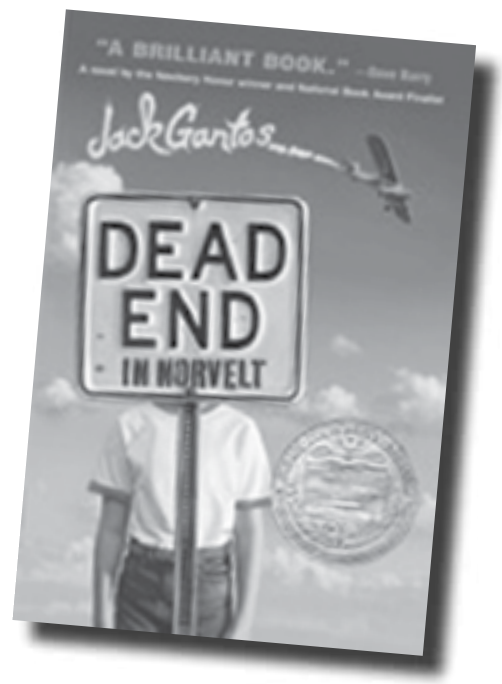
"And there was the whole Newbery committee, like they were inside the phone, and they were screaming, and I was still trying to figure out if I had won the silver or the gold," Gantos recalled in a recent telephone interview from his Boston home.

This time Gantos had finally won the Newbery Medal.

"The award is even bigger than I realized," Gantos added, noting that he had received dozens of phone calls and hundreds of emails since he won.

The author of more than 40 books, Gantos already is a familiar figure in the world of children's literature, known for his picture books about a cat named "Rotten Ralph," the "Joey Pigza" novels for kids ages 8-12, and for "A Hole in My Life," his award-winning, gripping memoir for teens about spending time in prison for drug-running.

But the Newbery Medal carries a special prestige, and most public and school libraries purchase a copy of the winning book each year. The financial power of the award is undeniable: "Dead End in Norvelt" rose from 27,051 in sales rank on Amazon.com when the award was announced on Jan. 23, to number 18 at the end of day.



The book was a labor of love for Gantos, who masterfully combines fiction, autobiography, history and a bit of gore in a novel starring an 11-year-old boy named Jack Gantos. Despite the name of the main character, the book is a novel – not an autobiography.

Set in the 1962, this first-person novel shows what happens when Jack is grounded for the summer for following his father's instructions and mowing down his mother's cornfield.

Forced to stay at home, Jack spends much of his time reading his way through a series of historical fiction books focused on famous Americans. He gets a break, however, when his parents agree to let him out of the house to help an elderly and arthritic neighbor, Miss Volker, type up obituaries when town residents die.

Miss Volker is one of the original residents of Norvelt, a Pennsylvania town founded by Eleanor Roosevelt as an example of how a community could thrive with enough land for residents to do subsistence farming. She is a staunch proponent of the importance of history, and does everything she can to bring it alive for Jack—and the reader—as she attaches a write-up of "this day in history" for each obituary she sends to the local newspaper.

Meanwhile, Norvelt is slowly dying. While Jack's mother strongly believes in the "helping hands" values on which Norvelt was built and refuses to consider moving, Jack's father, a war veteran, is ready to head to Florida for a chance at a better life.

Caught between his parents' vastly different temperaments and dreams, Jack ends up having a hugely eventful summer, working with his father to rebuild an old plane, helping Miss Volker, dealing with his copious nosebleeds (which begin at the first sign of stress), and trying to figure what—or who—is responsible for the alarming increase in the deaths of Norvelt's residents.

Gantos notes that much of the book is real. Norvelt exists, and he lived there for a while with his family (unlike the Jack in the book, Gantos has siblings). The conflict between his parents is real, and there really was a person just like Miss Volker (although Gantos changed her name).

GANTOS ☐ Page 13

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Banned books

The Library's award-winning Banned Books Club will meet on May 14 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss racist stereotypes in the "Tintin" books by Herge. The club is open to kids in middle and high school. For this discussion, we also will welcome members of our Junior Banned Books Club, for kids in grades 3-5, as we discuss the larger question of whether censorship is ever appropriate. Registration is required for this program. You can register online (depending on child's age, look for either the Banned Books Club or Jr. Banned Books Club program registration) or call us at 301-891-7259.

