November 2012

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 51, No. 11 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

WHAT'S NEW?

Vote Nov. 6
See article, this page

Gifts Galore
Page 11

No yard waste pickup
Nov. 12, Veterans Day

No trash pickup and recycling
Nov. 22-23, Thanksgiving

Students from Don Bosco Cristo Rey are required to work in corporate jobs as part of their education, and to help pay tuition. The school recently won an international award for its innovative program.

Photo courtesy Don Bosco Cristo Rey

Local school wins international honor for work study program

By Rick Henry

As one of the 25 college preparatory schools that make up the Cristo Rey Network, Takoma Park's Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School is now internationally recognized as an innovative and transformative education leader.

The World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE), a global collaborative initiative dedicated to building the future of education through innovation, named the Cristo Rey Network's Work Study Program one of its six WISE award winners for 2012.

Inaugurated in 2009, the WISE Awards identify, showcase and promote innovative educational projects from around the world. To date more than 1,600 applications from 128 countries have been received. Only 24 have been named winning projects. This year's winners, in

WISE AWARD ☐ Page 9

Takoma Park gets ready for Nov. 6 election

Whether it's through yard signs sprouting across town, fundraisers in local backyards, campaigners handing out literature at the metro station or small friends gatherings to watch the televised presidential debates, it's clear that election season is a busy time in Takoma Park. Traditionally an activist community, many residents here are immersed in politics and campaigning for various candidates and causes.

By the time this newsletter is published, most of the informational sessions and forums will have concluded, but the most important election season activity is still to come: voting on election day, Nov. 6.

Polls will be open on Nov. 6 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

To find your polling place, go to www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/PollingPlaces/ or https://voterservices.elections.state.md.us/PollingPlaceSearch.

To learn more about the issues and the candidates, you can leaf through local newspapers and web sites or go straight to the Montgomery County League of Women Voters website, a non-partisan resource: http://lwvmd.org/ to view or print an election guide. In addition to electing the president of the United States and the Maryland senator, voters will select county judges and members of the Montgomery County Board of Education, and weigh in on issues including whether undocumented immigrants should be charged in-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities; how Congressional district boundaries should be drawn; whether civil marriage should be legal for gay and lesbian couples; and whether commercial gaming should expand.

For more information about any aspect of the election, contact the Montgomery County Board of Elections at 240-777-8500 or go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Elections/index2.html.

Council considers residency rules, hiring changes

By Virginia Myers

The Takoma Park City Council is considering controversial changes to the City charter that would increase Council's involvement in hiring department directors, and address a City residency requirement for the City Manager.

In the current arrangement, the City Council hires the City Manager, who is not required to live within the City. The City Manager then makes all personnel decisions.

After much discussion and a lively public hearing Oct. 22, Council voted 6 -0 with one abstention (Seth Grimes, Ward 1) to change the City charter to allow, by ordinance, a requirement or preference for City residency for the City Manager. Members also voted to require City Council input and review at the beginning, middle and end of the hiring process for executive City employees; an earlier proposal of "advice and consent" would have required not only "advice," but "consent," in the form of confirmation of such hires by the City Council.

Discussion will continue at the second reading of the Charter amendment on Nov. 5, with a final vote scheduled that evening. An implementing ordinance is to be considered at the meetings of Nov. 5 and 13.

Opposition to the changes has been significant: 12 residents testified against them at the public hearing, and nine testified in favor. Council members and the mayor, who have been deeply divided among themselves on the issue since it was first introduced in July, said they had heard from many of their constituents on the matter, through email and list serves. Additional commentary was filed by approximately 85 individuals, according to City Clerk Jessie Carpenter, with around 10 percent favoring both changes.

The vast majority of comments were opposed to the changes. A number of these were somewhat nuanced in their comments, favoring points or preference for residency, but not a residency requirement.

Several former City officials have stepped forward to weigh in on the matter, including former mayors Kathy Porter and Ed Sharp, and former coun-

CHARTER CHANGES ☐ Page 7

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

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Inside:

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FILM AND POETRY *Page 5*

BOOMERS PLAY *Page 10*

DOCKET

TAKOMA TOPICS:

"Article in the @washingtonpost about Takoma Park based NGO Handicap International RE their work in Haiti: http://wapo.st/Ra7f3e"

—on www.facebook.com/#!/TakomaParkMD

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS*

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

Monday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, Nov. 27, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Nov. 8, 8:30 a.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

NUCLEAR FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Azalea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Nov. 8, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL LAND USE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

*All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. Additional meetings may be scheduled after the Takoma Park Newsletter deadline. 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 Acting City Manager at 301-891-7229 or suzannel@takomagov.org at least 48 hours in advance.

CityCouncilAction

All actions take place in scheduled legislative meetings of the City Council. Only negative votes and abstentions/recusals are noted. Adopted legislation is available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at clerk@takomagov.org.

RESOLUTION 2012-53

Adopted (Sept. 18)

Endorsing the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Concept Design and authorizing solicitation of project funds

Endorses concept design Alternative 3 for the project advances the concept to final design and engineering, and authorizes the City manager to proceed with the identification and solicitation of construction funding for the project.

RESOLUTION 2012-54

Adopted (Sept. 18)

Approving the City's FY 2013 Program Open Space Annual Program

Approves the FY 2013 POS Annual Program to include the Lee Jordan Field sprinkler replacement project, the Colby Park renovation project and the Sligo Mill Overlook Tot Lot project for submission to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

RESOLUTION 2012-55

Adopted (Oct. 15)

Endorsing Community Development Block Grant Projects

Authorizes forwarding the following approved projects to the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs for further review for consideration for funding in FY 2014: Critical Needs Home Repair ($97,750); Community Life ($4,100); Microenterprise Development ($8,150); Smart Choices with Emotions ($5,000).

RESOLUTION 2012-56

Adopted (Oct. 15)

Adopting the New Ave Streetscape Standards

Adopts the New Ave Streetscape Standards to guide streetscape improvements along New Hampshire Avenue from Eastern Avenue to University Boulevard, and may be applied to other areas of the City as deemed appropriate.

RESOLUTION 2012-57

Adopted (Oct. 15)

Providing for Reappointments to the Tree Commission

Reappoints Melanie Fosnaught (Ward 6) and Carol Hotton (Ward 3) to the Tree Commission with terms expiring on Sept. 30, 2015.

RESOLUTION 2012-58

Adopted (Oct. 15)

Providing for an Appointment to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

Appoints Careese N. Gonzalez (Ward 4) to COLTA with a term expiring on June 30, 2015.

ORDINANCE 2012-45

Adopted (First Reading Sept. 18; Second Reading Sept. 24)

Authorizing the City to enter into an agreement with Essex House Limited Partnership, an affiliate of Community Preservation Development Corporation, for a payment in lieu of taxes for 7777 Maple Ave., The Essex House Apartments

Approves a four-year PILOT agreement for the property at 7777 Maple Ave. with a 50 percent abatement of real property taxes paid to the City for the first three years and a 25 percent abatement for the fourth year.

ORDINANCE 2012-46

Adopted (Sept. 18)

Correcting Ordinance 2012-43 which authorized execution of a contract for demolition of 36 Philadelphia Ave.

Corrects the contract cost for the demolition of 36 Philadelphia Ave. (from $21,095 to $21,905).

ORDINANCE 2012-47

Adopted (Sept. 18)

Awarding a contract for stormwater facility repair and maintenance, streambed stabilization, construction of bio-retention basins, and invasive plant management and removal

Awards a contract to Environmental Quality Resources, LLC for the listed services.

ORDINANCE 2012-48

Adopted (Oct. 15)

Authorizing purchase and installation of equipment for four police vehicles

Authorizes an agreement with Priority Install LLC for the purchase and installation of emergency lights, sirens, computer docks and related equipment for four police vehicles at a total cost of $43,733.

ORDINANCE 2012-49

Adopted (Oct. 15)

Authorizing the purchase of mobile computers for the Police Department

Authorizes an agreement with Advanced Computer Concepts for the purchase and delivery of 10 Panasonic Toughbook 31 mobile computers at a total cost of $27,578.

ORDINANCE 2012-50

Adopted (Oct. 15)

Authorizing execution of a contract with Howard Connelly for the Long Branch Gateway Public Art Project

Authorizes the City Manager to enter into a contract with Howard Connelly for an amount not to exceed $15,000 for the fabrication and installation of the public art project "Azalea."

NOTICE TO COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WHO PLAN TO REQUEST FUNDING FROM THE CITY OF TAKOMA PARK FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

Application Deadline: Jan. 22, 2013

The City Council has adopted a formalized process for review of requests for funding in amounts over $2,500. The process is intended to ensure that requests are reviewed by the Council prior to consideration of the budget for the next fiscal year. Funding decisions will not be made until the Council has discussed the budget and determined whether sufficient funds are available. If requests for funds are granted, funds will be available after July 1, 2013. Complete information and the application materials will be available Nov. 23 at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk.

