

December
2012

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 51, No. 12 ■ takomaparkmd.gov



WHAT'S NEW?

Employee Appreciation Day
City offices closed
Dec. 13, 12 – 2 p.m.

Winter Solstice Celebration
The Foggy Bottom Morris Men
Dec. 20, 6 – 7 p.m., Gazebo
7:30 p.m., in the Library

Trash collection
No collection Tuesday, Dec. 25
Trash and recycling collected
Wednesday



Celebrating tradition

Eaglebear, aka Tomas Shash, right, and his family visited the Takoma Park, Md. library for his annual presentation of Native American music, dance, stories and tradition from their Xicano and Apache culture. Above, the family shares music from handmade instruments.

Photo by Selena Malott



New public art slated for Flower-Piney intersection

City builds on commitment to art in shared spaces

By Virginia Myers

Takoma Park continues its commitment to public art, with a new contract for "Azalea," a steel and enamel sculpture to be erected at the intersection of Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road as part of the Flower Avenue Green Street project.

The new piece, slated for unveiling this summer, is six giant azalea blossoms, visually declaring Takoma Park as the Azalea City. But artist Howard Connelly explains that the azalea motif symbolizes more than just the many blooming azalea bushes in the City. "The Azalea City is like a bouquet of flowers," he wrote in his proposal. "All kinds of people live together symbolized here by six varieties of azaleas fitting together like puzzle pieces, and also

PUBLIC ART □ Page 11

Video Americain closes, La Mano Coffeehouse to open, Aldi renovates

Takoma commercial districts experience change

Several changes are afoot in Takoma Park's commercial areas: the local film center, Video Americain, closed Nov. 11, Modern Times Coffeehouse has plans to move in to the old Mayorga shop across from the Takoma Metro station, and the Aldi grocery store at Takoma Langley Crossroads has re-opened after renovation.

Final credits at Video Americain

Established in 1995, Video Americain became the neighborhood video rental store for film buffs as well as local residents who enjoyed the friendly vibe at a place where staff could recommend their favorite movies, and the shopper next to you –likely your neighbor–would offer an opinion as well. Along with newly released movies, there were documentaries, television series, sections sorted by direc-

OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS □ Page 11

Holiday celebrations include art, greenery, music

Keeping it local means more than shopping

The holiday season is already well underway in Takoma Park, and it's not all about Black Friday, that notorious shopping day that follows Thanksgiving. Small Business Saturday was the next day, Saturday, Nov. 24, when shoppers committed to shop in Mom and Pop local shops rather than big box stores. Then the Alternative Gift Fair, Dec. 1, gave local folks a chance to contribute to charities in the names of loved ones who received notification of the "gift."

On Sunday, Dec. 2, residents and other shoppers will show up in the pajamas as early as 7 a.m. for Pajarama, the annual opportunity to wear sleepwear to the participating shops in Old Town and get rewarded with a discount for your good sense of humor. This year, there will even be a contest for best PJs, complete with a runway and prizes for modeling favorite jammies. The event runs from 7 to 10 a.m. in Old Town Takoma shops, the "fashion show" will be at the corner of Laurel and Carroll avenues.

A raffle and shopping spree begins the same day: participants shop during the month of December to enter, and a drawing will determine the two winners who will receive a shopping spree of gift cards from local businesses.

At Park Florist, a Wreath Buffet sets off the decoration season on Dec. 2, with customers creating their own wreaths from a selection of greens, natural ornaments and bows. A holiday centerpiece workshop expands the idea on Dec. 20 at 6:30 p.m. (\$75). For Christmas trees for your home, check out the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department sale on the parking lot next to the station. All proceeds go to support the station.

Some 35 artists turn out for the big Holiday Art Sale at the Takoma Park Community Center, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8. There shoppers will find jewelry, pottery, photography, wearable art, glasswork, painting and print – funky and fine, functional and fun.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES □ Page 11

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

PRE-SORT STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TAKOMA PARK, MD
PERMIT NO. 4422

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

Inside:

HOLIDAY
ART
Page 5



FITNESS
EXPO
Page 6



SPEED
CAMERAS
Page 10

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS*

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

Monday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.
(closed session vote at 6 p.m.)
TPCC Auditorium

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

CITY MANAGER SELECTION TASK FORCE

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Azalea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

THE CITY COUNCIL WILL BE ON RECESS FROM DEC. 4 UNTIL JAN. 7. THE MAYOR’S OFFICE HOURS WILL RESUME ON JAN. 8.

*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.

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 are available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk.

City Council Action

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

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

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

CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 2012-1

(Passed at First Reading on October 22
Voting No: Williams, Grimes, Schultz
Failed at Second Reading on Nov. 5
Voting No: Williams, Grimes, Schultz; Abstain: Smith)

Amending Article VII, The City Manager, of the City of Takoma Park Municipal Charter to Enable the Council, by Ordinance, to establish a residency requirement or residency preference for the City Manager and/or for executive employees and to require the City Manager to consult with the Council on the selection of executive City employees

The resolution would have enabled the Council to adopt an ordinance to establish residency requirements or preferences for the City Manager and executive employees. It would also have required the City Manager to consult with the Council on executive employee hires.

RESOLUTION 2012-59

Adopted (Nov. 5)
Extending the Food Truck Pilot Program until Feb. 28, 2013 and expanding the hours and days of the program

The resolution authorizes the extension of the program until Feb. 28, 2013 on an expanded schedule, seven days a week between the hours of 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. or sunset, whichever is later; requires the Old Takoma Business Association to provide a written report on the pilot program; and directs the City Manager to present recommendations in January 2013 for

the establishment of a permanent city-wide food truck program.

RESOLUTION 2012-60

Adopted (Nov. 5)
Dissolving the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee
The resolution dissolves the Montgomery College Neighbors Advisory Committee that was established by Resolution 2005-33.

RESOLUTION 2012-61

Adopted (Nov. 5)
Appointing members to the Small Community Grant Review Committee
The resolution appoints Olutayo Akingbe, Elizabeth Boyd, Franca Brilliant, Gary Cardillo, Julie Evans Caroline Fernandez, Lesley Perry and Jacqueline Schick to the Committee.

RESOLUTION 2012-62

Adopted (Nov. 5)
Appointing members to the Ethics Commission
The resolution appoints Arthur E. Gary, Ellen Maidman-Tanner, Patricia Anne Murphy and Michael Richards to the Ethics Commission.

RESOLUTION 2012-63

Adopted (Nov. 5)
Appointing a member to the Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee
The resolution appoints James DiLuigi to the Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee.

ORDINANCE 2012-51

Adopted (Nov. 5)
Authorizing purchase of a replacement vehicle for the Police Department
The ordinance authorizes the purchase of a Ford Fusion Hybrid for the Police Department at a total cost of \$25,920.

ORDINANCE 2012-52

Adopted (First Reading Nov. 5; Second Reading Nov. 13)
Establishing a permit parking area in New Hampshire Gardens
The ordinance establishes Permit Parking Area 6 to include the 7300-7500 blocks of New Hampshire Avenue (west side), the 7300-7500 blocks of Wildwood Drive, the 1100-1200 blocks of Merwood Drive, and the 1200 block of Kingwood Drive. Parking restrictions will be in effect from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., seven days a week beginning Jan. 14, 2013.

ORDINANCE 2012-53

Adopted (First Reading Nov. 5; second reading Nov. 13)
Voting No: Male
Adjusting the salary and compensation of the Mayor and Councilmembers
The ordinance adjusts the Mayor’s salary (currently \$13,000) and the salaries of each Councilmember (currently \$10,000) annually according to the 12-month percent of change in the annual Wage and Salaries Employment Cost Index for State and Local Government or 0.0 percent, whichever is greater. The ordinance also allows the Mayor and members of the Council to participate in the City’s health insurance program on a cost sharing basis, with the City paying 50 percent of the lowest cost base premium rate for individual coverage. The ordinance becomes effective for the City Council elected in November 2013.

ORDINANCE 2012-54

Adopted (Nov. 13)
Voting No: Seamens
Awarding a contract for a survey of City residents
The ordinance authorizes the Acting City Manager to amend the 2009 contract with National Research Center, Inc. specifying the services to be performed and the compensation to be paid for a price not to exceed \$40,000.

