WHAT’S NEW?

President’s Day
Feb. 18
City offices closed
No yard waste collection

New K-9 Bus
See page 11

Takoma Dreamers

Children from Pinetree Branch Elementary School took turns reading from Martin Luther King Jr’s I Have a Dream speech during the Jan. 12 celebration marking King’s birthday. The day also included a volunteer clean-up of Takoma Woods, creating a banner-sized message to President Obama, a documentary about King and local civil rights leader Lee Jordan, music from the Labor Choir, visits from local leaders and former members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and a community potluck. The event was sponsored by Takoma United for an Engaged Community with support from the Takoma Foundation, CHEER and the Takoma Park Recreation Department.

New TV feature showcases Takoma Park faces

It all started when the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium reopened, with new sound equipment and ambitious programming. The We Are Takoma Series invited musicians, dancers, filmmakers and other artists to perform and highlight their arts in front of the community. The auditorium became a meeting ground, the series an open-door, welcoming, free-for-all performance marketplace. And City TV was typical at every performance, recording the action.

The station also saw the potential to expand offerings beyond the performing arts. Now, it is inviting organizations, individuals, City departments and committees to communicate their work to the rest of the City and county through a new program, also called We Are Takoma.

Black’s to open eatery in Takoma Park

It’s chef-driven. It’s local. And it’s coming to Takoma Park.

Local foodies are all abuzz with the news that Black’s Restaurant Group is opening, a new eatery in Old Town Takoma. The restaurant will take over 6937-6939 Laurel Ave., the space where Video American and Summer Delights operated; Video American has closed, and Summer Delights, which closed at the end of January, anticipates returning in another location, at a future date.

The Bethesda-based Black’s, which includes the well-regarded BlackSalt and Pearl Dive Oyster Palace in D.C., Black’s Bar and Grill in Bethesda and Addie’s and Black Market Bistro in Rockville and Garrett Park, is a local chain but each restaurant is distinctive. The developing plan for the one in Takoma Park features 80 seats, an oyster bar (Black’s has a reputation for fine seafood), two bar areas and, eventually, a patio out back. Owners are hoping to have live entertainment.

Construction resumes at Carroll and Maple

By Roz Grigsby
Housing and Community Development

A tower crane rising from the depths of the muddy excavation site is a sign that work is underway again at Takoma Central, the long-awaited development at the corner of Carroll Street and Maple Avenue on the Takoma Park/Takoma, D.C. line. With the arrival of heavy equipment and a load of steel I-beams, one of the most visible developments in the Takoma area seems to be back on track.

Takoma Central has a new configuration of partners and they say they are determined to see the project through to completion. The original developer, SGA Architects, is joined by Level 2 Development, Federal Capital Partners and Hamel Builders to develop the properties on the 200 block of Carroll Street, NW. They plan to erect a building with 150 rental units and 9,000 square feet of commercial space on the street level. No commercial tenants have yet been announced, but retail and restaurant space are possibilities.

Patty Baker, co-director of the Old Takoma Business Association, is pleased with the progress. “OTBA is looking forward to welcoming many new residents and additional businesses,” she says. “Takoma Central will be a major addition to the vibrancy of Old Takoma.”

The project, in the works since 2004, has experienced numerous reconfigurations and setbacks, including the discovery of buried gas tanks that had to be excavated, the associated environmental cleanup, and unanticipated financial challenges. At one
**Docket**

**Takoma Topics:**

Check our new e-newsletter for Takoma Park Arts Happenings

http://epurl.com/avfEb

www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD

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**City Council & Committee Calendar**

**OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS**

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

**CITY COUNCIL**

Monday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.

**CITY MANAGER SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Monday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.

**ETHICS COMMISSION**

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.

**TREE COMMISSION**

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**

Thursday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

**WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL LAND USE COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

Washington Adventist Hospital

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Council Room

**ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION**

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**

Thursday, Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

**Mayor’s Office Hours**

Mayor Williams welcomes comments and suggestions. Community members are invited to meet with him during his office hours on Tuesdays:

2 – 5 p.m. by appointment

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

6 – 7 p.m. by appointment

For additional information or to make an appointment, contact Executive Assistant Peggye Washington at peggyew@takomagov.org or 301-891-7230.

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**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 2013-1**

Adopted (Jan. 7)

Recognizing and expressing appreciation to Barry and Annie Solan and Video American

The resolution recognizes and expresses appreciation to Video American upon its closing after 18 years in Takoma Park.