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Mayor Williams welcomes comments and suggestions. Community members 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)
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.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

Arts and Humanities Commission (vacancies)

Board of Elections (1 vacancy)

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (1 vacancy – Takoma Park rental housing owner or manager desired)

Committee on the Environment – newly reestablished (vacancies)

Emergency Preparedness Committee (vacancies)

Ethics Commission (vacancies)

Facade Advisory Board (1 vacancy – for an architect, planner, or historian)

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)

Recognition Task Force – short term commitment (vacancies)

Recreation Committee (1 vacancy)

Safe Roadways Committee – newly reestablished (vacancies)

Tree Commission (1 vacancy)

Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee (vacancies)

Contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org to apply or for additional information.

LAYC/MMYC's Director Luisa Montero and Langley Park AmeriCorps coordinator Sandra Martinez led more than 150 young people in a Clean Up Green Up event in Langley Park last month. The event is one example of how the organization is engaging Latino youth.

Photo courtesy MMYC

Reducing risk for Takoma/Langley youth

Collaboration targets substance abuse, violence and sex risk among young immigrants

By Kevin Adler

Youth advocates have long been troubled by the threats to young immigrants in the Latino community, and Takoma/Langley community is no exception. Faced with an array of challenges, including divided families, difficulty at school and pressure to join violent gangs, teens and young 20-somethings struggle to stay out of trouble and on any sort of track to becoming healthy adults in healthy, thriving communities.

How to help?

That's the question posed by a new, research-based program designed to address the challenges in the "at-risk" Latino youth community in Takoma/Langley. Whatever answers surface could make a big difference in the lives of local kids, their families and their neighbors.

Collaborative effort

Langley Park and the adjoining part of Takoma Park are the focal point of a $5 million, five-year collaboration between George Washington University and community public health leaders, designed to identify and test effective ways to reduce one category of disparity in the young Latino community: health. The project, called The Collaborative Center on Latino Immigrant/Refugee Health Disparities ("the Center"), specifically addresses substance abuse, youth violence and sex risk.

The Center is directed by Mark Edberg, Ph.D., a Takoma Park resident and associate professor at George Washington University's School of Public Health and Health Services, and it is funded by the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, an Institute within the National Institutes of Health.

One of the Center's main activities is to implement Adelante ("forward" in Spanish), a program that builds on the lessons learned from four years of experience with its predecessor, SAFER Latinos (SAFER is an acronym for Seguridad, Apoyo, Familia, Educacion, y Recursos: Safety, Support, Family, Education and Resources). With the new grant, the Center will expand Adelante, to incorporate a wider area geographic area than SAFER could reach.

> "Our goal is the prevention of three health conditions that seem to co-occur in youth: substance abuse, violence and sexual risk."

"Our goal is the prevention of three health conditions that seem to co-occur in youth: substance abuse, violence and sexual risk," says Edberg. "We're trying to evaluate a whole-community approach. It's a very ambitious program—[it's] not just [about] the school curricula or just support of families. It's multiple levels."

To address those problems, the program incorporates education and training services, designed to help individuals and increase community engagement. Academic research is being conducted across the scope of the program, in order to identify models for successful interventions.

"Through SAFER Latinos, we identified four key factors relevant to Latino immigrant communities that contribute to kids turning to the streets, involvement in health risks, or becoming members of gangs," says Edberg. "[These are] family cohesion issues, disengagement from school, difficulty in accessing community supports, and presence of gangs. Now we are adapting those findings to address a broader range of health disparities."

A key partner in the interventions is the Maryland Multicultural Youth Center (affiliated with the Latin American Youth Center in Washington, D.C.). "The ultimate goal is to see what impact we can make by giving this community extra attention, including interventions for a core group of youth who are at the highest risk," says Luisa Montero, executive director of the Maryland Multicultural Youth Center (MMYC) and a Takoma Park resident.

Addressing a need

The Center's mission is to serve young people who often have few options and little stability. School drop-out rates in this population are high: a 2009 survey shows only 46 percent of the Latino youth population here were enrolled in school. Adults are also suffering: a 2007 study shows Langley Park per-capita income at about half the state average, with 62 percent of survey respondents having lived in the area for less than three years.

Adelante represents an opportunity to scale up programs that already are in place, as well as add new resources, says Montero. She says that programs will likely begin by January or even sooner, if hiring decisions can be completed. Successful programs from SAFER Latinos will continue, including one that trains High Point High School students to be peer advocates who can help fellow students adapt to life in a new country and unfamiliar education system. MMYC's tutoring and GED courses, as well as drop-in programs at its center, will be expanded. And the new funding will pay for a MMYC substance abuse counselor and more case managers to work directly with targeted at-risk youth.

In addition to supporting intervention programs like these, students and professors from GW are conducting research to find out which work best, and why. It's a hands-on learning experience unlike anything students will pick up from class.

"For our students, there's no substitute for understanding the challenges than being in the community," says Sean Cleary, Ph.D., principal investigator for the research and intervention core of the program and a professor in GW's School of Public Health and Health Services. "It's a two-way street—the community members educate us about what they need, and we have services that we can provide. For example, the head of a rec center might want to put in place a substance abuse prevention program, and we can provide the curriculum and a speaker."

Grad students will help track progress

YOUTH AT RISK ☐ Page 7

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov.

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified or political advertisements. Reports by community groups, letters to the editor, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@takomagov.org or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled–content paper.

HOUSING

Check Your Rent

Landlords who are subject to the rent reporting requirement of the rent stabilization law must submit annual rent reports to the Department of Housing and Community Development which show what rent increases have been taken during the previous year. Rent reports are considered public documents.

If you would like to check if the rent you are paying is a legal rent, you can contact Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216 or jeank@takomagov.org. If a landlord is charging an amount that is higher than the legal rent for your unit, the city will take steps to require the landlord to roll back the rent and reimburse you for all money paid in excess of the legal rent.

There are some properties in Takoma Park that are exempt from the annual reporting requirement and the annual percentage increase (rent stabilization allowance). These would include single family houses and accessory apartments.

Properties owned by housing non-profit organizations that have agreements with the state or county to keep the rents affordable for low-moderate income tenants are exempt from the rent stabilization allowance provision, but are still required to submit an annual reporting to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Pilot offers larger recycling containers

The Public Works Department has purchased 100, 32-gallon recycling containers for use by City residents. The containers, with two wheels and an attached lid, are similar to the large wheeled carts that Montgomery County provides to residents in the unincorporated sections of the County for the storage and set out of recyclables.

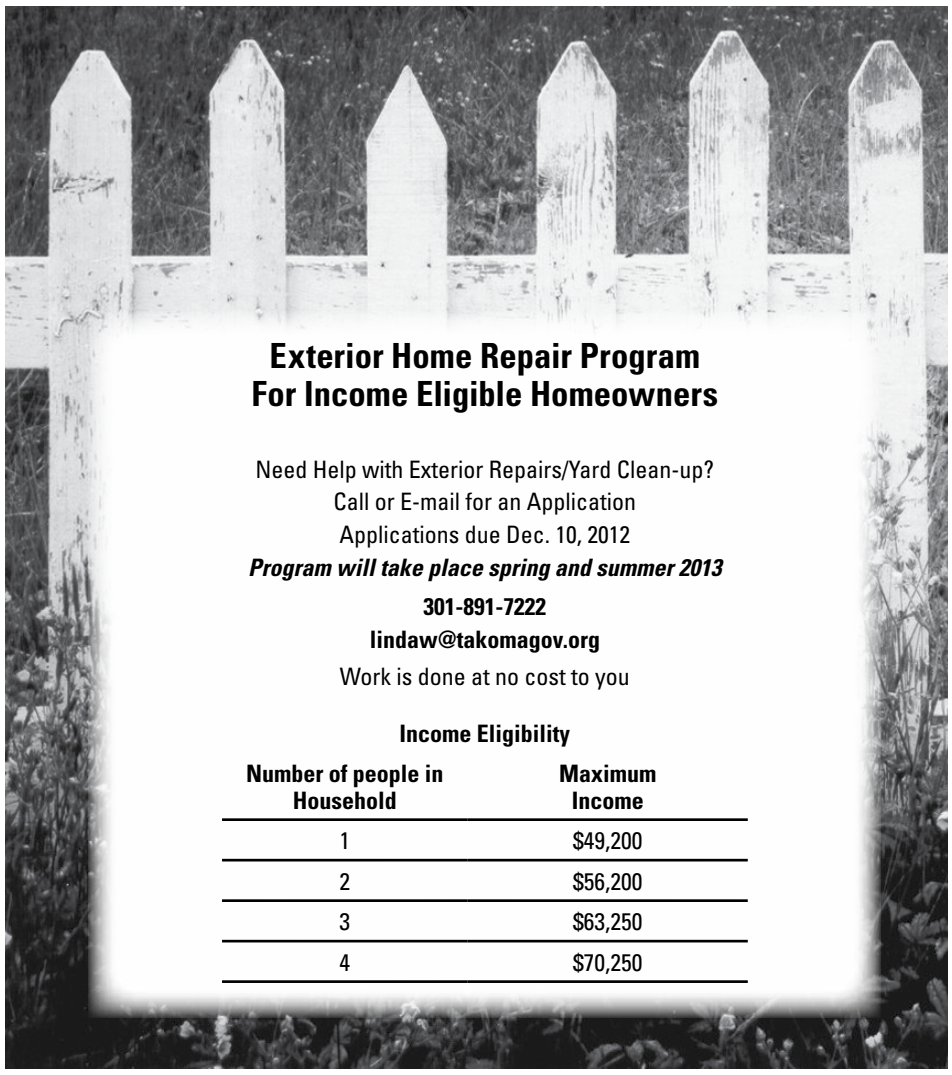
The City Council authorized purchase of 100 of the larger containers as a pilot program. Containers, available on a first come, first served basis, are expected to be available in early November. Residents interested in using the large wheel cart for their recyclables can pick them up at the Public Works office at 31 Oswego Ave., or call and request a delivery.