NOTICE OF NEW RESIDENTIAL PERMIT PARKING AREA IN NEW HAMPSHIRE GARDENS

Pursuant to Ordinance 2012-52, a new residential permit parking area has been established in the New Hampshire Gardens neighborhood. Permit Parking Area 6 will include the 7300-7500 blocks of New Hampshire Avenue (west side), the 7300-7500 blocks of Wildwood Drive, the 1100-1200 blocks of Merwood Drive, and the 1200 block of Kingwood Drive. Parking restrictions will be in effect from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., seven days a week beginning Jan. 14, 2013. Residents of these blocks will need to purchase parking permits prior to Jan. 14 if they intend to park on the street or wish to receive visitor passes. The application for a parking permit may be found on the City’s website at: www.takomaparkmd.gov/police/documents/permitap.pdf. Questions about parking permits may be directed to the Police Department Administrative Services Division at 301-891-7102.

Attest:
Jessie Carpenter, CMC
City Clerk

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

Arts and Humanities Commission (vacancies)
Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (1 vacancy – Takoma Park rental housing owner or manager desired)
Emergency Preparedness Committee (vacancies)
Ethics Commission (vacancies)
Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)
Personnel Appeal Board (vacancies)
Recognition Task Force – short term commitment (vacancies)
Recreation Committee (vacancies)
Safe Roadways Committee – newly reestablished (vacancies)
Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee (vacancies)
View information at <http://takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees/index.html> or contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org to apply or request information.

TRASH TALK

Following Takoma Park recyclables as they roll out for re-use

By Bob Guldin

In Takoma Park, residents dutifully line up their recycling bins at the curb on collection day, feeling as if they're doing their part to fulfill the mantra, "Reduce, Re-use, Recycle." But after you've waved goodbye to your cans, bottles, newspaper and cardboard, do you ever wonder what happens to all that "trash"?

The question is of new interest these days, because, as you've probably noticed, Takoma Park residents no longer have to separate recyclables. With glass, steel, aluminum and paper all dumped together, how the heck can anyone sell it for reuse – which, after all, is a big reason we recycle at all?

In search of an answer, we trekked to Prince George's County, to a huge recycling plant in Capitol Heights. Mike Caplan, the plant manager, was glad to show us around.

The plant, which has lines of garbage trucks coming in one end and neat bales of aluminum, paper and plastic coming out the other, is owned by Prince George's County. But it's run by Waste Management Recycle America, Inc., America's biggest recycling company.

The plant is a noisy bustle of front-end loaders, conveyor belts, grinders, shredders, hand-pickers, sorters and compactors. It employs 60 people, who wear hardhats and needle-proof gloves and vests, and processes about 6 million aluminum cans a week, which it turns into 600-pound bales of shiny metal.

The mixed recyclables entering the plant are dumped onto conveyor belts, and begin a dizzying dance of sorting and processing. Rows of spinning disks break apart items and sort them by weight and

size. Blowers blow plastic and paper away from heavier items.

Surprisingly, electromagnetic eddy currents are used to magnetize aluminum for a moment (you didn't think they could do that, did you?), so the valuable metal can be sucked out of the waste stream.

Throughout the complex mix of compactors and conveyors, individual workers keep an eye on the moving materials, constantly plucking out items that are going in the wrong direction (including lots of plastic bags), and tossing them into designated bins. Caplan, who seems proud of his operation, says 95 percent of the separation is done by equipment; the rest is done by "negative pulling," i.e., human hands.

The plant keeps an eye on quality. Sometimes if a bale of aluminum or cardboard looks too contaminated, workers will tear it apart and run it through the whole sorting process again.

As much as it can, Waste Management tries to get top dollar for its output. Newspaper and "standard office paper" bring higher prices when sold separately. Large steel objects and copper wire are sold as scrap metal.

Plastics go to a facility in North Carolina, which separates them into categories for sale. Plastic bags are basically given away for reprocessing, but that's better than paying to put them in the landfill, Caplan says.

Paper and cardboard and the like constitute more than 50 percent of what comes into the Capitol Heights plant. Most of that is shipped through the Port of Baltimore to Chinese buyers, who turn it into all manner of paper products. Aluminum goes to an Anheuser Busch factory in Kentucky.

Single stream means more trash gets recycled

The Capitol Heights plant switched to single-stream recycling in November 2007. (Before that, it was "dual-stream," with paper and cardboard handled separately from the rest.) Since then, its inbound volume has increased by 50 percent. The plant now handles 550 to 600 tons a day. Company-wide, Waste Management has more than 1,000 single-stream recycling plants.

Of course, not everything that comes in can be recycled. Caplan says about 8 percent is "residue" that goes into Virginia landfills. But Waste Management has to pay for that privilege, so it's in their interest to recycle as much as possible.

Moreover, some things the plant just can't handle. Items such as yard waste and food waste are off limits — though the City of Takoma Park collects autumn leaves on its own, to turn into mulch. And, says City Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite, "We're continuing to explore options for food waste composting. But we've got to have a market for it, a facility to bring it to."

There are certain items that Caplan wishes would never cross his loading dock. Rope and garden hose, for example, wrap around equipment and bring the processing line to a halt. And bowling balls. Caplan asks, "Why do people put bowling balls in their recycling? We can't recycle bowling balls!"

For those interested in industrial-scale recycling, the Waste Management plant is open for pre-arranged public visits: It's about a half-hour drive from Takoma Park. Phone 301-499-1707, ext. 6.

On Takoma Park streets, business is picking up

To see how recycling actually works in Takoma Park, there's nothing like riding along with the guys who do it, the City's Public Works recycling crew.

On a cold sunny day in November, I'm in the recycling truck with John Dudley (JD), who's been with Public Works for nine years. He first was a "sanitation tech," picking up garbage and recycling, and more recently a driver — though when it's a two-person crew, the driver will often get out and help move the waste.

Another driver, Rawle Cort, says the work has gotten easier and faster since the City moved to single stream recycling. It's a lot quicker to put all recyclables into a truck's one big mechanical compactor, rather than into separate bins for glass, paper, etc. He also reports that the volume of recycling is way up: Recycling is heavier than trash.

Another improvement came in 2009 when Takoma Park switched from sending its recyclables to the Montgomery County transfer station in Gaithersburg to using Waste Management in Prince George's County. "We used to have to wait in line for hours," JD says. "Two different lines, one for paper, one for cans and glass." With single stream at the new facility, work goes a lot faster.

It's clear these guys (and they are all guys) want to get the work done fast. Each crew has an assigned route for the day, and when the route is done, their work is over. Most crews start their shifts at 6:30 or 7 a.m., depending on when it gets light, and complete the shift within four hours.

That allows them to take on other work after their City shifts. Says JD, "One is a locksmith, one's a landscaper, one's a security guard, several guys have their own businesses."

Picking up from every home in the City means the recycling crews have lots of contact with the public. "People are appreciative of the work we do," says JD. "They give us cards, cookies, cut up fruit. The kids watch us and wave from the windows."

But JD has some advice for his clients as well. First, many people still separate their recyclables into categories. You don't have to do that anymore. Second, no styrofoam, no shoes, no appliances, please. Just regular recyclables. Third, if you put recyclables in a closed garbage can, make a sign. Otherwise, the crew can't tell it's recycling.

If you leave large items that can't be recycled, the crews will just leave it, sometimes with a tag that explains why.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Virginia Myers
Production: Electronic Ink
www.takomaparkmd.gov
Vol. 51, No. 12

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

Lease extension, alleged retaliation subjects of COLTA Decisions

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

Case Number 2012-9T
Akpadja v.7401 New Hampshire Ave., LLC et al

On Nov. 6, COLTA issued its ruling in a case brought by the tenant who said the landlord terminated his tenancy in retaliation for his complaints to the landlord and the Montgomery County Code Enforcement Office about alleged defects in his apartment. The tenant requested that the Notice to Vacate from the landlord be withdrawn.

COLTA denied the request. It ruled that the tenant's written complaints preceded the notice to vacate by more than six months. Testimony presented at the hearing indicated that the tenant had failed to properly prepare his apartment for bed-

COLTA'S CORNER

bug extermination treatment on several occasions, and this was the reason for the Notice to Vacate. The commission decision, however, did note that the instructions provided to the tenant for preparation of his apartment for extermination treatment were "confusing and internally inconsistent."

Case Number 2012T-7T
Douma/Vinas v. Twomey

On Sept. 6, COLTA issued its ruling in a case brought by tenants who said their landlord declined to renew their lease for a year in retaliation for their written complaints to him about alleged defects at the property, their filing of an administrative complaint with the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community

Affairs, and because the landlord had filed a Fair Return Rent Increase Petition. The petition would have allowed the landlord to increase rent sooner if the lease was not renewed.