**RESOLUTION 2013-2**

Adopted (Jan. 7)

Providing for an appointment to the Board of Elections

The resolution effects the appointment of Robin Schaefer to the Board of Elections.

**RESOLUTION 2013-3**

Adopted (Jan. 7)

Providing for an appointment to the Tree Commission

The resolution effects the appointment of Linette Landers to the Tree Commission.

**RESOLUTION 2013-4**

Adopted (Jan. 14)

Appointing a City representative to the Montgomery County Cable and Communications Advisory Committee (CCAC).

**RESOLUTION 2013-5**

Adopted (Jan. 14)

Appointing members to the Committee on the Environment

The resolution effects the appointment of the following individuals to serve on the Committee on the Environment: Shannon Baker-Branstetter, Wendy Bell, Rocco Casagrande, Paul Chrostowski, Cindy Dyballa, Stuart Gillespie, Sat Jiwon Ille-Khalia, Melanie Isis, Lauren Marshall, Sarah Mazur, John Peterson, Alyson Piazza, Lindsey Robinett, Dan Seligman, and Anne Sergeant.

**ORDINANCE 2013-1**

Adopted (Jan. 7)

Authorizing execution of a contract with Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc. for services required in the Exterior Home Repair Program

The ordinance authorizes execution of a contract for services in an amount not to exceed $50,000 for the Program.

**ORDINANCE 2013-2**

Adopted (Jan. 14)

Awarding small community grants

The ordinance awards funds from the Small Community Grant Program as follows: Old Takoma Business Association, Recycle – Take a Seat ($2,500); Takoma Women’s Business Network Workshops and Website Development ($2,500); Takoma Jazz Fest Community Events and Booklet ($2,000).

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Opportunities to serve on City boards, commissions and committees

**Have you applied yet?**

- Arts and Humanities Commission (vacancies)
- Emergency Preparedness Committee (vacancies)
- Ethics Commission (vacancies)
- Facade Advisory Board (terms expiring March 31)
- Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)
- Personnel Appeal Board (terms expiring March 31)
- Recognition Task Force – short term commitment (vacancies)
- Recreation Committee (vacancies)
- Safe Roadways Committee – newly reestablished (vacancies)

View information at http://takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees/index.html or contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessie@takomagov.org to apply or request information.

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**THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER**

Editor: Virginia Myers

Production: Electronic Ink

www.takomaparkmd.gov

Vol. 52, No. 2

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@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 does not accept commercial, classified, political advertisements. The Newsletter is printed on recycled–content paper.
Takoma Park VFW post opens doors to all

By Kevin Adler

A man walks into a bar in Takoma Park and buys a beer for $1.75. Impossible. Well, actually, that's pretty much what happens every night of the week at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 350, located at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Orchard Street in what was once called Hell's Bottom.

One of the oldest continually operating VFW in Maryland, Post 350 ‘Hell’s Bottom’ is a refuge for anyone seeking an unpretentious place to have a Miller Light or a Yuengling and maybe listen to some music or watch a ballgame. Mostly, it’s a place to slow down.

“Cheapest beer in town,” says Mike Casey, post commander and a Vietnam veteran who works at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. “I just want people to know we’re a nice quiet place. Everyone is welcome, as long as they don’t start trouble.”

Contrary to what might be assumed, a person doesn’t have to be a veteran or a member of the military to visit VFW 350. Operating through tough economic times, VFW 350 is the only way for the financially strapped VFW to keep the doors open.

Casey, Beers, and Richard Fales, who are a part of the bar.

Above the bar hang beer and sports posters, televisions flashing Keno numbers, and a photo of the Drunk of the Month. The bar has a handstand, a pool table (never used), and a jukebox stocked with traditional (Reba, Toby, and Waylon), classic (Bob Marley) and some of the bartenders’ eclectic and handmade mixes featuring the likes of Taj Mahal, Harry Nilsson and DC guitar legend Bill Kirchen.

If you go to VFW 350 a couple of times, you’ll get to know the regulars, such as Casey, Bob Beers and Richard Fales. They’re not only regulars, but they are its workforce; the VFW 350 is completely volunteer-operated. For example, Beers, who is a retired carpenter, rebuilt much of the interior of the place, including doors, paneling and part of the bar.

