City contemplates redistricting among wards

Changes required after census shows population shifts

When it comes to City districts, the 2010 census runs the show. The census report shows a redistribution of Takoma Park’s population, with comparatively larger numbers in Ward 3 and smaller numbers in Wards 5 and 6. As a general rule, there should be no more than a 10 percent difference between the largest and smallest ward population, so City Council has kicked into motion to redraw the boundaries. A task force convened in January 2012, and presented three options for consideration. City Council came up with a fourth, which will be presented at a public hearing on Jan. 14.

The basics

The City is divided into wards for purposes of City elections. After each decennial census, the City of Takoma Park reviews the population data to determine whether the wards are substantially similar in population. The goal: to ensure one person, one vote. The overall variance between the smallest ward and the largest ward should be no more than 10 percent. Additionally, City Code requires that, “Each ward shall be compact in form and composed of adjoining territory. The populations of the wards shall be substantially equal.”

The City Charter grants the City Council the power to redraw the ward boundaries, but requires that the number of wards be consistent with the Charter, that they be as nearly equal in population as is practical and apportioned consistently with the principle of one person/one vote, that they be geographically contiguous, that their boundaries recognize natural boundaries (within practical limits), and that gerrymandering, changes required after census shows population shifts, not be tolerated.

Transportation funding among City’s top issues for legislative session

As the Maryland General Assembly convenes on Jan. 9 for its 90-day session, there are a number of budget and legislative issues of interest to the City of Takoma Park. Setting aside the fiscal cliff negotiations for the moment, with the hope that by the time this reaches you a deal has been struck, the state’s economic picture looks better than it has in years. Rather than considering a cut of more than $1 billion from the budget as the state has in years past, this year Maryland hopes to fully close the lingering deficit by making final reductions of about $400 million from the budget.

Among the many issues that will be debated during the 90-day session, wind energy off of the Eastern Shore, repeal of the death penalty, and transportation funding are expected to be key. Transportation funding, including funding for the Purple Line (see related story) and

purple line: page 3

redistricting: page 6

inside: drumming: page 9

snow plows: page 11

inaugural film: page 12

Inside:
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 jessie@takomagov.org.

RESOLUTION 2012-64
Adopted (Dec. 3, 2012)
Setting forth the 2012 winter holiday recess
The resolution sets the City Council recess to begin Dec. 4, 2012 and extend through Jan. 6, 2013.

RESOLUTION 2012-65
Adopted (Dec. 3, 2012)
Providing for an appointment to the Facade Advisory Board
The resolution effects the appointment of Eric Sepler to the Facade Advisory Board.

RESOLUTION 2012-66
Adopted (Dec. 3, 2012)
Providing for an appointment to the Arts and Humanities Commission
The resolution effects the appointment of Joshua Speier to the Arts and Humanities Commission.

RESOLUTION 2012-67
Adopted (Dec. 3, 2012)
Providing for appointments to the Personnel Appeal Board
The resolution effects the appointment of Meredith B. Burnett and the reappointment of Anand Parikh to the Personnel Appeal Board.

ORDINANCE 2012-55
Adopted (Dec. 3, 2012)
Authorizing execution of a contract for provision of emergency food assistance to eligible Takoma Park residents.

NEW YEAR – NEW OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE*

*Wards 4, 5, and 6 are especially invited to step up. Appointments are made by the City Council. Apply by completing an application form and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications. The application form is available online at www.takomaparkmd.gov or by contacting the City Clerk (301-891-7287 or jessie@takomagov.org).

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION
Adopted (Dec. 3, 2012)
(eight vacancies)
The Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission (AHC) serves in an official advisory role to the City Council on all matters related to the arts and humanities. The Commission promotes, coordinates and strengthens public programs to further cultural development of the City. The Arts and Humanities Commission consists of seven to 12 members appointed to three-year terms. At least 2/3 of the members must be Takoma Park residents. The AHC meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. For information, contact Sara Anne Drost: sarad@takomagov.org or 301-892-7224.

COMMISSION ON LANDLORD-TENANT AFFAIRS
Adopted (Dec. 3, 2012)
(one vacancy – Takoma Park rental housing owner or manager desired)
The Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) adjudicates and mediates complaints for violations of Chapter 6-16, Landlord-Tenant Relations; rules on petitions for rent increases above the rent stabilization allowance; and decides appeals from the City Manager’s decision to deny, suspend or revoke a license under Chapter 6-08, Rental Housing Licenses and Commercial Occupancy Licenses. The Commission consists of seven to 12 members with a balance of landlords, renters, and homeowners. Members serve three-year terms. Residency required except that up to four members may be nonresidents if they own or manage rental housing in Takoma Park. COLTA holds one

CITY HALL BRIEFS

ADDITIONAL SMALL COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING AVAILABLE
The City Council has established a Small Community Grant Program to work in partnership with the community to help achieve the goals established in the Strategic Plan. The Council allocated $10,000 for the FY 2013 program. Of this, $3,000 is still available for projects. Applicants must show how the project or program directly benefits the Takoma Park community. The Council will consider a broad range of requests, but all grant proposals must directly benefit the project, or program will address the Council’s Strategic Plan. Through this program, the Council seeks to encourage creative thinking about how to advance its goals and to foster the development of new ideas to solve our common problems. There is no minimum request; small requests for funding of discrete projects are encouraged. The maximum amount of each grant is $2,500. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2013.