The tenants requested the extension of their lease for an additional three years.

COLTA denied the request. It ruled that the tenants failed to state a claim under Section 8-208.1, Retaliatory Actions, of the Real Property Article of the Maryland Code because this section does not cover the termination of a tenancy at the end of a specified term (in this case, a term that had run its course). Additionally, COLTA ruled that the landlord had the right to decline to renew the lease because of unrelated, specified improper tenant actions at the property. The landlord had given the tenants timely written statements of his reasonable cause for not renewing the lease, in accordance with Section 6.16.170 of the city code.

When the landlord comes knocking

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

I advised my landlord today about a problem in my apartment and he said he can come in this afternoon to address it. Is that all right and do I have to be home when he comes into my apartment?

Normally, a landlord is required to give you 48 hours written notice of entry,

HOUSING MAILBOX

however if its agreeable for the work to be done in less than 48 hours you need to give written permission for the entry to be made (Takoma Park Code 6.16.140 2.a.). Your written (not an email) permission should be provided to your landlord or placed on the outside of your apartment entry door. Remember to keep a

copy of your written permission to enter for your records.

With the exception of an emergency such as a fire, or damages resulting from a storm or leaking water, the law requires that a landlord provide the tenant with at least 48 hours written notice of the intent to enter the apartment. Section 6.16.140 of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law states the landlord's written notice must include the proposed entry date, the approximate timeframe, and purpose of the intended entry and the phone number of the landlord and/or his/her agent. The 48 hours written notice requirement also applies to upcoming code inspections by county code inspectors who may not make entry if the tenant indicates he/she has not received the advance written notification from the landlord.

You are not required to be home when an entry is made into your apartment by the landlord or his employee(s) or agent. If you are not home when the entry is made the law requires that a Report of Entry be left in plain view in your apartment. It must inform you of the names of all individuals who entered you apartment, the date and time of the entry, the reason for the entry and work performed, if any, the time of departure from your apartment and the address and phone number of your landlord.

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

Charter amendment resolution fails

Increased Council control over city staffing put on hold

By Virginia Myers

In confusing back and forth action at the meeting on Nov. 5, the City Council voted down a resolution that would have changed the City Charter to give City Council additional oversight of City staff hiring.

The matter began several months ago when the Takoma Park City Council began considering controversial changes to the City charter that would require the City Manager to be a resident of Takoma Park, and would require that the City Manager consult with the Council on executive employee hires. The charter amendment resolution was approved at first reading on a vote of four to three. The final resolution failed on a vote of three to three with one abstention. The resolution would have allowed the Council to adopt an ordinance (rather than change the City charter directly) to establish residency requirements or preferences for the City manager and executive employees. It would have also required the City Manager to consult with Council on executive employee hires.

Voting for the resolution at second reading were Tim Male (Ward 2), Kay Daniels-Cohen (Ward 3), and Terry Seamens (Ward 4). Voting against were Seth Grimes (Ward 1), Fred Schultz (Ward 6) and Mayor Bruce Williams. Jarrett Smith (Ward 5) abstained, with the result that the resolution failed for lack of a majority in support.

The final decision came after a lively public hearing and much discussion on neighborhood listserves.

More than 20 people testified at the hearing, and more went on record earlier or in writing. Most opposed the change.

Those who support the changes 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. Those who oppose feel such a requirement would limit the pool of candidates for the position, 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.

Those who support increased Council involvement in City hires 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 suggest 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.

To learn more, see the Newsletter article, "Council considers residency requirement, hiring changes," November 2012, page 1. Footage of the City Council meetings is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

The Council will be addressing the residency issue further in the new year.



**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

| # of people in Household | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Maximum Income | \$49,200 | \$56,200 | \$63,250 | \$70,250 |

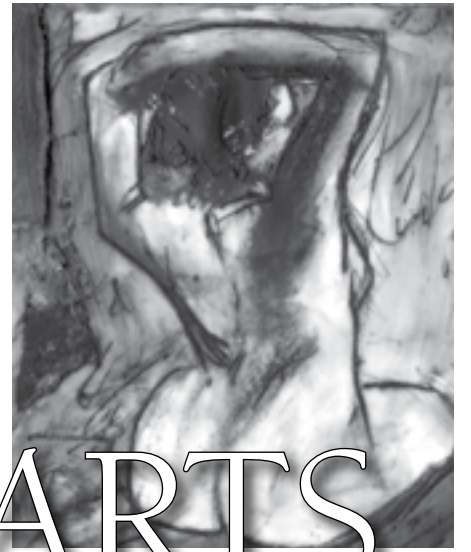


Annual holiday art sale features array of local artistry

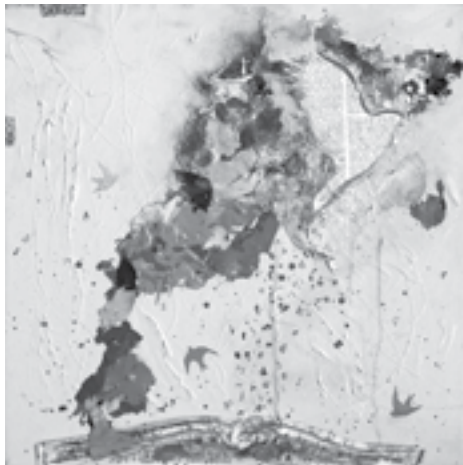
**Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center**

Takoma Park's annual holiday art sale celebrates its seventh year Dec. 8, with a broad selection of items available in time for creative gift shopping.

The popular event, organized by City staff and the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, will feature 35 artists and a variety of media. Among them: watercolor tiles of Takoma Park artist Jamie Combs; pens and silver jewelry from Matthew Davis; hand blown glass pendants and art jars by Ryan and Daniel Eicher; stained glass from Ken Gedling; up-cycled jewelry of Joy Jones and Bobbi Kittner; a variety of functional pieces created by Patti Mallin from of all things, plastic bags; the photography of Rob Ruck, Jan Morels, and Julius Kassovic; as well as art cards, quilts, dolls and pottery from other contributors.



THE ARTS



"Flight by Letter" is a series of abstract, mixed-media paintings exploring the spirit of the written word. The exhibit opens on Friday, Nov. 9.

Flight by Letter mixed media explores written word

Through December 2013

The Galleries at the Community Center

Free

www.facebook.com/takomaparkmd/events

"Flight by Letter" is a series of abstract, mixed-media paintings exploring the spirit of the written word. "Words can give color to our imagination, and our imaginations can give color to our words," says artist Nadia Janjua. "The result – nothing less than the flight of our own souls."

Nadia has been exhibiting her work professionally since 2002 throughout the United States, and more recently, internationally. She has numerous works commissioned by private collectors and has contributed annually to charity, fund-raising and auction events for different causes. Her creative works can be viewed at nadiaart.com, facebook.com/NadiaJArt and shopnadiaart.etsy.com.

Students showcase award-winning Russian dance

Sunday, Dec. 9, 4 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium

Free

In its premier performance on Dec. 9, the Akhmedova Ballet Youth Company will present a mixed bill of excerpts from the Russian repertoire, including ballet, folk and character dance. The company, comprised of students from the Professional Training Program at the Akhmedova Ballet Academy in Rockville, includes winners and laureates from international ballet competitions. The performers have mastered both technique and passion for their art.

Third Thursday Poetry features four local poets

Thursday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

Free

Behind the house a bottle breaks.

Its crystal chips will shred my knees when sleepy day returns.

— excerpt from "Vigil" by John Borstel

John Borstel describes himself as an artist working at the crossroads of photography, performance, and the written/spoken word. His award-winning work combining imagery with text has been seen in galleries throughout the Baltimore/Washington area and as far afield as England and Israel. Borstel's work in poetry has been honored with an award from the Maryland Writers Association. He has performed his work at slams, open mics and cabarets in such places as Busboys and Poets, the Fridge, Goddard College and Dance Exchange.

Joining Borstel at this month's poetry reading are Lindsay Vaughan, Steve Rogers, Wanda Frazier and Kathleen O'Toole.