Residents who receive the pilot containers will be asked to participate in a survey after a few months of use to provide feedback to the City about the container, its ease of use and any other comments.

Please contact the Public Works office at 301-891-7633 to inquire about the availability of the large, wheeled recycling carts.

EXTERIOR HOME REPAIR PROGRAM

The City of Takoma Park will be contracting with firms or individuals who are interested in performing work under its Exterior Home Repair Program. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the Request for Proposal, please contact Linda Walker at 301-891-7222 or at lindaw@takomagov.org. It is also available on the city's website, www.takomaparkmd.gov.



Exterior Home Repair Program
For Income Eligible Homeowners

Need Help with Exterior Repairs/Yard Clean-up?
Call or E-mail for an Application
Applications due Dec. 10, 2012
Program will take place spring and summer 2013
301-891-7222
lindaw@takomagov.org
Work is done at no cost to you

Income Eligibility

Number of people in Household	Maximum Income
1	$49,200
2	$56,200
3	$63,250
4	$70,250

HOUSING MAILBOX

Discrimination against government-subsidized renters prohibited

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

I recently applied for an apartment in Takoma Park and was turned down because I was told the apartment complex does not accept housing choice vouchers. I think I was discriminated against. Who can I contact to fight back?

"Choice vouchers," or government-issued payments specifically pegged for housing costs, are a source of income, and housing discrimination based on source of income is prohibited under a 1991 amendment to Chapter 27 of the Montgomery County Code. The amendment bars anyone from refusing to sell, rent, negotiate or otherwise transfer housing because of a person's source of income in Takoma Park, as well as in the entire county.

Any lawful source of income paid directly or indirectly to a renter or buyer of housing is protected by this amendment. The definition of "sources of income" includes any government or private assistance, grant or loan program, any gift, inheritance, pension, annuity, alimony, child support or other compensation or benefit. So, participation in a housing subsidy program such as the Housing Choice Voucher (formerly known as Section 8) Program is included as a protected class. A housing provider may not refuse to rent to a person with a Housing Choice Voucher merely because the person is a program participant.

It should be noted that while credit checks may be conducted on Housing Choice Voucher Program participants, if the entire rent is paid by the subsidy, a negative credit report should not be the basis for the applicant's rejection because the applicant is not responsible for paying the rent.

For additional information on the Montgomery County Fair Housing Law please contact the Montgomery County Office of Human Rights, 110 North Washington Street, Suite 200, Rockville, Md. 20850. To file a housing discrimination complaint call 240-777-8450. Additional information on the county's Office of Human Rights is available on the county's website: www.montgomerycountymd.gov.

Tenants and landlords with questions regarding the City's Landlord-Tenant and Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) laws can contact me at 301-891-7215 or at mosesw@takomagov.org.

THE ARTS

"The Lucky Few"

Thursday, Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m.

Screening and discussion with producer and naval historian Jan Herman

TP Community Center Auditorium

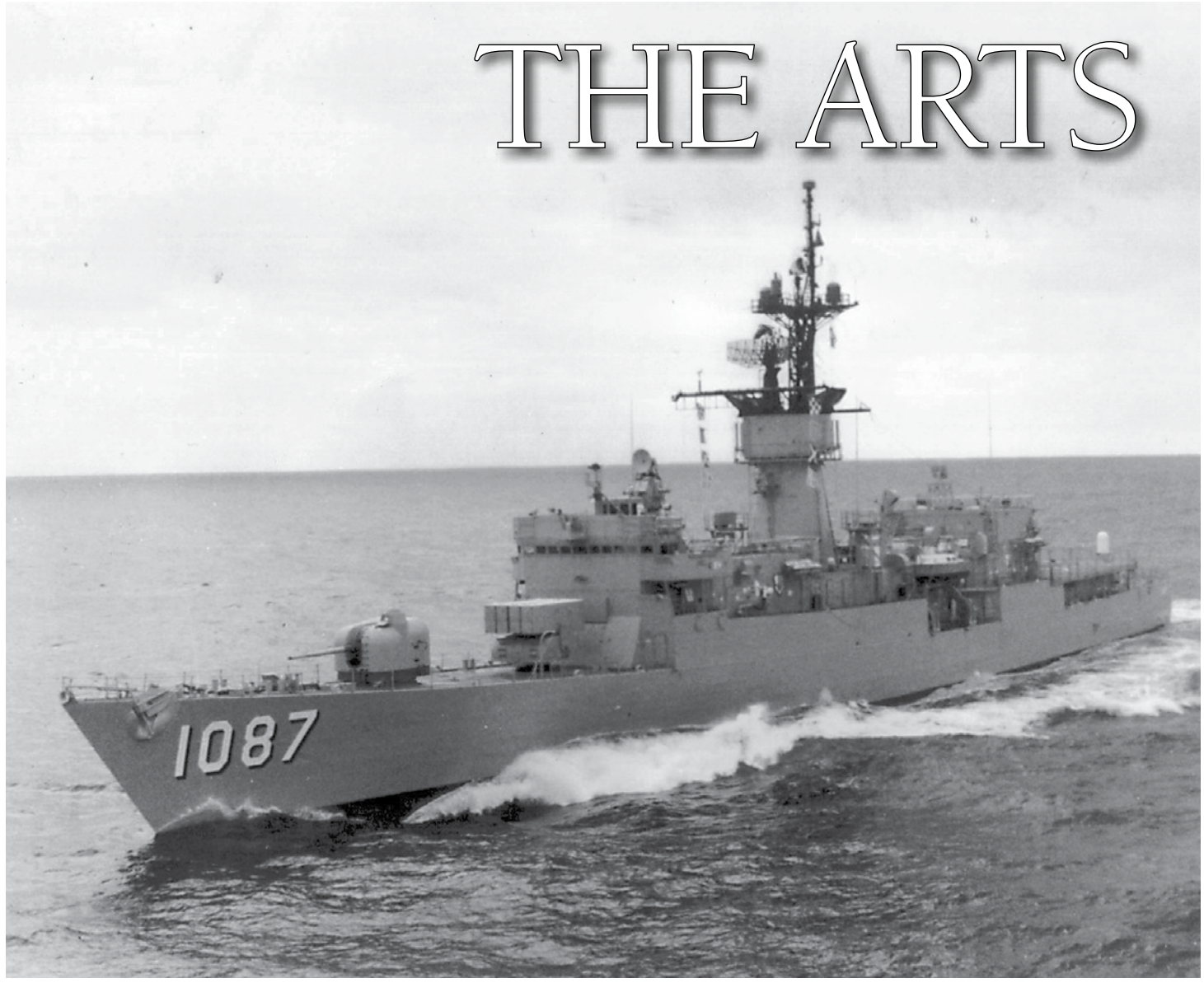
Free

Jan Herman

In April 1975 South Vietnam was in chaos. For most, the images of the end of the Vietnam War came from the nightly news. Television stations showed the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy as Marine helicopters landed on the roof. But there was another story that didn't get the same attention: the rescue of tens of thousands of refugees who found other ways to escape the frenzy.

"The Lucky Few" documents the historic rescue of more than 30,000 South Vietnamese refugees at the close of the Vietnam War. In particular, it recounts the selfless acts of heroism of the 260 officers and sailors of the US Navy ship USS Kirk (FF-1087). Dubbed "Operation Frequent Wind," it was the final act of the Vietnam War.

For five days, traveling more than 1,000 miles of open sea to the Philippines and safety, the crew of the destroyer escort USS Kirk, the lone U.S. ship in a flotilla of 16 damaged and fledgling ships, transformed their ship of war into a humanitarian assistance ship, saving the lives of thousands. As crew members fed their unexpected guests, dispensed medical care, diapered infants, and set up awnings to protect refugees from a blazing sun, desperation and anguish gave way to reassurance and hope.



At sea - port bow view of U.S.S. Kirk entering port at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan. (U.S. Navy photo)

Producer and author Jan Herman will introduce the film and, following the screening, answer questions about Operation Frequent Wind, the crew of the USS Kirk, and the making of "The Lucky Few."

A resident of Takoma Park, Herman has worked as Historian of the Navy Medical Department, and curator of the old U.S. Naval Observatory. In 2009, he became Special Assistant to the Navy Surgeon General and was appointed the following year as the director of the Benjamin Rush Education and Conference Center of the Navy Medicine Institute.

Eat a Poem

Thursday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.