The Council is particularly interested in projects that increase community engagement and result in the formation of new neighborhood or tenant associations, or that are done in partnership with and serve to strengthen existing associations.

Grants require a 10 percent match from other sources or City funding must be used to leverage funding from other sources. Volunteer hours and in-kind services or donations may be used to match City funds.

Complete information is available at www.takomagov.org or 301-891-7287.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT FUNDING REQUESTS ($2,500 AND ABOVE)
The Large Community Grant funding guidelines are available online. The deadline for applications is Jan. 22, 2013. These grants are for projects to be completed in Fiscal Year 2014. Check www.takomaparkmd.gov for more information. If requests for funds are granted, funds will be available after July 1, 2013.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE HOLIDAY PARTY
Join the Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) for a holiday get-together on Thursday, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea room of the Takoma Park Community Center. Meet the members, learn about preparedness, consider joining the Committee or find out other ways you can help your community prepare for emergencies.

To encourage participation, the EPC has changed its meeting time. Beginning in January, the EPC will meet every other month on the fourth Thursday at 7:30 p.m. On alternate months, beginning in February, the Committee will meet the fourth Thursday at 8:30 a.m.
**PURPLE LINE**

**From page 1**

The advantages of the Purple Line and the land use plans centered on it are:
- More livable neighborhoods
- Environmental improvements by reducing car use and redeveloping parcels now occupied by small commercial buildings and big parking lots
- A healthier local economy, with tax benefits for Takoma Park, Montgomery County, Prince George’s County and the State of Maryland

Funding, however, is only available for planning the Purple Line; there are no funds available to build it. If the State of Maryland cannot identify funds this year for half the cost of constructing the Purple Line, other proposed transit systems from across the country will take its place in the queue for Federal matching funds. There are good proposals from many other jurisdictions, and the State of Maryland has been warned that the Feds can’t wait.

The problem is that the project will cost about $2 billion to build, and Maryland needs to find the $1 billion for the Purple Line, a similar amount for the proposed Red Line in Baltimore and a smaller, but still large, amount for the Corridor Cities bus transit line (roughly paralleling I-270). These funds are in addition to the high costs of maintaining the state’s existing road and transit infrastructure.

The Legislature needs to decide how to come up with the funds to support the three proposed transit systems or make the difficult political choice to postpone or cancel one or more of them. The fear is that legislators may find it easiest to do nothing.

The City Council feels the importance of the Purple Line to the long term health of the City of Takoma Park is immense. For that reason, it has identified getting the State of Maryland to fund the Purple Line as its highest priority of the upcoming legislative session.

Last year, the Council went on record supporting an increase in the gas tax to add revenue to the Transportation Trust Fund so that the Purple Line can be funded. However, the issues of civil marriage and the Dream Act overshadowed the push for transportation funding.

This year, the Takoma Park City Council is working to see that increasing transportation funding becomes the primary focus of the 2013 Legislative Session.

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**LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**From page 1**

- Allow civilian employees, in addition to sworn officers, to maintain and verify the accuracy of speed cameras so that the sworn officers are more available for their official policing duties; and
- Preserve funding for Community Legacy and Program Open Space programs to continue to improve and preserve the City’s parks and commercial areas.

The City will also continue its work with the State Highway Administration and elected officials to determine the best way to maintain MD 410 while ensuring that no additional vehicular lanes will be added through Takoma Park in the future. It is unclear at this time whether legislation will be needed to accomplish this goal.

And finally, the City will continue its efforts to support maintaining health services on its Washington Adventist Hospital grounds in Takoma Park.

City officials are urging residents to stay informed about legislative issues, and hope that they will support the effort to secure transportation funding for the City.

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**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES**

**From page 2**

- Stabilizing Highway User Revenue (HUR) that municipalities use to pay for street maintenance, are top priorities for the City.
- In addition to securing dedicated funding for transportation, the city will be working during the session to:
  - Require WSSC to post when there is a sewage leak or other contamination and to inform the affected jurisdictions(s).

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**

**From page 1**

The Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC) provides community input into the City’s planning for emergencies and encourages residents and others to be prepared. Committee membership includes seven Takoma Park residents appointed by the City Council, senior City staff selected by the City Manager, and several members representing other agencies. Resident members serve three-year terms. Currently, the EPC meets the fourth Thursday of each month, alternating between morning meetings (8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.) and evening meetings (7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.).

**ETHICS COMMISSION**

- The Ethics Commission hears and decides on inquiries and complaints regarding alleged or potential violations of the Ethics Ordinance, issues written advisory opinions, recommends legislative changes and improvements to the Ethics Ordinance, and conducts public education regarding the Ordinance. Up to seven residents may be appointed to the Commission. Members serve two-year terms. The Commission meets at least quarterly but more often if necessary.

**NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE**

- The Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee oversees implementation of and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act. The Committee is to consist of seven Takoma Park residents with collective experience in the areas of science, research, finance, law, peace and ethics. Members serve two-year terms.
- The Committee generally meets the second Tuesday of every other month at 7:30 p.m.

**PERSONNEL APPEAL BOARD**

- The Personnel Appeal Board adjudicates employee appeals of the City Manager’s decisions regarding employee grievances or dismissals. Five residents are appointed to the Board for three-year terms. The Board meets annually unless called to convene a hearing.