We Are Takoma Presents: Takoma Djangology

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park MD 20912
7:30 pm \$15 Advance \$20 Door

Saturday, Dec. 8
Preceded by Takoma Art Fair,
10 – 4 pm

For Tickets & Info Contact
House of Musical Traditions
(301) 270-9090

RECREATION



Ladies On The Move - Teen Program participants from left, Zackia Ansan, Alexis Brantley, DeOnna Manuel and Nandi Silvera.

Photo by Eric Rasch

YOUTH/TEENS

Double Dutch

Ages 6-14

Learn the art of Double Dutch through a fun, aerobic endurance workout that includes single rope jumping, double Dutch turning and jumping, stretching, toning, jogging and calisthenics.

Thursdays 7 – 8:30 p.m. (on-going)

TP Recreation Center

Free with membership card

Girls on the Rise

Ages 10-14

Girls on the Rise is designed to help girls work through the challenges of adolescence. The program encourages positive self esteem, helps navigate through peer problems, explores healthy relationship development and provides support through family challenges, cyber bullying and school challenges. Girls will learn

to identify how their emotions play a role in all areas of their life.

Thursdays, 7 – 8 p.m. (on-going)

TP Recreation Center

Free with membership card

Kid's Night Out

Ages 6-12

Want a night to yourself while your kids have a blast with their friends? Takoma Park Recreation Center Kid's Night Out is a fun-filled night for children. It will involve activities such as 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

FITNESS AND HEALTH

Cardio Kick-Boxing

Ages 16 and older

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

Session #1: Mondays, Jan. 14 – March 18, 7-8 p.m.

(No class on Feb. 18),

TP Recreation Center

\$50/8 weeks

Fitness Expo 2013

Making fitness fun and accessible is what this Fitness Expo is all about. Free and fun for all ages the sessions feature 20-minute demonstrations of Jazzercise, Zumba, Teen Fitness, Cardio Kickboxing and Pilates in interactive presentations, as well as health screenings, seminars and more. A good way to decide how to keep your New Year's resolution this year.

Saturday, Jan. 5, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

Free

Jazzercise

Age 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 great music. The music ranges from oldies to jazz to the newest pop tune.

Mondays and Wednesdays (on-going) 7-8 p.m.

Saturdays (on-going) 8 – 9 a.m.

TP Recreation Center

\$35 per month EFT (Easy Fitness Ticket)

\$85/8-week pass

\$10 drop-in (with \$20 fee)

Ladies' Boot Camp I

Age 16 older

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

Session 1: Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 15 – March 7, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

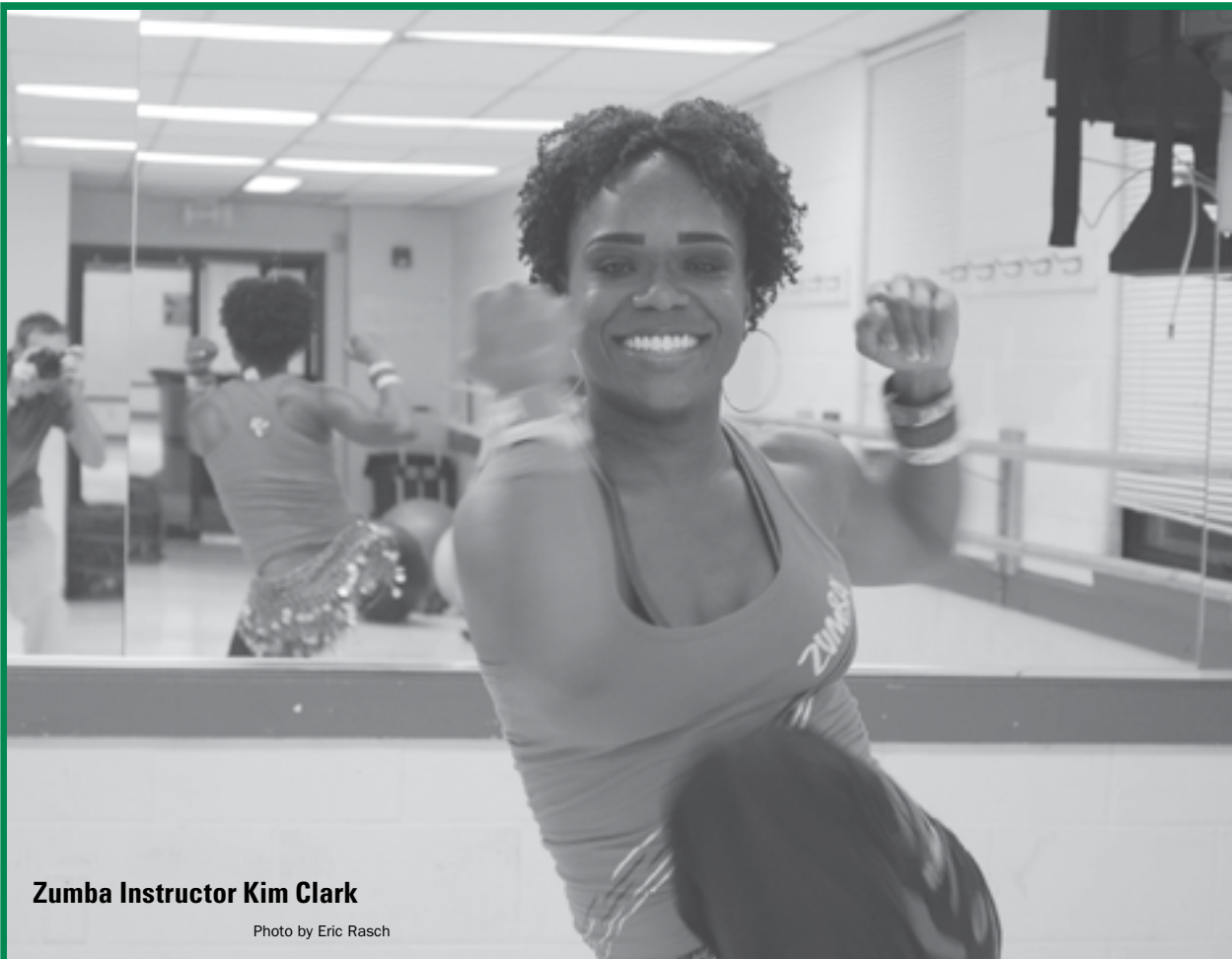
\$85/8 weeks

Ladies Boot Camp II

Age 16 and older

Ladies Boot Camp II is the next phase in cardio and muscle conditioning. It is designed to continue to give you that awesome, fierce look. This workout pushes your endurance

RECREATION □ Page 7



Zumba Instructor Kim Clark

Photo by Eric Rasch

✓ Mark Your Calendar!

Fitness Expo 2013

Saturday, Jan. 5

8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

7315 New Hampshire Ave.

Making fitness fun and accessible

- Jazzercise, Aerobics, Zumba, Teen Fitness, Cardio Kickboxing, Pilates
- 20-minute demonstrations, interactive presentations, health screenings/seminars

Reserve your spot today. Call 301-891-7289

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings and programs. Anyone planning to attend a Takoma Park City or Recreation event or program and wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services or reasonable accommodations is invited to contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290 at least two weeks in advance at the telephone number listed or through the Maryland Relay Service (1-800-735-2258 TTY/Voice).

RECREATION

■ From page 6

and current conditioning. The intervals will be longer and the movements will be more complex. Core and body exercises will reach new levels of intensity. If you have taken Ladies Boot Camp I, you will love Ladies Boot Camp II.

Saturdays, Jan. 26 – March 23,
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

(No class on Feb. 16)

TP Recreation Center

\$45/8 weeks

Pilates

Age 16 and older

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

Wednesdays, Jan. 16 – Feb. 20, 6 – 7 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

\$60/6 weeks

Tai Chi

Age 16 and older

Tai Chi is an ancient exercise for cultivating physical and spiritual health. This class covers basic principles and concepts. 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. (on-going)

TP Recreation Center

Free

Zumba

Age 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.



Concentration is key at the Connect 4 Tournament for Brian Griffin, left, and his opponent.

Photo by Bradley Williams

Wednesdays, 6 – 6:55 p.m. (on-going)

Saturdays, 9:15 – 10:10 a.m. (on-going)

Session 1: Jan. 9 – Feb. 6

(No class on Jan. 19)

TP Recreation Center

\$40/4 weeks per session

\$10 drop-in fee

Holiday Performance

Come and share the holiday spirit with the New Dimension Singers. The group's musical montage show combines lighthearted secular tunes with traditional carols for this Silver Foxes special event. Bring your families. Recreation Bus transportation to and from senior housing complexes and the Community Center (continuous loops) is available beginning at 4 p.m. For more information, call 301-891-7280.