Third Thursday Open Reading

TP Community Center Auditorium

Free

If you are interested in "eating a poem," consider participating in this month's open poetry reading.

Third Thursday's open readings are pretty laid back, providing a great opportunity for the new poet to develop his or her voice and for the seasoned poet to polish up a piece he or she may have considered finished.

For non-poets, the open reading is a perfect way to "bite in" and experience a range of work from free verse and sonnets, haiku and prose, read by the poets themselves.

Interested?

Swing by the auditorium a bit before the reading starts and sign up to read. We'd love to hear your work. And, for the non-poet poetry lovers out there, we can promise you an evening of new experiences and plenty of words!

Thursday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. Admission is free.

How to Eat a Poem

Don't be polite.
Bite in.
Pick it up with your fingers and lick the juice that
may run down your chin.
It is ready and ripe now, whenever you are.
You do not need a knife or fork or spoon
or plate or napkin or tablecloth.

For there is no core
or stem
or rind
or pit
or seed
or skin
to throw away.

— Eve Merriam

Mountains and Valleys: Contemporary Concertinas

Opening Reception

Friday, Nov. 9, 6 – 8 p.m.

The Galleries at the Takoma Park Community Center

Free

The Concertina Book was invented in Asia, and served as an alternative to the scroll form's sometimes unmanageable size and length. The structure of these books involves continuously folded sheets of paper, often enclosed between two covers. The books can either be expanded and viewed outward, as a sculptural form, or kept flat and read as a traditional book.

Mountains and Valleys: Contemporary Concertinas, is an exhibition that showcases how 11 artists explore and push this structural form.

A collaboration of the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission and Silver Spring-based Pyramid Atlantic, Mountain and Valleys coincides with Pyramid Atlantic's 12th Biennial Book Arts Fair (Nov. 16-18). The exhibit opens on Friday, Nov. 9 and can be viewed through December 2012.

RECREATION

The Takoma Park Community Band kicked off Halloween festivities this year, which included a parade of costumed revelers who marched from Old Town to the Community Center for a party and prizes. The events were organized by the Recreation Department.

Photo by Eric Rasch

YOUTH

Winter Break Camp

5 - 11 yrs.

Come experience Winter Wonderland with the Takoma Park Recreation Department. In this holiday break camp campers will make gifts, play games and participate in arts and crafts. Children must bring lunch each day.

Wednesday - Friday, Dec. 26 – 28, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

TP Community Center Azalea Room

TP residents $85

Non-residents $95

Futsal League

Grades 2-4

Futsal, a sport that is similar to soccer, offers the perfect combination of learning and fun. The league is designed to improve fundamental technique and skill development during the winter months and is also a great opportunity to meet new friends, stay in shape and prepare for the upcoming season. For the last two years, the program has been filled to capacity with a wait list. Please note that program registration is first come first serve and space is limited to 60 participants.

Sundays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 10, 1 – 3 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

Registration fee $60

TEENS

Girls on the Rise

Ages 10-14

Since adolescence can be a challenging time, this program helps girls work through it, paying particular attention to physical, emotional mental and social development and well-being. The program encourages positive self esteem, navigates through peer problems, explores healthy relationships and addresses family challenges, appearance, cyber bullying, school challenges and the role emotions play in a young girl's life.

Thursdays, 7 – 8 p.m. (on-going)

TP Recreation Center

Free with membership card

Kid's Night Out

Ages 6-12

The Takoma Park Recreation Center Kid's Night Out gives parents a night to themselves while the kids have a blast with their friends. The evening includes games, art and crafts, movies and theme nights.

First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

Free with membership card

Teen Night

Ages 12-17

Nothing to do on Friday night? The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides high quality, affordable, safe and fun activities for teens. Come on out to a night of games, activities and more. Bring your friends for a cheap night out of the house.

Second and fourth Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

Free with membership card

ENVIRONMENTAL ART

Herbal soap making

Age 13 and older

In this workshop, we will learn about the many different ways to create your own herbal soap. Just in time for the holidays.

Saturday, Nov. 17, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

TP Community Center Art Studio

TP residents $35

Non-residents $45

Making vegetable-dyed scarves

Ages 18 and older

Learn how to use vegetable and spices to create gorgeous vegetable-dyed scarves. Scarves will be provided. No experience is necessary.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

TP Community Center Art Studio

TP residents $35

Non-residents $45

Making Your Own Herbal Tinctures

Ages 18 and older

This workshop will discuss harvesting and show you how to make your own herbal tinctures. Please bring a small, clean jar with a lid for the workshop.

Saturday, Nov. 13, 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

TP Community Center Art Studio

TP residents $30

Non-residents $40

MULTI MEDIA

Video Editing with Final Cut Studio

Ages 12 and older

Post production is where the magic happens. Learn how to use today's premiere video editing software to enhance your digital storytelling skills. Whether you are interested in film making, music videos or just making videos for fun, this course will teach you how to put it all together in a creative and professional way.

Wednesdays, Nov. 7 - Dec. 12, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Multi Media Lab

TP residents $110

Non-residents $130

RECREATION ☐ Page 7

(Grades K-8)

The Takoma Park Recreation Department is proud to present the 2013 Winter Basketball League. This program is brought to you by the Takoma Park Recreation Department in partnership with the Takoma Park Recreation Committee.

Last year, the Winter Basketball League served more than 600 boys' and girls' ages 5 – 12 yrs and grades K – 8 living in and around Takoma Park.

Practices will be held one day per week, day chosen by your coach. Games will be played on Saturdays in and around Takoma Park.

Practices and Games start in January. Teams are divided by grade.

For more information about the Winter Basketball League please visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation

Ways to Register:

- Online: www.activenet.active.com/takomaparkrecreation
- In person, Monday – Friday, at Takoma Park Recreation Department, 7500 Maple Ave.or Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave.

DEADLINE: DEC. 7 or sooner

Each division has a capacity; once a division is full, registration for that division will close prior to the Dec. 7 deadline.

Volunteer coaches are always needed, training is provided.

The Winter Basketball League philosophy is a non-competitive, instructional, community league. And the program goals are to:

- introduce boys and girls to the fundamentals of basketball
- emphasize that playing the game and being a member of a team are more important than winning by not establishing league standings or having playoffs/championship games
- encourage personal improvement, sportsmanship and fun
- provide comparable playing time for all participants
- meet new kids from community and surrounding areas

REGISTRATION FEES

TP residents: $60 Non-residents: $70

Scholarship opportunities are available to Takoma Park residents in need of assistance. Call 301- 891-7290 for details.

SILVER FOXES

Planning Your Legacy - Knowledge is Power

Ages 55 and older

Are your affairs in order? Do you have questions about wills, living wills, power-of-attorney, and advance funeral planning? Have your legal questions answered by an attorney from the Maryland Legal Aid Program. Light refreshments will be served. Call-in registration is required. For more information, call 301-891-7280.

Wednesday, Nov. 7, Noon – 1 p.m.

TP Community Center Lilac Room

Free

Creative Arts Workshop

Ages 55 and older

Be creative in a relaxed atmosphere and have fun! Registration is required. For more information, call 301-891-7280.

Monday, Nov. 19, 11 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Art Room

Free

Blood Pressure Screening

Ages 55 and older

Adventist Healthcare will be doing a monthly blood pressure screening. Drop-in. After your screening, please stay for some games of bingo...lots of fun for everyone.

Thursday, Nov. 15, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Senior Room

Free

Bingo

Ages 55 and older

Come and try your luck. Win a prize. Drop-in. No registration required.

Thursday, Nov. 15, Noon – 2 p.m.

TP Community Center Senior Room

Free

Vacancy Announcement

Recreation Program Assistant - Teens

The City of Takoma Park Recreation Department is seeking an enthusiastic Recreation Program Assistant to work with teens ages 13-19. The typical work hours are from 2 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 2 to 9:30 p.m. Friday with occasional Saturday hours required. This position is not subject to membership in the AFSCME union. This is a part-time position, $9.50 - $11 per hour depending on qualifications. Closing date: Oct. 26. The first review of applications will be Nov. 2.

To view the full job description or for more information please visit http://takomaparkmd.gov/hr/jobs.html or contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomagov.org or 301- 891-7283.

RECREATION

■ From page 6

FITNESS AND HEALTH

Yoga Nidra-Meditation and Relaxation

Ages 16 and older

Yoga Nidra is a relaxing practice that helps reduce stress and increases general physical and mental well-being. Practitioners report increases in energy level, sleep and greater ease and joy in everyday life. It is also helpful for relieving insomnia, anxiety, depression and chronic pain. No prior experience is required. Each student should bring their own yoga mat, a few blankets and a pillow.

Mondays, Nov. 5, 19, 26 and Dec. 3, 10, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

TP residents $60

Non-residents $70

Aerobics

Ages 16 and older

This upbeat, energetic aerobics class is sure to get your body moving in a workout that combines cardiovascular training and toning exercises for a superior total body workout. Free demonstration class will be held on Monday, Oct. 29 at 6:15 p.m.