Children's Book Week

Join the celebration of Children's Book Week, May 7-13, by coming to the Library that week and filling out one of our cards, telling us what is a favorite or important book from your childhood, and why. We'll compile the cards and post a list on the Library's Children's Room Blog as inspiration for other readers. Kids and adults are welcome to take part in our celebration of favorite children's books.

Book Sale returns in May

The Friends of the Library will hold their semi-annual book sale on Saturday, May 19, on the Library grounds from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

These sales provide a rare opportunity to find terrific bargains to give as gifts or to add to your own library. We will have fiction and non-fiction for all ages in superb condition at low prices.

The Friends book sales are one of the most important sources of revenue for the Friends, and all proceeds go to the Library in the form of gifts. The Friends have funded a variety of public programs, including Spanish and French Circle Time, our unique summer reading program for children, lanyards for kids' library cards, new e-resources for adults and children, and many research tools, now available on-line.

We always need volunteers to help out at the sale, in two-hour shifts between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Service learning hours are available for high school students – and adult volunteers have an opportunity to spend a pleasant afternoon meeting their neighbors, as well as helping their community Library.

For information on volunteering at the book sale, contact Ellen Robbins at ellenr@takomagov.org or at 301-891-7258.

Book donations will be accepted through May 15. Donated books must be of general interest, in good condition, and must be brought by appointment if there are more than three boxes. Donated books cannot be accepted at the sale.

GANTOS

■ From page 12

Perhaps most interesting to young readers, the epic nosebleeds Jack experiences in the novel are real. "I was a bleeder," Gantos said. "Every now and then, I still have a geyser coming out of my nose."

When it came to writing the book, Gantos said, "that wonderful foundation of non-fiction was right there. It was unique and interesting…. But now you have to build up a plot to make that thing work… If I had just restricted it to autobiography, it would have been just a nice little memoir."

By naming his main character after himself, Gantos said he ended up "holding a mirror to a different but twin version of myself…. Novelistically, it creates a whole dimension about what is real…. It shows you can be as large as your imagination."

Most importantly, Gantos wants his readers to understand the importance of history, while still creating a book that will make kids laugh.

"There's nothing wrong with mixing humor and history…. History shouldn't be taxidermied."

Now that he's won the Newbery Medal, Gantos still plans to keep up his schedule of speaking at conferences, libraries and schools. He also hopes to keep working on his next book.

Still, Gantos is firm about his overall goal for his Newbery year.

"If you can't win this and have fun, you don't deserve to win it!"

TO REGISTER FOR LIBRARY EVENTS
go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

LIBRARY CARD FEES:

TAKOMA PARK RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS Free

MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS $37 per year

NON-MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS $60 per year

Too much of a good thing

Warm weather brings a lot of green growth in Takoma Park – sometimes too much. Remember, City code requires that grass and weeds be kept below 12 inches, and vines, shrubbery, hedges and other vegetation must be maintained. Vegetation may not obscure or obstruct the street or public sidewalk, and must be kept at least eight feet above any sidewalk or street.

— Code Enforcement Staff

Road closes for 5K race May 6

On Sunday, May 6, the Takoma Park Safe Routes to School Program, in partnership with five area schools, will hold the Takoma Park 5K Challenge, Fun Run and Youth Run. The race course includes Maple Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway.

From 7:50 a.m. until 10:15 a.m., Maple Avenue between Philadelphia Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway will be closed to traffic in order to conduct the race. Sligo Creek Parkway will close one hour early, at 8 a.m. instead of the normal closing time of 9 a.m. Additionally, no parking will be allowed on Maple Avenue between Philadelphia Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway on the morning of the race.

For additional information regarding the Takoma Park 5K Challenge, visit www.TKPK5K.com.

TAKOMA PARK 5K CHALLENGE
SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

Sunday, May 6, 2012
8:00 a.m.
Takoma Park Community Center

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 Middle School

SafeRoutes

In Cassie Meador's dance, "Drift," dancers trace the various incarnations of a piece of land in Augusta, Georgia to a time when it was a Piggly Wiggly Supermarket.