**RECOGNITION TASK FORCE – SHORT TERM COMMITMENT**

- The City Council is looking for best how to recognize and/or memorialize Takoma Park volunteers, leaders, advocates, mentors and others who serve the community. To this end, the Council is forming a Recognition Task Force to provide ideas and programs. The task force will consist of up to seven members, one appointed by each member of the Council and the Mayor. The Task Force will be asked to complete its work within three to four months. Residents who are interested in making a short term commitment to assist with this process should submit an application form (found at http://takomaparkmd.gov/committees/comapp.pdf) or contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at jessie@takomavwg.org or 301-891-7267 to receive an application.

**SLEEPY SKIES COMMITTEE – NEWLY REESTABLISHED**

- The Sleepy Skies Committee advises the City on matters related to recreation programming and facilities. The Committee consists of seven to 15 members appointed to two-year terms. Residency is required. The Committee generally meets the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m.

**SAFE ROADSWAYS COMMITTEE – NEWLY REESTABLISHED**

- The Safe Roadways Committee will advise the City Council on transportation-related issues including, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and safety, traffic issues, and transit services. The Committee will also encourage Takoma Park residents to use alternatives to driving, including walking, bicycling and transit. Members will be appointed to staggered two-year terms. Residency is required. The meeting schedule will be set based on members’ preferences.

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**THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER**

**Editor:** Virginia Myers
**Production:** Electronic Ink
www.takomaparkmd.gov
**Vol. 52, No. 1**

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

Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@takomavwg.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, style, spelling and grammar.

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

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, political advertisements.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled—content paper.
Let's Pretend
TOTS
Let's Pretend
2 ½ – 5 yrs
Preschoolers love to exercise their imaginations through pretend play. Let’s Pretend class members will develop this natural creative behavior through dramatic readings, improve sensory exploration, physical experimentation, imagination exercises, singing/movement, props and games. We will warm up (like real actors), read a story, engage in exercises and experiments based on the story, and finally perform the story.

TP Community Center Auditorium
Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m., Jan. 17 – March 7
Fridays, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m., Jan. 18 - March 8
TP residents $110
Non-residents $130


Youth/Teens
Double Dutch
Ages 6-14
Learn the art of Double Dutch through a fun and aerobic endurance workout that includes single rope jumping, double dutch turning and jumping, stretching, toning, jogging and calisthenics.

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.

TP Recreation Center
Free with membership card

Kids’ Night Out
Ages 6-12
Want a night to yourself while your kids have a blast with their friends? Takoma Park Recreation Center’s Kids’ 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/Health/Sport
Aerobics
Ages 16 and older
This upbeat, energetic aerobics class involves easy-to-follow moves that flow to the non-stop beat, with cardiovascular elements followed by toning exercises for a total body workout.

TP Community Center Dance Studio
Mondays, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m., Jan. 14 - March 4
TP residents $80
Non-residents $100
Drop-in $15

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

Futsal League
Grades 2 - 4
Futsal, a sport that is similar to soccer, is designed to improve fundamental technique and skill development during the winter months.

For the past two years the program has been filled to capacity with a waiting list, so sign up early.

TP Recreation Center
Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m., Jan. 27 - March 3
TP residents $80
Non-residents $100

Health and Wellness Workshops

Health and Wellness Workshops
Ages 18 and older
This workshop will support the Takoma Park community's desire and commitment to live a healthier lifestyle. The goal is to create awareness and a sense of urgency to get and stay healthy. Through education, hands-on demonstrations and support, participants will be able to make healthier lifestyle choices on a daily basis. Individuals will benefit from health assessments, weight management tools, vitamin supplement education, food demonstrations and much more.

TP Community Center Auditorium
Thursdays, 7 – 9 p.m.
Jan. 17, Feb. 7 and 21, and March 14 and 28
TP residents $30
Non-residents $49

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

Mondays and Wednesdays (on-going) 7-8 p.m.
(No class on Jan. 19 & 21, 2013/Feb. 16 & 18, 2013)
TP Recreation Center
$45 per month EFT (Easy Fitness Ticket)
$110/8 week pass
$25 joining fee required for EFT
$15 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.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 15 – March 7, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
TP Recreation Center
$55 per person, per night (or free with Recreation center membership)

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 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, January 12 – March 9, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
(No class on Jan. 19 and Feb. 16)
TP Recreation Center
$45/8 weeks

Pilates
Ages 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. 9 – Feb. 13, 6 - 7 p.m.
TP Recreation Center
$60/8 weeks

Tai Chi
Ages 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

Tai Chi Chuan
Ages 18 and older
Tai Chi Chuan is often referred to as moving meditation and offers many health and relaxation benefits to people of all ages. Regular practice can improve posture, balance, coordination, strength, flexibility, cardiovascular fitness and concentration. This class focuses on the basic principles of Tai Chi by learning the Yang short form style of Tai Chi.

Thursdays, Jan. 17 – March 28
Introduction, 6:15 – 7:15 p.m.
Beginners Plus, 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.
Continuing, 8:15 - 9:15 p.m.
TP Community Center Dance Studio
TP residents $70
Non-residents $80

Volleyball Drop-in (COED)
Ages 18 and older
Open courts for volleyball will be available for adult drop in play from 8:15 – 9:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. This program is open to men and women ages 18 and over. Individuals of all skill levels are welcome to participate. All games are self-officiated.