Mondays, Nov. 5 - Dec. 17, 6:15 - 7:15 p.m.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

TP residents $60

Non-residents $70

Tai Chi

Ages 16 and older

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

Tuesdays, 5:30-7 p.m. (ongoing)

TP Recreation Center

Free

Jazzercise

Ages 16 and older

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

Mondays and Wednesdays (ongoing) 7 – 8 p.m.

Saturdays (ongoing) 8 – 9 a.m.

TP Recreation Center

$35 per month EFT (Easy Fitness Ticket)

$85/8 week pass

$10 drop-in (with $20 fee)

Zumba

Ages 16 and older

An exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness program, Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program.

Wednesdays 6 - 6:55 p.m. and Saturdays 9:15 – 10:10 a.m.

Session 1: Oct. 17 – Nov. 10; Session 2: Nov. 21 – Dec. 19

(No class on Nov. 24)

TP Recreation Center

$40/4-week session

$10 drop-in fee

Cardio Kick-Boxing

Ages 16 and older

Cardio KickBoxing can improve strength, aerobic fitness, flexibility, coordination and balance and is a great alternative for people who have become bored with weight room cardiovascular activities, such as brisk walking or jogging on a treadmill.

Mondays, Nov. 5 – Dec. 31 (No class on Dec. 24), 7 – 8 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

$50/8 weeks

CHARTER CHANGES

■ From page 1

cilmembers Doug Barry, Hank Prenksy, Rino Aldrigetti, and Paul D'Eustachio (all against the changes) and, former councilmembers Dan Robinson and Colleen Clay (both for the changes).

Those who support the amendments contend that a manager who lives in the city will have a more intimate understanding of its residents' needs, a deeper understanding of the community, and will be physically closer and therefore more available should an emergency or other urgent business call for quick action. They point to other cities with residency requirements as well.

Those who oppose the amendments feel such a requirement would limit the pool of candidates for the position. They argue that managers can understand a community without living in it, and that the requirement would put unreasonable expectations on applicants who may have personal reasons for wanting to reside outside the city, among them family logistics with young children or aging parents, and the high cost of housing in the City.

Those who support the "advice and consent" requirement that City Council be more involved in hiring staff argue that having one person responsible for all City hires could be problematic, and that Council input could contribute to a system of checks and balances. Those who oppose Council involvement in the hiring process suggest that the process could become politicized, and that if one body is ultimately responsible for hiring decisions (the Council) and another is responsible for working with the new hires (City Manager), confusion over who employees answer to could create conflict. The current system was adopted to de-politicize the process more than 20 years ago.

At the end of the Oct. 22 Council meeting, members generally agreed that consulting over what sorts of candidates would be most appropriate, and getting updates on the progress of the hiring process, with the opportunity to comment before and during the search process and after a candidate has been identified but before an offer is made, would be sufficient involvement. In this scenario, the City Manager would have the final decision on hires.

City Council has been divided on these changes since they were proposed by Councilmember Tim Male (Ward 2) in July, and they have prompted much debate during meetings and in the community. Originally, four Council members favored the changes (Male; Kay Daniels-Cohen, Ward 3, Terry Seamens, Ward 4; and Jarrett Smith, Ward 5), and three opposed them (Mayor Bruce Williams; Seth Grimes, Ward 1; and Fred Schultz, Ward 6). The group came together after the "consent" requirement was dropped and it was decided to put the specifics of the residency provisions in an ordinance that can be more easily changed by future Councils than can the Charter.

The record is still open for comments. To participate in the debate, send your input to clerk@takomagov.org, mail to 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md .20912 or drop them by the City offices at the Community Center.

YOUTH AT RISK

■ From page 3

on community health issues and assist faculty in comparing the results to a "control" group in a community in Northern Virginia, where demographics are similar but where there are no interventions. "The idea is to create a model of intervention… tailored to a Latino community, that can be replicated," says Edberg. "We're collecting data at as many levels as we can, including about 1,200 house-to-house interviews conducted by trained bilingual interviewers. We're trying to understand the relationships of the parts."

MMYC and, eventually, other Adelante partners will produce a steady stream of programs, each designed to engage members of the local community. "We've focused previously on different supports for youth and on community-building activities like cleanup projects at the Langley Park Community Center and along the medians of the roads," says Montero. Soon she will be working on a wide range of youth activities, including advocacy training, job-related learning, photojournalism, blogging (youth news), health fairs, soccer tournaments, dance contests, and making murals, to name a few. "The idea for some of these activities is to pair a fun event with sharing information about health," says Montero, "so maybe we'll have a youth soccer tournament, but the 'price' of participation is listening to a presentation about teens and drugs."

Looking forward, looking back

Cleary is hopeful. "When we first helped put SAFER Latinos in place, there were very few resources in the Langley Park area, and there was very little in the schools," he says. "There's a lot more now. In addition to the Maryland Multicultural Youth Center, we've seen CASA de Maryland experience huge growth, and its building is a hub for many activities. Latino business leaders have become much more involved, too."

More good news might be on the way. The Crossroads area was one of only six locations in Prince George's County to be designated for the Transforming Neighborhoods Program, which has brought support for infrastructure improvements, more police patrols, and new community activities. With Metro's Purple Line slated to go through the Crossroads area, business investment is expected to follow.

While all parties hope that the Center and the Adelante program will make a difference locally in the next five years, Edberg is aware of the big picture, too. "The demographic trends we see in Langley Park-Takoma Park are replicated across the country," he says. "One of our hopes is that this model will have applicability to other immigrant communities because these are the challenges that all of those communities face."

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 www.ftpml.org.

CALENDAR

Circle Time

Every Tuesday (exception: No Circle Time on Nov. 6)

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

Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday

10:30 a.m. with Señora Geiza

International Games Day @ Your Library

Saturday, Nov. 3, 2-4 p.m.

Come play "Dungeons and Dragons" with Dave Burbank.

Registration required; best for ages 8 and up unless with a parent.

Bedtime Stories

Monday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.

Come in pjs; great for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Friends Reading Group discusses "The Magic Mountain"

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.

TP Community Center

Career Self-Leadership

Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.

(registration closed)

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Oct. 13, 4 p.m.

Join library staffer and comics guru Dave Burbank as he reads comics on the big screen.

Career Self-Leadership

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.

(registration closed)

Petites Chansons

Saturday, Nov. 17, 10:30 a.m.

Come sing French songs and rhymes with Madame Marie.

Scribbler's Cabal

Saturday, Nov. 17, 2-4 p.m.

Young artists: come share ideas and inspiration with Dave Burbank

Eaglebear and Friends

Monday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.

Enjoy our annual program showcasing Eaglebear and his tribal traditions.

FTPML Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7:45 p.m.

Library

Caldecott Birthday Club

Monday, Nov. 26, 7 p.m.

Join us for an evening devoted to Caldecott-winning books from the 1960s

Friends Reading Group discusses "The Magic Mountain"

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m.

TP Community Center

Career Self-Leadership

Wednesday, Nov. 28, 7:30 p.m.

(registration closed)

Young readers explore dystopian worlds with classic book

By Karen MacPherson

When Lois Lowry published "The Giver" in 1993, she had no inkling that she was sparking a new literary trend.

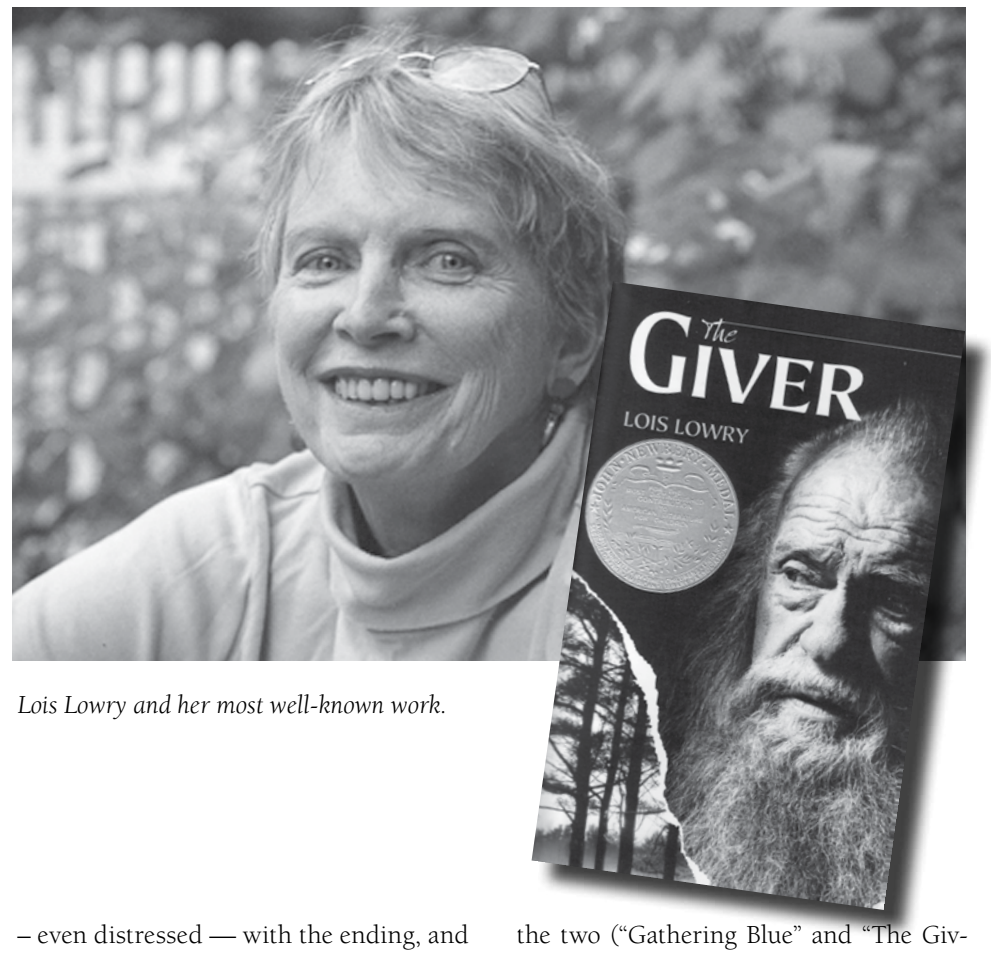
Today, "The Giver" is widely regarded as the first young adult "dystopian" novel – a novel that takes the idea of a utopia and turns it into a nightmare world of totalitarian societies where most people have no real identity or humanity. It's now a hugely popular genre with both teens and adults who have put books like "The Hunger Games" on the bestsellers' list.