Photo by George Hagegeorge

LONG WALK

■ From page 1

Inspiration

Meador was startled into action after learning that the power in her home came from mountaintop removal practices—the leveling of mountains to get at the coal needed for coal-burning electricity plants. "Learning that my power comes from a mountaintop-removal coal mine left me completely shocked," she says. "I realized that I was responsible for what was happening in those communities, [through] the choices I make every day."

Her first impulse was to get out of her chair and walk to the source of power. In the two years between that moment and the launching of her actual hike, she has refined that impulse. She wants to examine the habit of using products, power, water, and all the things most people take for granted in the course of daily living, and create more awareness around the origin of resources and the impact we have as we use them.

"This project is about power," says Meador. "The power that we each have in the decisions we make about what we use." Instead of writing or reading or recording video and sound on the issue, Meador's primary focus is to record the information and the concept of more mindful living in her body. By walking the entire distance between source and use of power, she uses movement to experience it, to understand the importance of environmental responsibility in her bones.

And during the Field Guide workshops and story-gathering, she will extend that experience to others. "I want to connect people back to the vital role of making art as a way to navigate our surroundings, to cultivate our senses," says Meador. "Each moment of making offers us an acute sensitivity to our surroundings, altering the way we see and care for the places where we live."

An early version of "To Move a Mountain" on stage in April

Photo by Zachary Z. Handler

History

Meador is no stranger to environmental themes. She worked on the dance, "An Act of Stitch and Stone," a 2008 project that brought 30 seniors and farmers together outside of Dublin, where their land is being swallowed up by urban sprawl. The inclusion of non-dancing contributors of all ages is a signature element at the Dance Exchange.

Meador's first big project for the company was a piece she choreographed called, "Drift." Commissioned by the Kennedy Center, it explores the metamorphosis of a plot of land in her home town, Augusta, Ga., from farmland to strip mall, to supermarket to house of worship. After connecting with farmers in the course of her research for the piece, she says she was ready to leave dance and go back to school for a degree in environmental science.

Instead, she was offered an opportunity to co-teach a tropical ecology class in Guyana, South America. She used dance performance to bring issues of global climate change to university students there, and in the process she lived in the rainforest. She learned how little she needed to be comfortable. "If I needed water, it came from the river or the sky, if I needed light, it came from the sun," she recalls, in an article for *Sierra* magazine. "There's something about seeing and putting your hands on these resources; I was able to understand more clearly the relationship between what I use and what nature provides."

That was in stark contrast to her lifestyle at home, and the trip helped inspire the 500 miles project.

The journey

Meador had to "rehearse" for her hike, and conditioned herself by walking around the region before launching her project. She is hiking with one companion, Matt Mahaney, a long-distance hiker, videographer and adjunct artist of the Dance Exchange, and the two will camp along the trail. Meador says she is looking forward to a stripped down existence: she will carry a small backpack and, for two months, experience limited access to fresh produce, electricity, running water and heated accommodations.

The trip has already included a send-off breakfast on the loading dock of the Dance Exchange, on Maple Avenue; a performance that evening at the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage; a Moving Field Guide in Rock Creek Park and two others, with Girl Scouts, in Glen Echo Park and Harper's Ferry; and the tour of the Dickerson Power Plant. Story collection workshops and more Moving Field Guide workshops are planned for Charlottesville, Lynchburg, Bedford and Blacksburg, Va.

A pre-kickoff taste of the dance in progress was well-received at the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland, the week before she left. A few elements of the interactive map are already shaping the project, including one from Zeke Leonard, a man who built a banjo for $20, sourcing each item he used from within 10 miles of his home. The song he plays: "500 Miles."

To follow Meador's journey, go to www.500miles500stories.com.

New music building opens at Adventist University

A new music center was officially opened last month on the Washington Adventist University campus.

The Leroy and Lois Peters Music Centre, completed in December and named for its major private donors, is the university's first new building in 40 years. It will elevate the school's music program with more teaching space, smart classrooms, recital rooms and teaching studios, multiple practice rooms and cutting edge technology such as sound-restricting walls and a rehearsal hall with adjustable acoustics. The $6.26 million building, which is gold-level LEED-certified (indicating multiple elements of environmental sustainability), replaces the former music facility, a converted house with no sound proofing, poor heating and air conditioning and much less room.