Mondays, 8:15 – 9:30 p.m., Jan. 7 - March 25
TP Recreation Center
$5 per person, per night (or free with Recreation center membership)
Yoga and Meditation, Intermediate Level  
Ages 18 and older  
Lyringa yoga teaches stability and openness through alignment so that the flow of energy and the focus of the mind are found in each pose. This lyringa yoga class will include inversions and more advanced poses. It is appropriate for those who have a good foundation in standing poses and an understanding of basic alignment. The practice of postures in yoga is traditionally a preparation for meditation. Some time for seated meditation will be included at the end of class. (Chairs and cushions are available).  
Tuesdays, 7:30 – 9 p.m., Jan. 15 – March 19  
TP Community Center Dance Studio  
TP residents $100  
Non-residents $120  
Drop-in $15

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. 
Wednesdays, 6-6:55 p.m. (on-going)  
Saturdays, 9:15-10:10 a.m. (on-going)  
jan. 9 – Feb. 6  
(No class on Jan. 19)  
TP Recreation Center  
$40/4 weeks per session  
$10 drop-in fee

Encaustic Collage - Weekend Workshop  
Ages 16 and older  
Encaustic collage uses bees wax as an adhesive and allows for layering of papers and lightweight found materials as a base for over painting with oil and encaustic paint. Workshop will cover collage layering using transparencies, open paper and sculptural effects that can be created with stencils, stamps and incising. All materials will be provided for the $40 materials fee.  
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Feb. 2 – 3  
TP Community Center Art Studio  
TP residents $230  
Non-residents $280

Herbs 101 – The Basics  
Ages 16 and older  
Herbs have been a worldwide staple for vitality, health and wellness since time began. They are easy to grow and can be used in a variety of ways. They are especially beneficial in the winter months when cold and flu season arrives and our immune systems are in need of extra support. In this workshop, we will start with the basics and make an herbal tincture to take home.  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m., Jan. 26  
TP Community Center Art Studio  
TP residents $35  
Non-residents $45

High Definition Video for Community Purposes  
Ages 16 and older  
Learn tips and tricks for creating great-looking high definition video that you can upload to YouTube or burn onto BluRay DVD disks to showcase the strengths of our community. You’ll learn to use a Canon Vixia high definition camcorder (that costs $300), learn homemade affordable lighting, recommended professional microphones, and Roxio Toast 11 software for burning BluRay DVD disks (an inexpensive DVD media.) Watch your crystal clear BluRay videos from the projector in our auditorium. Previous video experience helpful, but not required.  
Tuesdays, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.  
Session 1: Jan. 22  
TP Community Center Auditorium  
TP residents $29  
Non-residents $39

Ceramics  
Ages 16 and older  
Make bowls, vases, mosaics, tiles, sculpture
2010 reported a population of 16,715 for Takoma Park, less than the 17,299 count reported in 2000. Based on the new population count of each of the City’s six wards, redistricting is necessary due to the variance between the wards.

The variables
At the time of the 2010 Census, two multi-family buildings were being renovated and largely vacant. The City Council was concerned that the temporary impact of the vacant buildings on the City’s population and the ideal ward size would result in the need for more significant changes in the ward boundaries than would otherwise be necessary.

While all buildings have some vacancies from time to time, the vacancies at 7333 New Hampshire Ave. in Ward 6 and 7610 Maple Ave. in Ward 4 resulted in an obvious under-reporting of current population in those wards. At the Council’s request, City staff provided options for determining, in a fair and uniform way, how to conduct a City-wide evaluation of temporarily vacant residential structures to see if they should be considered in estimating the City’s population (see box at right).

The method selected by the Council resulted in a new estimate of the City’s population of 17,015 for redistricting purposes, and an ideal ward size of 2,836.

Redistricting Task Force
The City Council appointed a redistricting task force in December 2011 to review the data and develop options for redistricting. The task force began meeting in January 2012. It carefully evaluated the census block data, ward populations, and boundaries. On May 29, the task force presented two options to the Council for consideration.

The Council requested the task force to develop a third option based on the population adjusted for the vacancies at 7333 New Hampshire Ave. and 7610 Maple Ave. Additionally, the Council requested that the task force place a higher priority on keeping neighborhoods together within a ward.

The third option was presented on Oct. 15. During the tenure of the Redistricting Task Force, it developed and reviewed numerous options, including one that started with a “clean slate” and drew new boundaries to re-create six wards. The clean slate option maintained whole census blocks to ensure that population and racial/ethnic breakdowns would be as accurate as possible. Other options developed were variations on the existing boundaries. The existing ward boundaries incorporate many split census blocks to keep neighborhoods together within a ward.

Ultimately, the City Council chose to develop its own option which it believes would have the least impact on existing neighborhoods and neighborhood associations while still bringing the wards closer to the ideal population size. This is the proposal to be presented for comments at the public hearing on Jan. 14, 2013.

The City Council’s Redistricting Proposal
The proposed ward boundaries include the following changes from the current boundaries:
- Mississippi Avenue and Hilltop Road, currently in Ward 3, would move to Ward 4.
- Three multi-family buildings on the southwest side of Lee Avenue (the Sherwood, Leeland Apartments, and Hancock Gardens) would move from Ward 3 to Ward 4.
- 7777 Maple Ave. (Essex House), currently in Ward 5, would move to Ward 5.
- The portion of Ward 2 located on the east side of New Hampshire Avenue, including Larch Avenue, Hopewell Avenue, Kentland Avenue, and East West Highway, would move to Ward 6.