Monday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium

Free

SILVER FOXES

Silver Foxes Birthday Party

Ages 55 and older

Join us for cake, ice cream and fun. We are honoring October, November and December birthdays - all seniors welcome! Drop-in. No registration required. For more information, call 301-891-7280.

Friday, Dec. 14, 1 – 2:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Lilac Room

Free

Holiday Bingo

Ages 55 and older

Special prizes, special treats. Try your luck and win a prize! Drop-in. No registration required.

Thursday, Dec. 20, Noon - 2 p.m.

TP Community Center Senior Room

Free

Winter Festival of Lights, Watkins Regional Park

Ages 55 and older

Join us for a spectacular drive-through holiday light display featuring more than a million

twinkling lights. Let's get in the spirit of the holiday season! Dress for warmth and comfort. Meet at Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Bus pick up at Franklin Apartments, Maplevue Apartments and Victory Tower only. Registration is required. Call 301-891-7280.

Thursday, Dec. 13, 5 – 7 p.m.

(Return time may be later)

Free transportation and admission.

Shopping Trip, Columbia Mall

Come with us to the Columbia Mall for some last minute holiday shopping or to browse a variety of stores decorated for the holidays. Bring spending money for shopping and lunch at the food court or the restaurant of your choice. Wear comfortable walking shoes and bring shopping bags. Meet at Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. Bus pick up at Franklin Apartments, Maplevue Apartments and Victory Tower only. Registration is required. Call 301-891-7280.

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Free transportation. You pay for your lunch and shopping.

2013

Takoma Park Recreation Department

WINTER BASKETBALL LEAGUE

(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.

CALENDAR

Circle Time

Every Tuesday (no Circle Time Dec. 25 or Jan. 1)

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

Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday

10:30 a.m. with Señora Geiza

Holiday Card-Making Workshop

Saturday Dec. 1, 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Computer Learning Center

Come make a holiday card using free computer graphics software. Presented by Art for the People. You must have a library card to participate.

Holiday Book Sale

Sunday Dec. 2, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

At Historic Takoma (see story)

Bedtime Stories

Monday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m.

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

Friends Reading Group discusses “Train Dreams” by Denis Johnson

Tuesday Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.

Hydrangea Room

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 4 p.m.

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

Career Self-Leadership Workshop

Wed. Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Registration is closed

Petites Chansons

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

Come sing French songs and rhymes with Madame Marie

Holiday Gift-Making

Saturday, Dec. 8, 1-3 p.m.

Kids make gifts for the special people in their lives

Registration required

Holiday Sing-a-Long

Saturday, Dec. 8, 3 p.m.

Sing songs of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa

All ages

Career Self-Leadership Workshop

Wed. Dec. 12 – 7:30 p.m.

Registration is closed

Storytelling with Arianna Ross

Saturday Dec. 15, 11 a.m.

(see story)

Caldecott Birthday Club

Monday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.

Join us for an evening devoted to Caldecott-winning books from the 1970s

Winter Solstice Celebration

Thursday, Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m.

Ring in the season with Bill Jenkins and his drums, along with the Foggy Bottom Morris Men

All ages

LIBRARY



Favorite books rise to the top of the gift list this season

By Karen MacPherson

Looking for some great books to read – or give as gifts – this holiday? Here’s a look at a few favorites of 2012 for kids and teens. (Look for a fuller list on our website, in the “Children’s Room” blog, in early December):

KIDS:PICTURE BOOKS

“Green,” written and illustrated by Laura Vaccaro Seeger, is a masterpiece of picture

book art, spotlighting the many shades of the color green. Age 2-6.

In “This Is Not My Hat,” written and illustrated by Jon Klassen, a fish revels in a stolen hat until his past catches up with him. Ages 4-8.

Author/illustrator Mo Willems has produced two picture book gems this year: “Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs,” a fractured version of the popular fairy tale, and “The Duckling Gets a Cookie!,” the latest in the adventures of the mischie-

vous Pigeon. Ages 3-6.

Artist Erin Stead, who won the 2011 Caldecott Medal for her illustrations for “A Sick Day for Amos McGee” has two great books out this year. In “And Then It’s Spring,” Stead joins with author Julie Fogliano in an ode to patience and hope as a young gardener watches his world turn from brown to green. Stead’s other new book, “Bear Has a Story to Tell,” was

HOLIDAY FAVORITES □ Page 9



Cade Boggan, 10, proudly shows off his work during the Scribblers Cabal, a drawing session hosted by Library Assistant Dave Burbank. The group of young artists meets monthly on a Saturday. Check the web site for dates.

Photo by Selena Malott

LIBRARY BRIEFS

“Ulysses” for the undaunted

It was not easy to find an American publisher willing to take on James Joyce’s “Ulysses.” When it was serialized in “The Little Review” in 1918, the magazine’s publishers were arrested and charged with publishing obscenity. It was not published in book form until 1922 when it became available in Paris. In 1934, Random House successfully defended Joyce against obscenity charges and published the complete text.

“Ulysses” is considered one of the most important literary works of the twentieth century. The critic Edmund Wilson wrote: “Joyce has studied what we are accustomed to consider the dirty, the trivial and the base elements in our lives with the relentlessness of a modern psychologist; and he has also...done justice to all

those elements in our lives which we have been in the habit of describing by such names as love, nobility, truth and beauty.”

This spring the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library’s “Great Big Book Club” will tackle this masterpiece of Modernist literature. Tentative dates for the discussions will be March 5, March 19, April 2 and April 16 – possibly with others to follow. The first meeting will provide an introduction by a noted Joyce scholar.

All are welcome to participate in these discussions. Now is the time to get your copy of “Ulysses,” or dust off your old one – and start reading!

Holiday crafting and sing-a-long

We’ve got a special afternoon of holiday fun lined up for Dec. 8. From 1-3 p.m., kids are welcome to come and make gifts for the special people in their lives. Then, at 3 p.m., we’ll have our annual Holiday Sing-a-Long, featuring local musician/

music teacher Wendy Lanxner and her students. Registration is required for the Holiday Gift-Making program so that we have enough supplies for everyone. To register, please go to: www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call us at 301-891-7259. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring our Holiday Gift-Making program.

Celebrating Solstice with music and dance

For nearly two decades, we’ve celebrated the coming of winter with a special Winter Solstice program. This year’s program will take place on Thursday, Dec. 20. We’ll begin at 6:30 p.m. with musician and teacher Bill Jenkins, who will lead us in a drum circle. Then, at 7:30 p.m., the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will swoop in, bringing their songs, dances and revelry.

LIBRARY BRIEFS □ Page 9

LIBRARY BRIEFS

■ From page 8

No registration required; this program is great for all ages. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring this program.

Holiday Book Sale

The Friends of the Library and Historic Takoma will partner in holding a special holiday book sale at Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave., on Sunday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be new copies of children's books, and some special used copies of books for adults – all at bargain prices.

Money from sales will help the Friends in their fund-raising efforts, and shoppers can get acquainted with Historic Takoma's new facility.

The Friends reserve the right to limit the numbers of books purchased by individuals – so there will be enough for all! Book dealers are not invited to this sale, but all Takoma Park friends and neighbors are welcome.

October Book Sale a Success

Super storm Sandy stayed off shore, allowing the Friends a lovely fall day for the Oct. 29 Book Sale on the Library grounds. The sale netted just over \$2,900 for the Friends. All proceeds are used for Library services and programs.

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to the volunteers and Library staff who made this sale possible. In no particular order they are: Sam McCollin, Mary Ellen Koenig, Mary Rein, Britt Cocanour and her son Beck Rowe, Nancy and Dan Kunkel, Linda Carlson, Larry Himelfarb, Allegra Cangelosi and her daughter Lucia, Rebekah Zanditon, Eleanor Landstreet, Miriam Szapiro, Kay Daniels Cohen, Geoffrey Burkhart, Dee and Mel Raff, Tim Rahn, Seth Grimes, Noreen Wells, Melinda McCall, Niamiah Mollooy and Ariana Brenig, ESL students at Montgomery College under the direction of Coordinator Jessica Wyatt, Dave Burbank of the Library staff and Book Sale Coordinator and spiritual advisor Merrill Leffler.

Story Tapestries

Master storyteller Arianna Ross of "Story Tapestries" returns in a special performance on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 11 in the Library.