Meanwhile, Lowry also had no clue that she would eventually go on to write three more books in what has now become "The Giver" quartet. The fourth – and latest — of those books, "Son," has just been published, weaving story strands from the previous three books into a gripping and satisfying conclusion.

In a recent interview, Lowry said that, as far as she is concerned, "Son" will be the final book set in the dystopian world she first created in "The Giver." In 1994, "The Giver" won the Newbery Medal, given annually by the American Library Association to the best-written novel of children. It was Lowry's second Newbery Medal; she won the 1990 Newbery Medal for "Number the Stars."

"I don't see anywhere to go from here," Lowry said about "Son." "Yet I know that I'll get emails from people who want me to write more."

In fact, that's how Lowry went on to write three books after publishing "The Giver," which has sold more than ten million copies worldwide. Many readers, particularly kids and teens, were dissatisfied – even distressed — with the ending, and wanted to know what happened next.



Lois Lowry and her most well-known work.

"I wouldn't write something just because kids wanted me to," Lowry said. "But I think that the fact people so often wrote and asked about what happened next must have planted that thought in my own mind."

Several years after publishing "The Giver," Lowry wrote another dystopian novel, "Gathering Blue," which was published in 2000. "It was only towards the end of that book that I suddenly realized I could tie the two ("Gathering Blue" and "The Giver") together. I didn't set out to do that," Lowry said.

That led, four years later, to "Messenger," a third book set in the same world, "which collected characters from the first two books," Lowry said, adding: " 'Trilogy' has a nice ring to it. I really thought that was the end of it," she laughed.

But Lowry continued to receive emails and letters from readers who still wanted

LOWRY ☐ Page 9

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Come play Dungeons and Dragons at the Library on Saturday, Nov. 3 from 2-4 p.m.

Our program, which will be led by Dave Burbank, a veteran D&D player/leader, is our way of celebrating a new American Library Association tradition: International Games Day @ Your Library. We encourage parent-child teams at the D&D event; although D&D is best enjoyed by kids ages 8 and up, younger children are welcome with a parent. Spaces are limited, so registration is required; to register, go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259.

Join us on Monday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. for our annual visit from Eaglebear, a.k.a. Tomas Shash.

At the program, which is great for all ages, Eaglebear and his family and friends will share dances, stories and songs from their Xicano and Apache cultures. All welcome; no registration required. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for continuing to sponsor this annual tradition.

Circle Time, which normally takes place every Tuesday morning year-round, is canceled on Tuesday, Nov. 6 because of Election Day.

Please join us on any other Tuesday morning for a program of songs, movement and rhymes that is perfect for babies through pre-schoolers and their grown-ups.

Our Caldecott Birthday Club will meet on Monday, Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. to read some Caldecott Medal and Caldecott Honor books from the 1960s.

Among the books are "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak; "The Snowy Day" by Ezra Jack Keats; and "Swimmy" by Leo Lionni. This is a great program for adults who want to enjoy again some favorites from their own childhoods; it's also a fun way for families to enjoy some great books together.

LOWRY

■ From page 8

to know more about what happened to the baby saved from certain death at the end of "The Giver."

"I would send out a form letter, telling them to read page 17 of 'Messenger,' which mentions Gabriel (the baby saved at the end of "The Giver") at age eight – he's fine," Lowry said.

Once again, however, the huge interest by readers in Gabriel's fate made Lowry wonder about whether she should write his story. Thus, "Son" was born.

"I started writing a book about him as an adolescent. I had him raising the questions about his own past, and I think that caused me to ask the same questions," she said.

Writing about Gabriel meant writing about his parents, and so Lowry created a character named Claire, who at age 14 gives birth to the child who eventually is named Gabriel. There's no father; Claire had been artificially inseminated as part of her job as a "birthmother" in the dystopian world in which she lives. But things go wrong at Gabriel's birth and Claire has an emergency Cesarean. She is then dismissed from her job and reassigned to work at the fish hatchery.

Somehow, officials forget about giving Claire the daily pills that everyone else receives to ensure that they have no deep emotions. Without the pills, Claire begins to long for the child to whom she has given birth and, through a lucky break, she is allowed to work with him as a volunteer at the nursery in her spare time.

> "Trilogy has a nice ring to it."

When Jonas, the son of a nursery worker, flees with Gabriel to spare him from death, Claire is bereft. She tries to follow Jonas and Gabriel, spending years trying to figure how to reconnect with them. Claire eventually makes a heart-wrenching, desperate bargain with the evil Trademaster just to see her son again.

While Lowry had planned to focus on Gabriel and his life in "Son," she found Claire such a compelling character that much of the book is about her, and her struggle to be with her son. "I don't plot my books in advance, and this came as a surprise to me," Lowry said. "I think that the book is essentially about the bond between a mother and son and what a mother sacrifices to regain her son.

"I think this probably grew out of the fact that I lost my son a few years ago – different circumstances, but that pervasive feeling of loss stays with me."

Going back to the colorless, emotionless world of "The Giver" to write about Claire at the beginning of "Son" was a challenge, Lowry added. "I realized how boring that world was… So I was glad to get out of it when Claire did."

Interestingly, Lowry isn't a fan of dystopian fiction, but she understands why young readers, in particular, find it enthralling, given the challenges of the world in which they live. "My books … present to young readers the possibility of a young person saving the world," Lowry said.

The first graduating class at Don Bosco Cristo Rey celebrated the occasion in 2011.

Photo courtesy Don Bosco Cristo Rey

WISE AWARD

■ From page 1

addition to Cristo Rey, include innovative projects from Chile, Cambodia, Denmark, India and Bangladesh.

The Work Study Program that was recognized has been one of the fundamental elements of Cristo Rey since the first school opened in Chicago in 1996. All students in the national network, which began in 2001, participate in corporate work-study as a means to fund most of their education. Students work five days per month in an entry-level, white-collar job and the fee is used to underwrite tuition costs.

More importantly, according to Emily Cerling, Assistant Director of Development and Communications at Don Bosco (official motto "The School That Works"), the work study program provides students with workplace skills and knowledge.

"Fortune 500 corporations, non-profit organizations, and some of Washington, D.C.'s top law and accounting firms, contract with us for entry-level positions," she said. "This collaboration has produced trained workers to fill full-time positions, such as finance and accounting aides, document control clerks, human resources assistants, communications and marketing interns, receptionists, MIS/Help Desk and IT assistants and many more."

The model has been undeniably successful. It has been showcased in the media and earned numerous awards, as well as recognition and funding from such organizations as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Given its international focus, however, the WISE award is arguably the school network's most significant honor yet.

"The WISE Award is the most prestigious honor that the Cristo Rey Network has received on a global scale," said Rob Birdsell, Cristo Rey Network President and CEO. "As the organization continues to grow to 50 plus schools, we are eager to not only disseminate elements of the corporate work study program internationally, but to expand our model globally as well. As a recipient of the WISE Award, the Cristo Rey Network looks forward to partnering with WISE to explore potential markets that could benefit from the Cristo Rey Network model."

As for Don Bosco, its success has mirrored that of its parent network, both in its increasing enrollment numbers and its expanding roster of success stories. The school has gradually increased its size by adding a new grade level each year (approximately 80 students). In 2007, it started with a freshman class, and year by year, added another class. The first class graduated in 2011. There are currently 325 students enrolled.

"And 100 percent of our 2011 and 2012 graduating classes have been accepted into two- or four -year programs," said Cerling triumphantly.

THE NEW NEW HAMPSHIRE AVE
WALK THE AVENUE!
Explore the World on New Hampshire Avenue

The City's popular New Ave Walking Guides have been updated.

Designed for users to explore on foot, the guides cover the area near the intersection of University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue at Takoma Langley Crossroads, as well as shopping centers along New Hampshire Avenue south of University.