A street directory indicating the ward for every address in the City has been developed (see page 8). The directory shows both the existing ward and the proposed ward, if different.

Determining Eligible Vacant Units for Estimating Population
The Council selected a definition of a “qualifying building or complex” as an existing building or complex that had ten or more vacant units on Census Day, was actively being renovated on Census Day, and was either occupied or in the process of being occupied at the time of redistricting.

Two buildings met the definition of a “qualifying building or complex” for the purpose of redistricting after the 2010 Census – 7610 Maple Ave. and 7333 New Hampshire Ave. The persons per household rate for multi-family complexes is 2.27 for Takoma Park. After applying the persons per household rate and the citywide vacancy rate to the number of units rented in 7610 Maple Ave. or sold in 7333 New Hampshire Ave. as of May 31, 2012, the following population adjustments were made:
- 7610 Maple Ave.: 75 people added to the Ward 4 population
- 7333 New Hampshire Ave.: 225 people added to the Ward 6 population

2010 Census (Estimating for Eligible Vacant Units)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ward 1</td>
<td>2,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 2</td>
<td>2,999</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward 3</td>
<td>3,165</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward 4</td>
<td>2,811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 5</td>
<td>2,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 6</td>
<td>2,423</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total – 16,715

2010 Census (Estimating for Eligible Vacant Units)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ward</th>
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<td>Ward 3</td>
<td>3,165</td>
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<td>Ward 4</td>
<td>2,886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 5</td>
<td>2,569</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward 6</td>
<td>2,484</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total – 17,015
City of Takoma Park
Proposed Ward Map
2013 Redistricting

Takoma Park - Distribution of Population and Ethnic/Racial Distribution by Ward

Redistricting 2013 (2010 Census)

City of Takoma Park Ward Population Tables

Proposed Option D

The number of residents in 7633 New Hampshire Avenue and 7610 Maple Avenue have been estimated for redistricting purposes. Both buildings were largely vacant on Census day resulting in undercounts in Wards 4 and 6.

The area bounded by Linden Avenue, New Hampshire Avenue and East West Highway move from Ward 2 to Ward 6.

Ideal Ward Size: 2836

Adjusted for vacancies in 7633 New Hampshire Avenue and 7610 Maple Avenue.

January 2013

Takoma Park News | Page 7

Ideal Ward Size: 2836

Variation from high to low: 234 (8.24%)

*Adjusted for vacancies in 7633 New Hampshire Avenue and 7610 Maple Avenue.

October 2012

City of Takoma Park
Proposed Ward Map
2013 Redistricting

Takoma Park - Distribution of Population and Ethnic/Racial Distribution by Ward

Redistricting 2013 (2010 Census)

City of Takoma Park Ward Population Tables

Proposed Option D

The number of residents in 7633 New Hampshire Avenue and 7610 Maple Avenue have been estimated for redistricting purposes. Both buildings were largely vacant on Census day resulting in undercounts in Wards 4 and 6.

The area bounded by Linden Avenue, New Hampshire Avenue and East West Highway move from Ward 2 to Ward 6.

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Adjusted for vacancies in 7633 New Hampshire Avenue and 7610 Maple Avenue.

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<th>Street Name</th>
<th>Address Range</th>
<th>Ward</th>
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<td>East-West Highway</td>
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<td>Edinburgh Lane</td>
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<td>Elson Street</td>
<td>1306, 1308 only</td>
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Four New Exhibits in the Galleries at the Community Center

Opening reception Friday, Jan. 11, 6 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7600 Maple Ave., Takoma Park MD
Free

Alice Shih (Gallery 3)
In this new body of work, Alice Shih paints and collages to continue her search for ambiguous space. Through the use of old paintings and drawings, the collages are cut and torn, reconfigured and repurposed into new compositions. Expanding her palette, the new paintings take advantage of the unique characteristics of acrylic paint. Shih works on multiple paintings at a time, allowing time for each painting to discover itself. Multiple methods of painting come together on one surface, challenging the viewer to look and discover a new landscape.

Mohamed “Amy” Adje (Atrium Gallery)

“Everything I see, every day, serves as inspiration,” says Mohamed “Amy” Adje. “As Picasso said, ‘I do not seek, I find.’ Colors, forms, shapes and the relationship of those elements just come to me. I don’t think about it – I just paint and draw. I have to paint. My sense of color is influenced by memories of my homeland, Senegal: the constant sunshine, brilliant dress, loud sounds.”

Michaele Harrington (Dempsey Memorial Gallery)
This series of paintings explores shifts in Michaele Harrington’s self-identity by filtering her experiences through symbols of her Celtic heritage. Runes are an alphabet, but each rune also carries metaphorical meaning. It is the metaphor—the archetypes and their embedded associations—that intrigue the artist and open a door to the transcendental. Harrington considers each symbol as an archetypal. One needn’t know the meanings of the runes to appreciate the visual images, but through the use of the rune ‘keys’ posted next to the paintings, you may begin to develop a meaningful dialogue with the painting, using your own experiences as a template, creating meditations with personal meaning to themselves.

Thien Nguyen (Corridor Gallery)

“For me, the most important is the form, the lines, curves and proportions of the pot,” says Thien Nguyen. “I get a little obsessive about form. I am the opposite when it comes to firing. I can never predict how a raku pot will turn out in the firing. The interaction of the glaze with the smoke and fire is different every time. I like the surprise when the smoke clears.”