Participants will have their fill of stories in this interactive program, which includes dancing, singing, wiggling and giggling the way toward new stories to read, write, draw, dance or make with music.

Ross presents international, historical and educational programs that weave the power of acrobatics, storytelling and music together. She has performed at many schools and community events. "Listening to Arianna Ross is like taking a ride on a magic carpet – an exciting, amazing journey to exotic places all the while enjoying a feeling of being enveloped in comfort and safety," says Carrie Sue Ayvar, a fellow storyteller/cuentista.

This program is best for younger children. Pre-registration is encouraged.

HOLIDAY FAVORITES

■ From page 8

written by her husband Philip Stead, who wrote "A Sick Day for Amos McGee." In "Bear Has a Story to Tell," the Steads tell a lyrical tale of a bear searching for an audience to listen to his stories. Ages 4-7.

BEGINNING READERS

The incomparable Kevin Henkes, who has won a Caldecott Medal for his illustrations for "Kitten's First Full Moon," and a Newbery Honor for his kids' novel "Olive's Ocean," now turns his hand to beginning readers with a new series starring a mouse named Penny. Look for "Penny & Her Song" and "Penny & Her Doll." ("Penny & Her Marble" will be published in 2013.) Ages 4-7.

Author/illustrator Mo Willems offers the latest in the "Elephant & Piggie" series with "Let's Go for a Drive!" Ages 4-7.

The TOON books offer a different twist on beginning readers. With these graphic novels, kids can understand the story by "reading" the illustrations, while the text provides extra information. Look for these new TOON books: "Zig and Wikki in 'The Cow'" by Nadja Spiegelman and Trade Loeffler, "Chick & Chickie Play All Day" by Claude Ponti, and "The Shark King" by R. Kikuo Johnson. Ages 4-7.

Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo and author Allison McGhee, joined by il-

lustrator Tony Fucille, detail the further adventures of two unusual friends in "Bink & Golliie: Two for One." Ages 4-7.

FICTION

For a great World War II novel based on the true-life efforts of Norwegians to sabotage German bomb-making attempts, check out "Shadow On the Mountain" by Margi Preus. Ages 8-12.

Fairy tales are really meant for older readers as author Adam Gidwitz shows in his darkly hilarious novel, "In a Glass Grimmly." Ages 8-12

Author R.J. Palacio shows what happens when August, a 10-year-old boy who was born with a deformed face, goes to "regular" school for the first time in "Wonder." Ages 9-12.

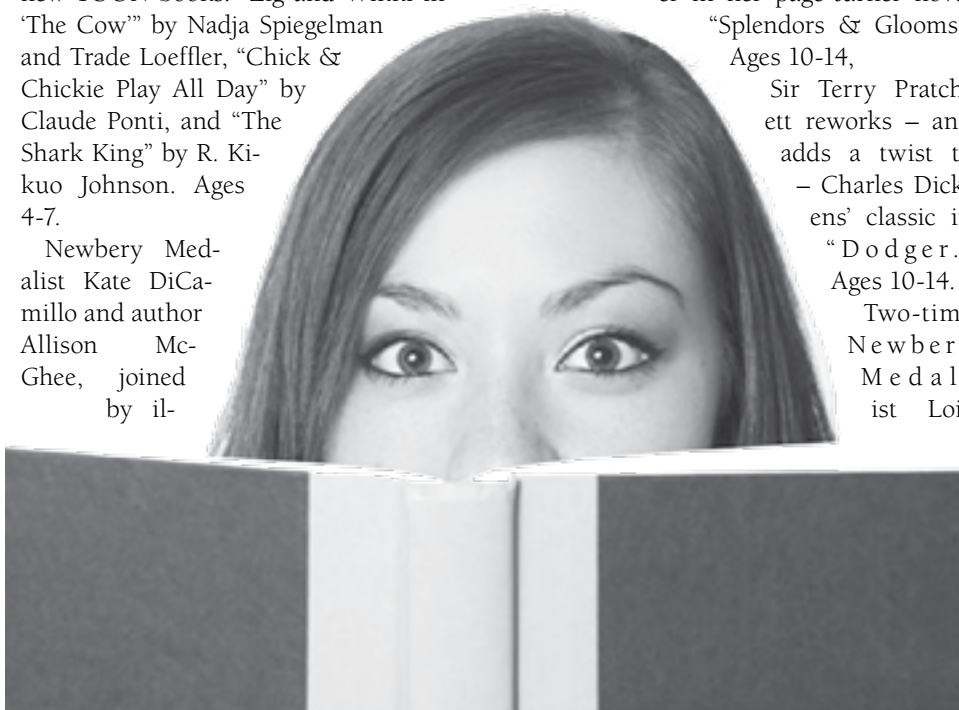
The unusual spelling of Georges' name makes him bully-bait in his middle school, but that's the least of his worries as Newbery Medalist Rebecca Stead details in "Liar & Spy." Ages 10-14.


A crazed puppeteer, two orphan children, a rich girl who's kidnapped: these are the disparate elements that Newbery Medalist Laura Amy Schlitz pulls together in her page-turner novel

"Splendors & Glooms." Ages 10-14,

Sir Terry Pratchett reworks – and adds a twist to – Charles Dickens' classic in "Dodger." Ages 10-14.

Two-time Newbery Medalist Lois





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)
- Groceries
- Bakeries and Sweets
- South Asia
- Fabrics

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.

Lowry concludes the story begun in "The Giver" with her riveting novel "Son." Ages 10 up.

NON-FICTION

We may know how it turned out, but author Steve Sheinkin still manages to keep readers on the edge of their seats in "Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon." Ages 10 up.

Two new picture book biographies celebrate the creativity and joie de vivre of Julia Child: "Bon Appetit," written and illustrated by Jessie Hartland, and "Minnette's Feast," written by Susan Reich and illustrated by Amy Bates. Both ages 6-10.

Author Marc Aronson provides a provocative look at both J. Edgar Hoover and how history is written in "Master of Deceit." Ages 10 up.

In "Moonbird," author Phillip Hoose profiles both the unusual rufa red knot and those who study the bird. Ages 10 up.

For parents: Anita Silvey offers the stories behind the stories in her wonderful "Children's Book-A-Day Almanac."

TEEN FICTION

It's become a runaway hit, one of the best books of the year for both teens and adults. It's "The Fault in Our Stars," prize-winning author John Green's unforgettable tale of two teens with cancer. Ages 12 up.

Author Elizabeth Wein offers a World War II historical novel, mystery and gut-wrenching story in "Code Name Verity." Ages 12 up.

"Bitterblue" is the can't-put-down conclusion to author Kristin Cashore's trilogy of fantasy novels that began with "Graceling" and "Fire." Ages 12 up.

Callie's crazy about the theater and loves her job as manager of her middle school musical. But she's also crazy in love with someone who may – or may not – return her affections as author/illustrator Raina Telgemeier shows in her engaging graphic novel "Drama." Ages 10-14.



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

Get ready for ...



The winter months are upon us, which means freezing temperatures, snow, and ice are just around the corner. While we can't control if winter weather will affect our city or town, we all can take steps to be better prepared if it does. The Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee encourages residents to prepare for those hazards this month, before they occur by:

- Staying up to date with your latest forecast – visit weather.gov or mobile. weather.gov on your smartphone for the latest conditions in your area.
- Having an emergency kit in your vehicle – if a winter storm develops suddenly, have supplies on hand in case you're

stranded in your vehicle. (ready.gov/build-a-kit has tips to get you started.)

- Taking precautions for power outages – winter storms often cause power outages, so be sure your family takes steps to sustain itself for at least 72 hours.
- Limiting travel during a storm – only venture out on the roads if it's absolutely necessary.

In addition it is important to familiarize yourself with the terms that are used to identify a winter storm hazard and discuss with your family what to do if a winter storm watch or warning is issued. Terms include the following:

- **Freezing Rain** creates a coating of ice on roads and walkways.

- **Sleet** is rain that turns to ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet also causes roads to freeze and become slippery.

- **Winter Weather Advisory** means cold, ice and snow are expected.

- **Winter Storm Watch** means severe weather such as heavy snow or ice is possible in the next day or two.

- **Winter Storm Warning** means severe winter conditions have begun or will begin very soon.

For more winter safety tips, visit ready.gov/winter, or <http://m.fema.gov> on your mobile device.