"The Music Center is an outstanding addition to our world renowned music program," said Weymouth Spence, president of WAU, in a press release. "We are grateful for the support from the state of Maryland, Leroy and Lois Peters, and all our donors and supporters who helped to make this building a reality."

The building serves a dynamic program that includes bachelor's degrees in music, music performance and music education. Student musicians travel the globe, performing music in Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and all over the United States. Among their performing ensembles are the New England Youth Ensemble of Washington Adventist University, The Washington Concert Winds, PRO MUSICA, Columbia Collegiate Chorale and Carnegie Scholars.

Spence says the facility will also be available for community members to attend concerts and for community and university musicians to perform together.

The Leroy and Lois Peters Music Centre

MAY '12

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 non-profit 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 June 2012 issue is May 21; it will print June 1.

To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomagov.org.

"TP Community Center" is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC MEETINGS / OF NOTE

City Council Meetings
Thursday, May 3, 7:30 p.m.
Mondays, May 7, 14, 21, 29, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
For agendas, see www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas

Takoma Park emergency food pantry
First Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families
240-450-2092 or educare_ss@yahoo.com
www.educaresupportservices.org

City Council Ward 5 Night
Monday, May 7, 7 p.m. before City Council meeting
TP Community Center lobby
Informal gathering of Ward 5 residents and City Councilmembers

COMMUNITY EVENTS

39th Annual House and Garden Tour
Sunday, May 6, 1 – 5 p.m.
Begins at Upper Portal Park, Piney Branch Road and Takoma Avenue.
Visits to 12 homes in North Takoma
Proceeds support Historic Takoma
$18 in advance, $20 day of tour
240-393-6060 or www.historictakoma.org.

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Open Mic Sundays
With Rob Hinkel
Sundays, 6 – 9 p.m.; sign-ups, 5:30 p.m.
Capital City Cheesecake, 7071 Carroll Ave.
Free
www.mainstreettakoma.org/event/446

Jazz Jam
Open mic for jazz musicians
Wednesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.
Takoma Station, 6914 14th St. N.W.

H@ndymen Exhibit
Through May 10
TP Community Center Atrium Gallery
Paintings by Harry Stone with a work, art, and cultural theme
Free
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Feather Fancy Exhibit
Through May 31
TP Community Center Gallery 3
Unique, delicate feather art by Russian artist Galina Kolosovskaya
Free
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Petal and Leaf Exhibit
Through May 31
TP Community Center Dempsey Memorial Gallery
Exquisite nature photography of Coriolana Simon and Douglas Wolters
Free
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

IMT - IlyAIMY Falcon Ridge Preview Tour
Friday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
2012 Falcon Ridge Folk Festival winners ilyAIMY, Pesky J. Nixon, Lousie Mosrie, and Blair Bodine
$15 advance / $18 door.
http://imtfolk.org/

We are Takoma – LaRondinella: Sephardic Songs
Saturday, May 5, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
Traditional music of the Spanish Jews, the Sephardim
Suggested donation $15/$10 students, seniors
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

IMT – Molasses Creek
Wednesday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
From Ocracoke Island, a melting pot of musical traditions
$15 advance / $18 door
http://imtfolk.org/

Azalea City Farewell – Opening Reception
Friday, May 11, 6 – 8 p.m.
TP Community Center Atrium Gallery
Featuring the work of Visual Arts Center students from Takoma Park
Free
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Washington Musica Viva - Two World Premieres
Friday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
"Takoma Park is the Place to Be," by Charlie Gerard and more
$15 door / children under 12 free with adult
http://dcmusicaviva.org

Blue Moon Cowgirls with the Harley String Band
Friday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.
Carroll Café, 276 Carroll St NW
Country music with a blend of front-porch directness and neon-lit sophistication
$15 door
http://carrollcafe.org

Third Thursday – Open Poetry Reading
Thursday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
Featured Poet – YOU!
Free
https://www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Friends of the Library Book Sale
Saturday, May 19, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
A broad selection of used books to benefit Library programs

IMT – Leela and Ellie Grace
Saturday, May 19, 8 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
The close harmonies, and old-time instrumentals of the Grace Sisters
$15 advance / $18 door
http://imtfolk.org/