Five different categories illuminate the stores and eateries of the area:

- Latin America and the Caribbean (new)
- Bakeries and Sweets
- Fabrics
- Groceries
- South Asia

Walking guides are available from the Planning Division (3rd Floor) at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., or at www.theNewAve.com/explore/walking-tours.

DIG IN!

Dig into the New Ave with neighbors and friends in your own Community Garden!

The City offers grants to small community groups to start or continue a garden project along New Hampshire Avenue.

Grant awards in recent years have helped residents beautify the New Ave with landscaping, flowers, vegetables and art.

The deadline for proposals is Jan. 31, 2013.

For more information, contact the Planning Division at 301-891-7119 or download an application at: www.theNewAve.com/explore/parks-and-nature/gardening-greening-grant.

AT YOUR SERVICE

NEW POLICE CHIEF SWORN IN

Mayor Bruce Williams pins a badge on the uniform of Alan Goldberg, Takoma Park's new police chief, at a swearing in ceremony Oct. 1. Goldberg, who has 30 years of experience in the Montgomery County Police Department, replaces Chief Ronald Ricucci, who retired in July. He began his work here Oct. 1.

Photo by Selena Malott

Baby boomers want to play

Recreation Department polls 50- and 60-somethings for programming ideas

By Eric Rasch

Takoma Park is full of baby boomers—the 2010 census shows 3,504 born between 1946 and 1964 and living in the City—and although they are aging, most are loathe to be called "mature" or "senior." The "old" stereotypes don't fit: these folks can be physically, mentally and socially just as active as ever.

For this reason, the City Council has increased the Recreation Department's budget for programming aimed at this growing population by $4,000 in FY13.

"I know there are a lot of working, semi-retired, or recently retired adults in their 50s and 60s that would like to participate in active programming here in Takoma Park," says Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager for the City of Takoma Park. Lisowski has worked with "seniors" for the last five years, but would like to reach out to their younger demographic. "More and more folks realize that age is just a number and are looking for ways to stay active."

To find out what would work best for the boomers, the Recreation Department is hosting a community discussion, "Active Adults – Ages 50+".

Staff members and programmers will gather information through two focus groups with active adults, then explore participant's suggestions for programming aimed at adults ages 55 to 65. Participants representing a range of ages and gender will be selected for these focus groups.

The focus groups will take place Wednesday, Dec. 5, at 6 and 7:30 p.m., and each will include eight to ten active adult participants, ages 50 to 65, for an hour-long discussion. Refreshments will be served. If you would like to participate, contact Paula Lisowski, 301-891-7280.

Are you over 50?

Enthusiastic residents, ages 50 to 65, needed for one-hour focus group to explore recreational programming for active adults

All ideas welcome

If selected for the focus group, participants will be invited to discuss ideas and opinions while enjoying refreshments. As a thank you for participation, focus group members will receive a free, six-month membership to the fitness room at the Recreation Center.

Contact us at paulal@takomagov.org

Wednesday, Dec. 5, beginning at 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave.

301-891-7280 or paulal@takomagov.org for more information and to register.

Feel free to share this opportunity with anyone you think might be interested.

Input will be used in future programming.

THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Sep. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 477 fire-related incidents in 2012. The department addressed or assisted with 2,280 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 2,757 this year. Totals for 2011 were 567 and 2,114, representing an increase of 76 incidents.

TPVFD volunteers contribute

During the month of September, volunteers put in a total of 1,357.5 hours of standby duty time at the fire station. The grand total so far for this year is 11,136 hours.

New members at TPVFD

At the Oct. 10 membership meeting, the following were voted into membership: Enrique Alfaro, Vincent Goode, Russell Quiniola, Bryan Ramirez, Andi Villasenor, Shannon Young and Semier Faris. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Mike Livingston at the fire station, 240-773-8954.

Maryland Fire Deaths Update

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of Oct. 21, 2012, 39 people have died in fires, as compared to 44 in 2011. Working smoking alarms are a must on all levels of your home. Test them monthly, and have a family escape plan. Cooking is still the number one cause of home fires.

Learn about the City's bikeways improvements and share your input at an Open House hosted by City Staff

The City is enhancing bicycle wayfinding in Takoma Park with new signed bike routes along Elm and Poplar avenues and an updated bike map at Sligo Creek.

Thursday, Nov. 8, 5:30 – 7 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center
Hydrangea Room
7500 Maple Ave.
www.theNewAve.com/do/bikeways-open-house

Are We There Yet?

Steady Progress on the New Ave

By Erkin Ozberk, Planning Division

In 2008, the City adopted an ambitious concept plan for New Hampshire Avenue, re-imagined as a welcoming, sustainable, community-focused corridor. The plan hinges on a multi-way boulevard design that buffers pedestrians (residents, workers and shoppers), cyclists and neighborhood traffic in side lanes from faster moving vehicles in the middle lanes. Converting New Hampshire Avenue into a multi-way boulevard is a major undertaking that involves a coordinated planning effort between Takoma Park, District of Columbia, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and the Maryland State Highway Administration. Needless to say, it is a long term plan.

Since 2008, the City's Planning Division has been implementing short term interventions (e.g. brightly colored street furniture like the over-sized rockers at the bus stops), while working with regional partners to bring the long term vision to fruition. Sector Plans for the Takoma Langley Crossroads area were approved by Prince George's County in 2010, and Montgomery County earlier this year. Just last month, City Council approved the New Ave Streetscape Standards, which add a finer layer of detail to the multi-way boulevard concept, and provide guidance for private developers and public agencies when new projects come online. The City's Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape project, also endorsed by Council this September to proceed to final design and engineering, could be the first project to apply the furniture and paving specifications laid out in the Streetscape Standards.

With these recent plans and policies approved, planners hope to ensure that more mixed use redevelopment and a higher quality public realm will come to the New Ave in the near term, while raising the regional profile of the long term vision for the multi-way boulevard. This July, the City was awarded $50,000 in technical assistance from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (which also funded the streetscape standards) to study the feasibility of converting the New Ave into a multi-way boulevard. The feasibility study gets into the nitty-gritty of the impact changes will have on regional traffic, utilities in the corridor, stormwater runoff and the provision for safe cycling facilities. While tackling these technical details, the feasibility study is also an opportunity for City officials to build support for the multi-way boulevard with neighboring jurisdictions and partner agencies.

Meanwhile, the New Ave is abuzz with more community happenings, new businesses and residents moving in, and buildings being renovated. Just on Holton Lane, a Dominican salon, FedEx-authorized shipping center, and new Halal butcher have opened this year, while Dr. Khademi's Injury Clinic, and the Aldi grocery store, are undergoing major renovations.

To learn more about ongoing planning projects, go to www.theNewAve.com. For information about future public meetings and community happenings on the New Ave see www.facebook.com/TheNewAve. The Planning Division's public display area at the Community Center (7500 Maple Ave) also highlights plans for ongoing New Ave projects. The display is located in the third floor lobby near the Finance department and is open to the public during business hours.

Shopping local on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 24

By Roz Grigsby
Housing and Community Development

Sandwiched between Black Friday and Cyber Monday on Thanksgiving weekend, Small Business Saturday celebrates locally-owned, independent businesses across the country, and in Takoma Park. The event draws attention to the many contributions local shops and restaurants make to the vibrancy and character of a place, as well as to the economic well-being of the community.

More than 100 million people nationwide participated in Small Business Saturday last year. Supporters like the American Independent Business Alliance—with its slogan, "Why buy local? Because community matters" – list many reasons to support local businesses, including community building, maintaining a sense of place, and creating a healthier environment.

One of the key reasons to shop locally is to maintain economic vitality. Each dollar spent at a local independent business returns three times more money to the local economy than a dollar spent at a chain store, according to advocates, and even more compared with on-line purchases.

Elizabeth Brinkama, store manager of Now and Then, says many people are beginning to understand the importance of supporting the place they live. "The survivability and prosperity of the business community impacts people, not just from an aesthetic aspect, but it adds to their way of life, their quality of life, and their own property values," she says.

Takoma Park's businesses reflect the community's character, with great diversity, international variety and a broad range of price points. Even residents who may avoid the mass consumption often associated with holiday shopping are drawn to more meaningful purchases that reflect life choices—products that are organic, fair trade or handcrafted.

Just a small stretch of Holton Lane reflects a broad spectrum of global culture, with everything from authentic Mexican cowboy boots at El Alazan to decorative brass Indian dishes at Malik Grocers. The New Ave area, at New Hampshire Avenue and University Boulevard and south along New Hampshire Avenue, includes grocery stores with food gifts like exotic spices and fresh produce from South Asia, the Caribbean, the Middle East and Latin America, as well as three halal butchers.

Many stores offer supplies for handmade gifts: Sarah's Fabrics on University Boulevard has a rich display of wool, silk, yarns and trims, and there are classes in flower arranging (Park Florist), knitting (Now and Then), and jewelry-making (S & A Beads). There are also dance, movement and yoga classes (Roda Movement Studios, Dance Exchange, Willow Street Yoga, Takoma Park Recreation Department), and two bike shops to encourage fitness (Takoma Bicycles and Green Commuter).