Kizuna presents an evening of Japanese Drumming
Saturday, Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Free

We are Takoma promises a dynamic high energy evening of passion, power and precision with Kizuna – the DC-based trio whose members collectively bring more than 30 years of diverse taiko experience to the stage. According to Japanese myth, taiko was started by Ame no Uzume, the Shinto goddess of dawn, mirth and revelry in an effort to cheer up the Sun goddess Amaterasu, who, fed up with her younger brother, hid herself in a cave causing the world to become dark. The other Shinto deities tried to mollify her, holding a big party in front of the cave in hopes of brightening the world once again. Taiko came into being when Ame no Uzume danced, noisily stamping her feet on a wooden tub and making such a thundering sound that Amaterasu couldn’t help but come out of the cave. Thus, taiko was born.

Kizuna reunites three friends who love to share taiko with each other and with audiences. As performers, they seek to embody the synergy of sound and dynamic movement that distinguishes taiko as an art form, as well as the spirit of “kizuna,” the bond of friendship that is the foundation of the North American taiko community.

Artist presents Book of Wishes workshop
Saturday, Jan. 5, 1 – 2:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Art Room • Free

Continuing the theme of December’s exhibits – bookmaking – artist Sushmita Mazumdar will present her story of how a Buddhist Prayer Wheel inspired her to create a little secret book for her own wishes, hopes and promises. Mazumdar will show participants how she made her Book of Wishes, decorated with script from prayer flags as seen in her work, Arjun’s Journey.

Participants can make their own Book of Wishes, filled with personal hopes for the New Year and ready to wear home! This hands-on arts opportunity is open to adults and families with children ages 5 and up.
National Book Award winners highlight best of 2012

By Ellen Robbins

I t's been a year full of great reads. Here are some of the more notable winners.

Among the National Book Awards, Katherine Boo, a Pulitzer Prize winner and a staff writer for "The New Yorker," won best non-fiction. "Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity" was based on three years of reporting, and vividly illuminates the inequalities of present day India. "Small stories in so-called hidden places matter," she said in accepting the award.

Novelist Louise Erdrich won the best fiction award for her novel "Round House." Set in a fictional North Dakota reservation, it tells the story of 13-year-old Joe, who with his friends must investigate the rape and attempted murder of his mother because no one else will. Years later, Joe becomes a public prosecutor. The New York Times Book Review says his narrative "shows how a seemingly isolated crime has many roots."

Eighty-eight-year-old poet David Ferry won the award for, "Bewildermint: New Poems and Translations," and "Goblin Secrets" by William Alexander won the Young People's Literature Award.

Many other books published in 2012 received awards, rave reviews, or were on "year's best" lists. Here are just a few of the "Best Books" as recommended by reviewers, editors and the Takoma Park Library staff.

"This is How You Lose Her" by Junot Diaz is the narrative of a young Dominican man, a serial "cheater" who lies to all the women in his life – even the one he truly loves.

"When I Was a Child I Read Books" by Marilynne Robinson, is "...by far Robinson's most political work to date, and is a defense of what she considers the grand traditions of American democracy – generosity, hope, and radical openness to new experience – waged against a society that seems to believe itself in irreversible decline," Charles Petersen, Bookforum.

"Farther Away: Essays" by Jonathan Franzen is, "From beginning to end, a celebration of love: what joys it brings and what terrors it produces. Farther Away" takes its title from the New Yorker essay in which Franzen first discussed the suicide of his friend, the novelist David Foster Wallace,

Anthony Domestico, Christian Science Monitor

Awards Winners □ Page 11

Friends read Willa Cather

Join the Friends Reading Group on Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center Hydrangea Room for a discussion of Willa Cather's classic, "Death Comes for the Archbishop."

Written in 1927, this work is among the best known of Cather's 12 novels, along with "My Antonia" and "O Pioneers." It tells the story of Father Jean Marie Latour, who came to New Mexico in 1831 as its new Bishop, following its transition from a Mexican to an American territory. In the years that follow, "Latour spreads his faith in the only way he knows – gently, although he must contend with an unforgiving landscape, derelicts and sometimes openly rebellious priests, and his own loneliness" (publisher's note).

The New York Times reviewer called this, "A truly remarkable book... Soaked through and through with atmosphere. From the riches of her imagination and sympathy Miss Cath... er has distilled a very rare piece of literature. It stands out from the very resistance it opposes to classification."

A S. Byatt wrote, "[Cather's] descriptions of the Indian mesa towns on the rock are as beautiful, as unjudging, as her descriptions of the Bishop's cathedral. It is an art of making, of separate objects, whose whole effect works slowly and mysteriously in the reader, and cannot be summed up...Cather's acceptance of mystery is a major, and rare, artistic achievement."

The Friends Reading Group discussions are open to all. Discussions of James Joyce's "Ulysses" will begin on March 6, with a special introductory lecture.

CALENDAR

Circle Time
Every Tuesday (no program Jan. 1)
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

Spanish Circle Time
Every Thursday (Exception: no programs Jan. 3 or 10)
10:30 a.m. with Señora Geiza

Petites Chansons
Saturday, Jan. 5, 10:30 a.m.
Come sing French songs and rhymes with Madame Multi.