New speed cameras on Carroll Avenue

Takoma Park police mounted two new, portable speed cameras in the 7400 block of Carroll Avenue in October. One clocks motor vehicles traveling southbound, the other records vehicles traveling northbound.

The new cameras began issuing warnings for violators driving 12 miles over the speed limit. Due to Hurricane Sandy, the warning period was extended through Nov. 15. Citations for violators have been issued since Nov. 16.

The new speed cameras are part of the Takoma Park Police Department's Safe Speed Program, designed to reduce speed and, as a result, reduce the number of traffic accidents in the City.

Other speed cameras are located as follows: the 7200 block of New Hampshire Avenue (southbound), the 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue (northbound), the 400 block of Ethan Allen Avenue (eastbound), the 500 block of Ethan Allen Avenue (westbound), and the 900 block of East West Highway (westbound). There is also a portable speed camera on the 900 block of eastbound University Blvd.

Any questions on the program may be directed to Safe Speed at 301-891-7138.



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Oct. 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 531 fire-related incidents in 2012. The department addressed or assisted with 2,522 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for total of 3,043 this year. Totals for 2011 were 625 and 2,364, representing an increase of 54 incidents.

TPVFD volunteers contribute

During the month of October, vol-

unteers put in a total of 1,011.5 hours of standby time at the fire station. The grand total so far this year is 12,147.5 hours.

Christmas trees are back

The TPVFD is proud to announce that we will be selling Christmas trees again, starting Dec. 1. The tree lot will be in the same location as in the past, in the parking lot between the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op and the Fire Station, at Carroll and Grant avenues. Trees will be sold Monday through Thursday from noon to 9 p.m., Friday noon to 10 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sales benefit the department.

Safety tips to make your Christmas a safe one

- Once you purchase a tree, store the tree in a cool place and put the base in

a bucket of water until you are ready to put it up.

- Be sure that the tree is located away from heat sources.
- Locate tree away from all exits.
- Maintain water level in the tree stand (check before you retire for the evening and in the morning).
- Inspect decorative lights for frayed wiring and defective bulb sockets or plugs.
- Don't use live candles on the tree or in windows.
- Don't use too many appliances plugged into the same electrical circuit.
- Remove gift wrappings from house as soon as possible. Don't dispose of them in the fireplace.
- Shut off Christmas lights before retiring for the evening and when leaving your home unattended.
- Make sure all smoke alarms are in working order. Never remove batteries from them to put in toys, games, etc.

On behalf of the entire fire department, we want wish you and your family a safe holiday season.

Toys for Needy Children

The TPVFD will again be holding its annual Toy Drive. This will mark our 32nd year. We will collect toys from Dec. 1 to Dec. 22. Contributors may drop off new or like-new toys (unwrapped) at the fire station, 7201 Carroll Ave. Should you know of any families with children ages 10 and under in the City needing assistance, please contact the fire department at 240-773-8954.

This program would not be possible without the generous donation of toys from the community, and financial assistance from the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, Auxiliary and the Takoma Park Lions Club.

Should you have any questions, please contact Jim Jarboe at the fire station.

OPENINGS AND CLOSINGS

■ From page 1

tors, and more obscure selections from foreign films to cult, martial arts and anime. The stock eventually included 15,000 to 16,000 VHS tapes and a similar number of DVDs.

Video Americain was once part of a six-location mini-chain, including shops in Newark, Del., Norfolk, Dupont Circle and two in Baltimore. As popular as it had become, Takoma's location finally lost out to online rental outfits such as Netflix and Amazon. Business has been dropping for several years, and though owner Barry Solan persevered, he eventually had to fold. The shop rented its last movie Nov. 11, and held a close-out sale later that week.



After 12 years, Takoma Park's neighborhood video store is closing shop.

Coffee to come

On the same day Video Americain rented its last video, Modern Times Coffeehouse introduced its soon-to-come new enterprise, La Mano Coffee Bar, set to open within the next year at 304 Carroll Street, NW, across from Takoma Metro. Owner Javier Rivas set up a "pop up shop" at Troh's home goods store and served hand-poured coffee from a mobile brewing station for four hours on Sunday, Nov. 11. Shoppers lined up to wait for their specialty grinds.

Rivas runs Modern Times Coffeehouse, the café in Politics and Prose book shop in D.C. He says he will continue to hold pop-up events to introduce Takoma Park to his products, and whet their appetites for the new shop. The next one will be held at Troh's on Dec. 2, during the Pajamarama shopping event from 7 to 10 a.m.

To learn more about Rivas and his new endeavor, see www.facebook.com/LaManoCoffeeBar.

Aldi refreshes, restocks

In Takoma-Langley Crossroads, Aldi, the mega-grocery store at 7609 New Hampshire Ave., re-opened with an open house celebration Nov. 16 complete with samples, tours and sweepstakes.

Design upgrades include higher ceilings, better natural lighting, environmentally friendly building materials and energy-saving refrigeration.

Aldi is known for its low prices but is now pushing higher end products.

PUBLIC ART

■ From page 1

representing the six unique wards." The piece also includes an outline of the City's boundaries.

The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, which chose the work, described it as having, "a strong artistic appeal and embodying the creative spirit and rich history of the community."

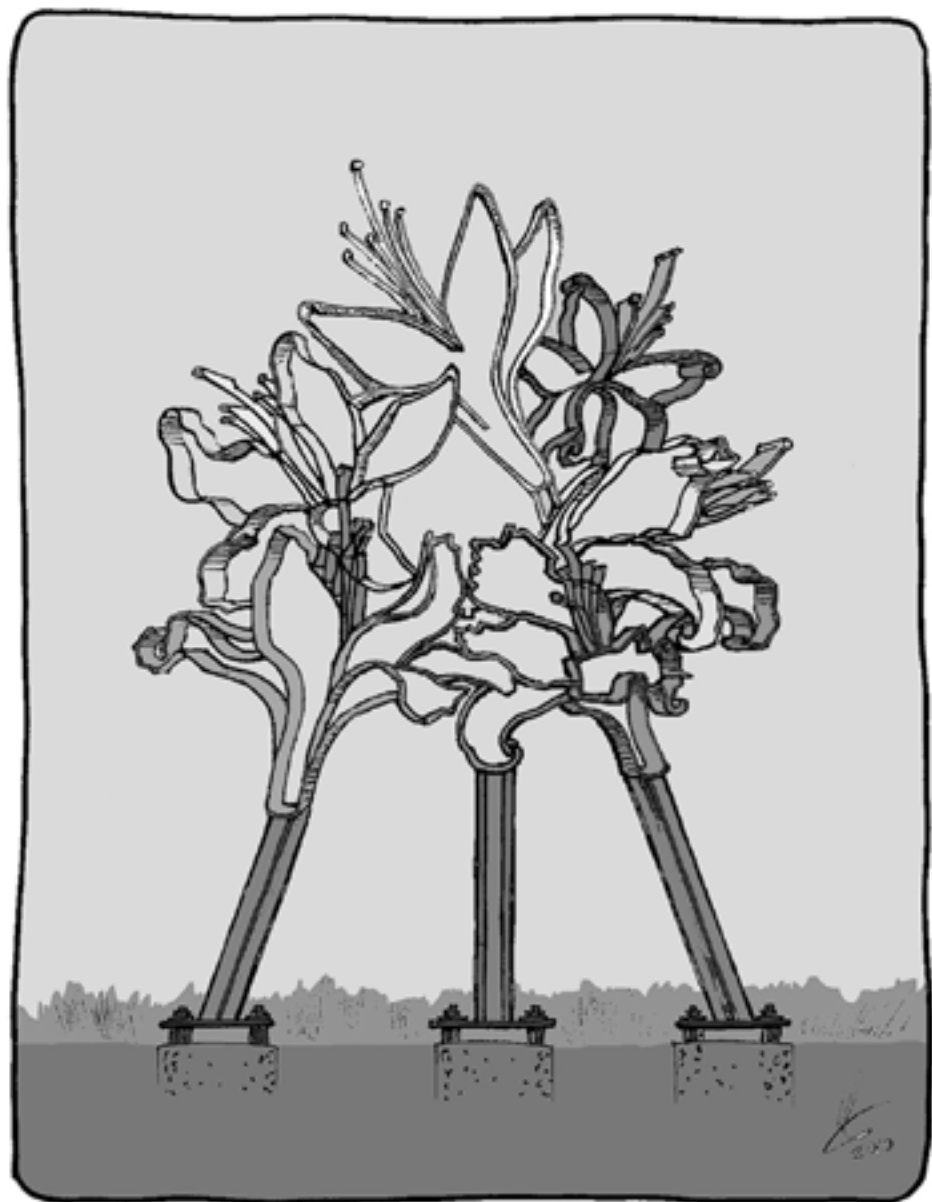
Connelly's work came in response to a call for proposals that the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission put out in 2010, for three public art projects: one for Gateway Art Panels at gateway locations on the City's borders, one for a Long Branch Gateway Sculpture (Connelly's), and one for Traffic Circle Art. Due to budget cuts only one project, the Gateway Art Panel project, was funded at the time. The Long Branch project was placed on hold, and the Traffic Circle project was eventually dropped. The gateway art was installed: fruit crate-style labels that depict identifying quirks of Takoma Park, placed as an addition to existing signage.