Other gift services could include local salon treatments or gift certificates to local restaurants.

To stay up to date with local businesses and their holiday offerings, see www.mainstreettakoma.org and www.thenewave.com.

Alternative Gift Fair resurrects a more generous holiday spirit

"Bah humbug" may be on the tip of her tongue when she walks into the Alternative Gift Fair each year, but by the time the four-hour celebration is over, Jill Feasley says she has changed her tune.

The director of Takoma Park Meals on Wheels says the fair, where shoppers purchase "gifts" of donations in the names of family and friends, is a great opportunity for people to do good in the world. "I go in feeling like Scrooge and come out with my faith in humanity restored," she says.

Meals on Wheels is one of 17 organizations that will benefit from the fair this year, which runs on Saturday, Dec. 1 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, at the corner of Tulip and Maple avenues in Takoma Park. Each organization sets up an informational table where volunteers answer questions about their group and the kinds of services they provide. Participants may donate in the name of someone for whom they are purchasing holiday gifts. The recipient gets a gift card-sized note describing the gift, the charitable organization and the words "A gift of ___(insert specific gift here)___ has been made in your honor". Both the giver and the recipient get the satisfaction that they have made the world a better place.

Many shoppers match the interests of the person receiving the gift to the kind of donation they select: a bicycling enthusiast might receive a notice of a donation given in their name to buy bicycle repair tools for a person in a low-income rural area. An artist might help supply paint brushes for autistic teens. The fair supports many organizations to provide a wide variety of services, so that shoppers can match interests to charities.

Last year, Meals on Wheels collected $1,000 over the course of the event, a "huge amount" of money for such a small organization, says Feasley. The program delivers daily meals – and, not insignificantly, a personal visit – to about 40 Takoma Park area people who are unable to cook or shop for themselves. "I [just turned] 85 and never realized how other people could be so kind and considerate to others," wrote one client, in a thank you note to the volunteers who deliver the meals.

That consideration extends to other organizations as well. Last year, shoppers contributed a total of just over $29,000 to 21 organizations. At Project Muso, shoppers bought gifts to provide training and capital investments to help women start their own businesses in Mali, West Africa.

At the Homeless Children's Playtime Project, $15 gifts each bought art supplies for five children living in shelters. One of the most popular gifts was the $10 donation for a week of fresh vegetables to a local low-income family.

Other opportunities include donations for journals and dictionaries for a youth prison literacy program, and dental and medical check-ups for Mayan children; bodywork sessions for wounded service members and overnight camping trips for inner city youth.

This year is the 14th year the Alternative Gift Fair has been held in Takoma Park. Part of a national movement, it is run entirely by volunteers; because of other commitments among the core group of organizers, it nearly folded two years ago. Renewed efforts have revived the event, which now includes not only a wide variety of local and international charities, but also a children's play area with free onsite child care, a sweet and savory bake sale, a raffle with gifts from local stores, a serenity station with free bodywork, a cookie decorating table where shoppers can "buy a cookie and donate a cookie" to homebound residents, and live music from local performers.

To join volunteers running the event, contact Mimi Ikle-Khalsa at aggw_inc@yahoo.com.

To learn more about this event and others like it in the area, go to the website for Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington (AGGW) at www.aggw.org.

Fall leaf collection program

Loose leaf collection will be provided by the City from Nov. 19 through Dec. 21 this year. The program will take place over five weeks. Residents can rake leaves to the curb at their convenience during the five-week period. Most streets do not have an assigned collection day. The goal of the program is to collect leaf piles within two weeks of their appearance at the curb. Leaf collection is dependent on the weather and rain or freezing conditions can slow collection.

There are five streets that receive collection days on scheduled days. These streets are State Highway routes and have a heavy volume of traffic.

Carroll Avenue, from the 7000 to 7800 block, Ethan Allen Avenue, and Flower Avenue, from the 7900 to 8600 block, will have collection on Monday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Dec. 14.

Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue will have collection on Friday, Nov. 16 and Monday, Dec. 17.

There will be no collection on the Thanksgiving holiday which is observed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22 and 23. Also no other streets will receive collection on the dates when the posted streets are collected (Nov. 16 and 26 and Dec. 14 and 17).

During the collection in November, the crews will concentrate on picking up large piles of leaves. In December, when the crews are making the last collection on each street, they will thoroughly collect all remaining loose leaves from the gutter and grassy strip along the curb.

The Public Works Department welcomes your comments and suggestions about the service we are providing. Please contact Public Works by phone: 301-891-7633. You can also call the leaf collection hotline at 301-891-7626 to notify us when your leaves have been raked out. Our goal is to collect leaf piles reported on the hotline within 10 days of the call.

Please follow these guidelines:

1. Rake leaves into a pile at the edge of the curb. Do not rake leaves into the street. Leaf piles can create traffic hazards.
2. Do not park your car in front of a leaf pile and when raking please try to avoid piling leaves where cars are likely to be parked.
3. The vacuum leaf collection is for leaves only. Do not include branches, brush, vines, rocks or debris. These items can seriously damage equipment and delay collection.
4. Do not pile leaves near storm drain inlets. Leaves can block the drains and cause flooding problems.

The City also provides weekly Monday collection for bagged grass, leaves, branches and brush all year long. The Monday collection requires leaves and loose yard materials to be in paper bags, trash cans or stiff-sided containers. Plastic bags cannot be used for yard material because these items are composted and the plastic interferes with the composting process. Branches must be less than four feet long and less than three inches in diameter and tied into small bundles or stacked in a trash can. The Monday yard waste collection is cancelled when a holiday is observed on Monday.

LEAF COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Collection will occur Nov. 19 to Dec. 21.
- Residents can rake leaves at their convenience, there is no assigned collection day. (Except for the five state highways in the City which have assigned collection days)
- Place leaf piles inside the curb – not in the street.
- Do not put branches, brush, vines, rocks or other debris in the leaf piles.
- Vacuum leaf collection will end Dec. 21, if weather has not delayed collection.
- Snow and freezing rain can significantly delay collection.
- Leaf Collection Hotline for reporting when your pile is at the curb, 301-891-7626.

NOVEMBER '12

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 December 2012 issue is Nov. 16; it will print Nov. 29.

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
Monday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
For agendas, see www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas

Public Hearing
Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
On agreement between Takoma park and State Highway Adminstration regarding Route 410
Page 2 for more information

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

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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

Alternative Gift Fair
Saturday, Dec. 1, noon – 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, at Tulip and Maple avenues
Giving the gift of charitable donations
Children's activities, music, food
See page 11

ARTS AND LITERATURE

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

Takoma Spark House Jam
Informal gathering on the front porch
7206 Carroll Ave. across from the firehouse
Bring an instrument or sit back and listen

Day of the Dead with De Colores Mexican Dance Company
Friday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Foot-stomping and intricate paired choreography with an "ofrenda" (Offering for the Dead)
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

IMT – An Evening of Japanese Drumming
Saturday, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
With Kizuna and special guest Ryo Shimamoto
$15 advance / $18 door, students $12 / $15
http://imtfolk.org/

IMT – Annalivia CD Release
Wednesday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Acoustic and traditional music, fused with old and new world sound
$18 advance / $22 door, students $14 / $18
http://imtfolk.org/

Mountains and Valleys Exhibit – Opening Artists Reception
Friday, Nov. 9, 6 – 8 p.m.
The Galleries at the Community Center
An exhibit of Concertina Books offered in collaboration with Pyramid Atlantic's Book Arts Fair
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

IMT – Winifred Horan, Mick McAuley & Colm O'Caoimh
Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
CD release of Sailing Back to You, a musical journey with reels, jigs and airs
$22 advance / $26 door, students $18 / $22
http://imtfolk.org/

Third Thursday – Open Poetry Reading
Thursday, Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
An evening of poetry – open reading of original poetry by the poets themselves
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Bound by the Beauty – Book Arts Fair
Friday, Nov. 16 – Sunday, Nov. 18
Silver Spring Civic Center at Veteran's Plaza
Pyramid Atlantic Art Center's celebration of the evolution of the book as art http://pyramidatlanticbookartsfair.org/

Carroll Café – Kate Campbell with Mary Gordon Hall and Richard Broadbent
Friday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Carroll Café, 276 Carroll St NW
Storytelling presented in a full range of American music styles
$15 door
http://carrollcafe.org

IMT – Al and Amy's Homecoming CD Release
Saturday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Critically acclaimed Al Petteway and Amy White with an intoxicating blend of musical styles
$20 advance / $25 door, students $15 / $20
http://imtfolk.org/

We are Takoma – Film Screening and Discussion
Thursday, Nov. 29, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
"The Lucky Few" about the rescue of 30,000 South Vietnamese refugees
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

We are Takoma – DC Labor Chorus Holiday Concert
Saturday, Dec. 1, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Annual concert of favorite and sacred songs
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission
2012 Holiday Art Sale
More than 30 local artists and craftspeople
Paintings, photography, pottery, fiber arts, collage, jewelry
Saturday, Dec. 8
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park