Bedtime Stories
Monday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m.
Come in pjs; great for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Comics Jam
Tuesday, Jan. 8, 4 p.m.
Dave Burbank reads comics on the big screen.

Caldecott Birthday Club
Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m.
Caldecott-winning books from the 1980s.

Fireside Tales
Monday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
Storyteller Candace Wolf

John Green Live-Streaming Event
Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Pre-registration required.
AWARD WINNERS

“Crime fiction,” by Madeleine McCuller is the author's debut reinterpretation of “The Iliad” and deservedly won the 2012 Orange Prize for Fiction. It offers a masterly vision of the valor, drama, and tragedy of the Trojan War,” Library Journal

“NYW” by Zadie Smith, “Relating the story of four people in North West London, Smith articulates important issues of race and class...an aesthetic and emotional knock-out,” Library Journal

“No One is Here Except All of Us,” by Ramona Ausubel is An achingly lyrical tale of a Jewish village whose inhabitants choose to reinvent their entire world to protect themselves from the impending Nazi’s arrival,” Huffington Post

“In Gone Girl,” by Gillian Flynn, “Readers who prefer more virulent strains of unreality will appreciate the sneaky mind games [in this] thriller rooted in the portrait of a very bad wife,” Library Journal

Defoe’s life of astonishing intellectual achievement and the Creation of a Doctor; and the story of the celebrated band’s fate as it met the challenges of Nazi Germany,” by Godfrey, “The Three Brothers,” this book tells the true story of the Three Brothers, who preferred more virulent strains of unreality will appreciate the sneaky mind games [in this] thriller rooted in the portrait of a very bad wife,” Library Journal

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The Black Count: Glory, Revolution, Betrayal, and the Real Count of Monte Cristo,” by Tom Reiss is called “a ground-breaking narrative,” this book tells the true story of Alex Dumas, whose exploits became inspiration for “The Three Musketeers” and “The Count of Monte Cristo,” — both written by his son Alexander Dumas. “No one who reads this biography will be able to read The Count of Monte Cristo or any history of slavery in the New World in the same way again,” Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

“The Receptionist: An Education at the New Yorker,” by Janet Groth is the fascinating story of Troth’s 20-year career at the New Yorker magazine. An aspiring writer herself, she finds her voice in this memoir, rich with insightful anecdotes about such luminaries as editor E.B. White, poet John Berryman, playwright Muriel Spark, Calvin Trillin, Charles Adams, and many more.

In “The Odyssey of KF2: An Orphan Seal, a Marine Biologist, and the Fight to Save a Species,” by Terrie M. Williams, an orphaned two-day-old Hawaiian monk seal is one of the most endangered marine mammal species in U.S. waters. Deemed too precious to lose, this is the story of his rescue.


AT YOUR SERVICE

Make Way for Snow Plows

By Suzanne Ludlow
Acting City Manager

If you listen to the various weather predictions making their rounds, you know we may be facing a colder and snowier winter than average this year. Even a warm winter can have a major snow event, however, so it’s good to prepare for snow.

Besides the emergency preparations every household needs to make, there are two simple ways you can help the whole community get through a snow event quickly: make way for snow plows and help clear the sidewalks.

If you have a car, please try to park it off the street in a driveway or parking lot when snow is predicted. If you have to park on the street, work with your neighbors to park on one side of the street one night and on the other side of the street the next. (A good rule of thumb is that if it’s 9 p.m. on an odd day, park on the odd side of the street; if it’s 9 p.m. on an even day, park on the even side of the street.)

Or, if parking is only on one side, park together at one end of the block one night and the other end of the block once that area is cleared. Keeping cars off the street allows the snowplows to do a good job.

For folks who own property with parking lots or driveways, please work to clear the lots and then let others park there, too, if there is room.

Please clear sidewalks promptly and help shovel paths at intersections and bus stops (I know...sometimes through plowed snow!) to allow people to walk safely. Shovel out fire hydrants, if possible. If a deep snow is predicted, put a tall stick near the hydrant so that it may be found quickly. Again, work with your neighbors to adopt a corner or bus stop or hydrant and take turns keeping it clear.

Please never plow or shovel snow out into the street. That only causes problems for others.

Other ways to help include organizing a neighborhood snow parking and shoveling plan, identifying neighborhood teens and others willing to help shovel when needed, identifying those who would need others to shovel or move their cars for them, sharing shovels and scrapers, or just planning to have hot chocolate and snacks for those doing the work.

If you have a unique plan in place or a problem area, let the City know and we’ll try to work with you: contact me, Suzanne Ludlow, at suszanne@takomagov.org or 301-891-07229. We’ll do our part by letting you know when enough snow is predicted that we will be doing snow plowing.

Fire Safety Tips for the New Year

• Make sure you have working smoke alarms on all levels of your home, especially outside of the bedrooms.
• Escape Planning Practice: E.D.I.T.H. – Exit Drill In The Home, draw an escape plan for your family, show two ways out of every room in the event of a fire. Practice it monthly.
• Cooking: never leave it unattended.
• Emergency Telephone Number: Make sure everyone knows how to call the fire department. Dial 911.
• Address Numbers: Take a look at your address numbers, will the fire department or ambulance find your house in the event of an emergency?
• Have your heating system checked and cleaned annually.
• When you have a fire in a fireplace, always use a fire screen. Keep the adjacent area clear of combustibles.
• Space heaters need space. They should be at least 36 inches from combustibles.
• Candles: Never leave a candle burning unattended. When you leave the room with one in it, put it out! Especially when you go to bed.
• Store matches and lighters out of the reach of children.
• Should we get snow, make sure if you have a fire hydrant close to your house it is kept cleared of the snow.