Now that the City Council was able to restore arts funding in the FY13 budget, "Azalea" will fulfill the Long Branch project vision. Funding totals \$15,000, and is drawn from the Capital Improvement Program for public art. The piece will become a focal point of the City's Flower Avenue Green Street project, designed to make the area at the busy intersection of Flower and Piney Branch a more pedestrian-friendly, green-filled area.

Sculpture showcases recycling with art

In addition to the new piece, the City celebrated the contribution of its first official recycling artist, Renee Lachman, at the Oct. 15 City Council meeting. Unveiling her sculpture, Lachman described the creative process, which began with an assignment: design a piece of art for a public space, using recycled materials.

There was more to it as well: Lachman, a Takoma Park resident, spent two months last summer as Recycling Artist in Residence helping other people learn to create art from what others might consider to be trash. The biggest event was Recycle Your Art Out Day, with art-making for all ages



Howard Connelly's vision of the Azalea sculpture at the gateway to Takoma Park, at the corner of Flower Avenue and Piney Branch Road.



Lachman

and a contest for the most creative pieces.

Lachman's culminating work is "Josephine Baker," which will be permanently installed at the Public Works Facility. When she began creating it, she thought the piece would be a nature-

related sculpture, but it evolved into a figure, and when she saw its resemblance to Josephine Baker, she felt it was exactly appropriate for Takoma Park. Baker was a

renowned American musician, dancer and society darling in 1920s and '30s Paris – flamboyant and "outrageous," as Lachman describes her, just as the sculpture appears to be. Baker later became a civil rights activist in her native America. "I like the fact that she was a civil rights activist, the first African American to appear in films, that she was a spy," Lachman said at the unveiling, explaining her identification with the sculpted figure. "She adopted 12 kids from different cultures and countries and she called them her rainbow tribe. She was sort of ahead of her time."

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

■ From page 1

At the art studios on Willow Street NW (formerly A-Salon DC), artists will open their work spaces to sell locally produced work and gifts for the Holiday Open House and Sale on Sunday, Dec. 2 from noon to 5 p.m. The event will include make-your-own gift demonstrations, dance performances, refreshments and even a beer tasting.

Music starts up on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. with Strum for the Holidays, a ukulele workshop with Maureen Andary, sponsored by the House of Musical Traditions, at 7010 Westmoreland Ave. (\$30, registration required). The workshop runs from 1 to 3 p.m. Instruction will include holiday tunes that will come in handy at parties this season.

The following week on Sunday, Dec. 16 from 1 to 2:30 p.m., the Young Takoma Concert Series presents Old Town Holiday Brass, in two shows at the Old Takoma Gazebo.

Also outdoors, the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will mark the season with their Winter Solstice Celebration on Thursday, Dec. 20 from 6 to 7 p.m. They'll dance in the light, as days begin to lengthen, with the Abbotts Bromley Horn Dance and their traditional Mummer's Play.

Santa makes two appearances this year: one allows children to visit with the jolly old elf, at Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave. from 1 to 4 p.m.: word is that Santa himself tapped Mayor Bruce Williams as a stand-in during this event, where children can sit on Santa's lap and photo packages will be available. The event will also

include a period replica toy train set in Historic Takoma's storefront window; the set will be displayed for the entire month of December. Santa's visit is a fundraiser for Old Town Business Association.

Santa will also be available at the Big Bad Woof, 117 Carroll Street NW, to sit for photos with local pets from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The \$20 photo fee will go toward caring for the animals housed at the Washington Humane Society.

On the other end of town, the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority (CDA) will hold a Holiday Mixer for CDA business and property owners on Thursday, Dec. 20, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the lobby of 7676 New Hampshire Ave. Non-CDA members are welcome, for a \$10 fee. Refreshments will be served.

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.

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

Leaves from Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue were collected on Friday, Nov. 16 and will be collected again Monday, Dec. 17.

No other streets will receive collection on the dates when the posted streets are collected (Dec. 14 and 17).

During the collection in November, crews concentrated 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.

DECEMBER '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 January 2013 issue is Dec. 14.

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, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.
(closed session vote at 6 p.m.)

TPCC Auditorium

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

Council on recess Dec. 4 – until Jan. 7

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

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

Wednesdays after 8 p.m., ongoing

7206 Carroll Ave. across from the firehouse

Bring an instrument or sit back and listen

Wednesday Night Drum Jams

Hosted by Katy Gaughan and friends

Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 7 – 9:30 p.m.

The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll Street NW, Takoma, D.C.

Annual Holiday Art Sale

Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium

Featuring the work of more than 35 local artists and crafters

Free

www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

We are Takoma – Django Music Nite

Saturday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium

Music of Swing 39, Bitter Dose Combo, Franglais, Titi Bamberger and Juan Arenales

Donations Welcome

www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

The Klezmatics

Yiddish soul music

Saturday, Dec. 8, 7:30 p.m. lobby; 8:30 curtain

Montgomery College Cultural Arts Center

7600 Takoma Ave., Takoma Park

\$25 advance, \$30 door, discounts MC affiliates, seniors, children

www.montgomerycollege.edu/cac, 240-567-5775

American Sign Language for Beginners at ArtSpring

Sundays, Dec. 9 and 16, 2 – 3 p.m.

7014 Westmoreland Ave., Takoma Park

Free

We are Takoma – A Festival of Russian Dance

Sunday, Dec. 9, 4 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium

Russian ballet, folk and character dance by the Akhmedova Ballet Academy

Free Admission

www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

IMT – A Scandinavian Christmas

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium

Annual Christmas concert with Andrea Hoag, Loretta Kelley and Charlie Pilzer

\$15 advance / \$20 door, students \$10 / \$15

<http://imtfolk.org/>

Carroll Café – Seasons of Light

Friday, Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Carroll Café, 276 Carroll St NW

Music with Kim and Reggie Harris and Magpie (Greg Artzner and Terry Leonino)

\$15 door

<http://carrollcafe.org>

A Visit from Santa

Saturday, Dec. 15, 1 – 2 p.m.

Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave., Takoma Park

IMT – First Annual Kids and Family Talent show

Saturday, Dec. 15, 2 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium

Fiddlers, jugglers, singers, hula hoopers, songwriters and more

\$12 advance / \$14

<http://imtfolk.org/>

Young Takoma Concert Series Presents Old Town Holiday Brass

Sunday, Dec. 16 1 – 2:30 p.m.

Two shows

Old Takoma Gazebo, Carroll and Westmoreland avenues

Winter Solstice Celebration

The Foggy Bottom Morris Men

Abbotts Bromley Horn Dance and a traditional Mummer's Play

Thursday, Dec. 20, 6 – 7 p.m.

Old Takoma Gazebo, Carroll and Westmoreland avenues

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium

Featuring the poetry of Lindsay Vaughan, John Borstel, Steve Rogers, Wanda Frazier and Kathleen O'Toole

www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

IMT – Ensemble Galilei

Friday, Dec. 21, 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/>

EXHIBITS

Mountains and Valleys

The Galleries at the Community Center

An exhibit of Concertina Books • Free

www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Flight by Letter

The Galleries at the Community Center

An abstract, mixed-media exploration of the written word • Free

www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

SENIORS

Holiday Performance

New Dimension Singers

Monday, Dec. 17, 5 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium • See page 7

Winter Festival of Lights, Watkins Regional Park

Thursday, Dec. 13, 5 – 7 p.m. (Return time may be later)

Ride from Takoma Park • See page 7

Shopping Trip, Columbia Mall

Tuesday, Dec. 18, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Ride from Takoma Park • See page 7