IMT – Pierre Bensusan
Wednesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
One of the most unique and brilliant acoustic guitar veterans in the world music scene today
$20 advance / $25 door
http://imtfolk.org/

IMT – The Teetotallers
Wednesday, May 30, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
Irish traditional music with Martin Hayes, Kevin Crawford and John Doyle
$20 advance / $25 door
http://imtfolk.org/

RECREATION

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School 5K Challenge
Sunday, May 6, 8 a.m
TP Community Center

Bike to School Day
Wednesday, May 9

Bike-In Movie
Friday, May 11, 8 p.m.
Bike to Lee Jordan Field for entertainment under the stars
Free

Bike To Work Day
Friday, May 11
Includes pit stops in Old Takoma, New Ave and Takoma/Langley Crossroads
www.biketoworkmetrodc.org

Ride for Your Life biking workshops
Tuesday, May 15, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Bike safety, maintenance, and general information
With Takoma Bicycle and the TP Rec Department
Free

FAMILIES AND KIDS

Children's Book Week
May 7 – 13
Takoma Park Library
Come to the Library and write down your favorite children's book
Selections will be shared on the web site

Takoma Attachment Parenting
Saturday, May 12
Meeting, 4:30 – 6:30 p.m., potluck 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave.
Raising Children with the 4 C's (Connection, Capability, the knowledge that they Count, and Courage)
Free, children always welcome
www.takoma-ap.org

SENIORS

Delaplaine Visual Arts Center
Tuesday, May 8, 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Frederick, Md.
Art center in historic building
See page 11 for more information

Senior Celebration
Thursday, May 17, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Trip to a Cambridge, Md. fair including health screenings, live entertainment in Cambridge, Md.
See page 11 for more information

Miniature Golf
Tuesday, May 22, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
TP Community Center
Trip to Rocky Gorge Golf Fairway in Laurel, Md.
See page 11 for more information

Seniors topics: transportation
May 24, 9:30 a.m.
TP Community Center Azalea Room
A meeting for seniors and those who care for them, to discuss aging at home
301-891-7290

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
PLANT A TREE

Discount Trees Available to Beautify Yards, Replace the Canopy

The season is right to plant trees, and in Takoma Park that means residents can help replenish the aging tree canopy in the City. As last year, there is an added incentive of the City paying $100 towards the cost of the first tree purchased (unless it is a replacement tree required as part of a Tree Removal permit). Residents can add a tree to their yards for just $95 plus 6 percent sales tax, a total of $100.70. Add a second tree and the bill is still only $307.40, planted and guaranteed for one year.

Established discounts still apply as well, through the City's annual bulk buy tree sale. As a purchasing agent with Arbor Landscapers, the City is making five species available at wholesale prices. Red oak, white oak, sycamore, black gum and Princeton elm—all native shade trees that usually retail for about $350—are available to residents at $195, installed.

Sale dates run through May 11.

ORDER FORM

Please include check, including tax, written to the City of Takoma Park and be sure to draw a map of the property and locations for installation (see order form). Submit to Todd Bolton, Takoma Park Department of Public Works, 31 Oswego Ave., Silver Spring, Md., 20910 by close of business May 11.

Someone will be in touch regarding installation dates.

Name _____

Address_____

Phone _____

Please include a map of property/tree installation locations.

___ Red Oak (2") $195 ___ White Oak(2") $195 ___ Sycamore (2") $195
___ Black Gum (2") $195 ___ Princeton elm (2") $195

+ 6% sales tax

Total _____

CITY IMAGES

GROWING COMMUNITY

The Takoma Park Farmer's Market opened the spring season with a chalk for peace event, a bit of dress-up fun, and plenty of produce, and other locally grown and produced goods for sale. The weekly market, along Laurel Street between Eastern and Carroll Avenues, is a popular gathering spot for community, every Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Above, Carson Cooley chalks for peace; left, from left, Wilder Childs and Parker Milliken.

photos by Selena Malott

SWEEPING THE CREEK

Despite a cold rain, volunteers came to clean up Sligo Creek during the Friends of Sligo Creek Sweep the Creek event April 22 -- just in time for Earth Day. Clockwise, from top left, floating debris; Sarah Marcus with a found soccer ball; a cleared trail; FOSC's sign; and Louis and Ella Comfort-Cohen.

Photos by Selena Mallott