Finally, if you still have your Christmas tree, and you are ready to dispose of it, get it out and away from your house. Public Works will pick them up with January yard waste collection.

On behalf of the entire fire department, we want to wish all of you a Happy holiday and happy, safe new year.

TPVFD Annual Dinners for Needy Families

This year the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department provided 18 families with dinners for Thanksgiving. Thanks to member Dave Hooker for delivering the dinners. This marks the 18th year the department has helped families in need. The program would not have been possible without the support of the following -Takoma Park Lions Club, Takoma Park VFW Post 350, Kiki Oliver, Takoma Park VFD and Auxiliary.

A First for Takoma Park Fire Department

At the Dec. 12 membership meeting, Tina Willey was voted to serve on the department’s Board of Directors. She joins her husband Richard who is currently the Vice President. They are the first husband and wife to serve together on a Board. Congratulations!
JANUARY ‘13
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 February 2013 issue is Jan. 21.
To submit calendar items, email spooneseditor@takomapogov.org.
“TP Community Center” is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park unless otherwise noted.

Yes We Did: the People’s Inauguration
Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Screening and Discussion with filmmakers Brian Pascale and Andre Dahlman
Free Admission
Yes We Did is the story of a historic event — the inauguration of America’s first black president — told through the eyes of ordinary citizens who came together on a very cold January day back in 2008. The filmmakers spent five days shooting with two separate crews. They are there for the parade rehearsal. They talk to nouveau landlords who rented their apartments, houses and office space to the massive number of people descending on the city. They visit a sold-out campground where hardcore campers found an affordable alternative to the inflated cost of hotels.
Following the 75-minute film, filmmakers Brian Pascale and Andre Dahlman will answer questions about the making of the film.

PUBLIC MEETINGS / OF NOTE
City Council
Monday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
For agenda, see www.takomaparkmd.gov/Clark/agendas
Takoma Park Tenant Summit
Saturday, Jan. 26, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
TP Community Center
Issues and advocacy for tenants
Free
301-891-7222, lindaw@takomagov.org
Public Hearing, Redistricting
Monday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Residents weigh in on upcoming ward boundaries
See page 1

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES
Food Truck Fridays
5 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.
Trout, 222 Carroll Street, NW
Various food vendors
Takoma Park emergency food pantry
First Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families
240-450-2092 or educare_s@yahoo.com

the Buddhist Prayer Wheel
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events
Opening Artists Reception
Friday, Jan. 11, 6 to 8 p.m.
The Galleries at the Community Center
Celebrate the work of artists Alice Shih, Mohamed “Amdy” Adje, Michaela Harrington and Thien Nguyen
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events
Third Thursday Poetry Reading
Thursday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
JoAnne Growney, Anne Becker, Virginia Bell and Don Berger
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events
Patagonia Winds Concert
Saturday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m.
Seeker’s Church, 276 Carroll Street NW
“Music of the Americas” for wind quintet $20, includes dessert reception with the artists
Proceeds to benefit KRMEF.org

Publicanus Support Services
www.educaresupportservices.org
Video American Farewell
Friday, Jan. 11, 6 – 9 p.m.
6937 Laurel Ave., Takoma Park
Celebrating 18 years in the community
Speakers, film, music
Bring finger food and drinks to share
Emergency Preparedness Committee Holiday Party
Thursday, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
Community welcome

ARTS AND LITERATURE
Takoma Spark House Jam
Wednesdays after 8 p.m., ongoing
Informal gathering on the front porch
2706 Carroll Ave. across from the firehouse
Bring an instrument or sit back and listen
Wednesday Night Drum Jams
Hosted by Kelly Gaughan and friends
Wednesdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m.
The Electric Maid, 288 Carroll Street NW, Takoma, D.C.

J.V. Two for One, facilitated by Kelly Bond
Jan. 3
Dance Exchange, 7117 Maple Ave.
Two choreographers each get one hour to share a work-in-progress and get feedback
$5 door
http://danceexchange.org/
Book of Wishes Workshop with artist Sushmita Mazumdar
Saturday, Jan. 5, 1 p.m.
Art Room – TP Community Center
Learn to make a Book of Wishes, inspired by

http://patagoniawinds.org
4tet: Brittany Haas, Cleek Schrey, Jordan Rice and Nic Gareiss
Wednesday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Young performers join their talents to create contemporary folk music
$18 advance / $22 door, students $14 advance / $18
http://www.imtfolk.org/

HOME: An evening with Jill Sigman
Jan. 31
Dance Exchange, 7117 Maple Ave.
Dance performance and discussion challenging perceptions about the environment
$10, students and seniors $5
http://danceexchange.org/

EXHIBITS
Alice Shih
The Galleries at the Community Center
Old paintings are reconfigured and repurposed into new compositions
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events
Mohamed “Amdy” Adje
Colorful paintings inspired by the artist’s homeland of Senegal
The Galleries at the Community Center
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events
Michaela Harrington
The Galleries at the Community Center
Paintings exploring runes and Celtic heritage
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events
Thien Nguyen
The Galleries at the Community Center
Raku Pottery
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

http://www.imtfolk.org/