You’ll also meet chatty bartenders Debbie, Kiki and Vicki. It feels more like someone’s living room than a bar—perhaps because the regulars know each other so well. Debbie and Kiki are sisters, and Casey and Debbie were married for 10 years several decades ago. All three of them grew up in Takoma Park.

Camaraderie brings people to the VFW post, and it was a similar motivation that drove the formation of the VFW organization in 1899. At the time, the U.S. was finishing two nearly simultaneous wars (Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection), and wounded and sick servicemen were not receiving adequate care.

Today, the VFW has about 1.9 million members, including the Women’s Auxiliary, who are a powerful voice on veterans’ issues and make significant volunteer contributions of time and money.

“We will make up the needs of our veterans first, the needs of our community are second on the list,” says Debbie Casey, who runs Post 350’s Women’s Auxiliary. “The motto of the VFW is, ‘We’ll do anything for our country.’”

There are approximately 7,400 VFW posts in the U.S. today, according to the organization. The posts are governed by basic rules, which have been loosened over the years to welcome non-veterans.

“Back when I started coming here, you had to be a veteran of a foreign conflict to be a member,” says Beers about his first visit 41 years ago. “You couldn’t even visit unless you were with a member, and if they left, you had to leave. I had not been overseas, so I wasn’t eligible to be a VFW member at the time.”

Today, anyone can join in or watch the DC Bluegrass Society’s jams on the first and third Mondays of the month, or check out the Brentwood Rockers on the third Saturday of the month and almost every Wednesday night. The VFW also has hosted Ward 3 candidates’ forums, meetings of community groups and neighborhood cookouts for the Pinecrest neighborhood where it is located.

“The idea is to get people to come over, see what it’s like, and visit again,” says Mike Casey.

The word is starting to get around. Last year, local band Monkeyfeather hosted two fundraisers for the Takoma Foundation in the post’s spacious back yard.

“It was great. The VFW couldn’t have been more accommodating. We had the band, we had food trucks in the parking lot, and we had about 100 people and their kids,” says Scott Ward, the Foundation’s vice president.

In addition, the Takoma-based Tree House house concert series, hosted by Peter Marra, Ann Perrault, Matt Littlejohn and Janet Rumble has hosted several shows at the VFW (generally when the artists are considered to be too loud or the audience too large for shows at Tree House’s home venue – Marra and Perrault’s house).

An inquiry arrived recently about having a spring wedding reception in the yard. So who knows? Maybe the VFW will be the new destination for in-the-know residents.

“That would suit me just fine,” says Mike Casey.

“When people come to our little bar, they have a part of a bigger picture,” says Debbie Casey.

By Kevin Adler

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Landlords required to keep emergency info updated, paint freshened

By Moses A. Wilds, Jr.
Landlord-Tenant Coordinator
I am a new city landlord, so I'm just learning about all the details of caring for a property and its tenant. For example, my tenants want to know how often their apartments will be painted, and how they can contact me in an emergency situation. Can you help?

Landlord-tenant law covers plenty of details! And these are two important ones. Landlords must paint their properties at least once every five years. That means everything, in its entirety (see Section 6.16.050.F of the City Landlord-Tenant Law for details). It's also nice to paint between tenancies, but it's not required. What is required is that all painted surfaces in the rental unit be in clean condition and free of any peeling or chipping paint when a new tenant moves in.

Speaking of keeping things up to date, landlords must also keep emergency contact information current. A durable notice with the name(s) and the day/ evening telephone number(s) of the landlord and/or agent tenants should be posted in an accessible and conspicuous place in the common area of the rental facility, and also distributed to all tenants at the beginning of their tenancy. Update the information whenever there is a change in the landlord/agent emergency contact information (see Section 6.16.050.H of the City code for details).

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

Downpayment Assistance Available for First Time Homebuyers

Since 2001, the Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery County (AHCMC) and its sponsors have provided a total of $180,000 to 26 moderate income individuals/families through its “Break the Barrier to Home Ownership” closing cost assistance program. If you are currently a resident of Montgomery County, Md. and a first-time home buyer, you may be eligible to receive $5,000 or more to use toward downpayment or closing cost assistance for the purchase of a home in Montgomery County.

To qualify, download the application and write an essay on what Home Ownership Means to Me, then mail the application and essay to AHCMC, P.O. Box 2111, Rockville, Md. 20847. Deadline to apply is March 2, 2013. To download the application, go to http://bit.ly/TNPwry.

Flower Avenue greening project launches

Web site provides updated information

After months of planning, designers presented their initial concept for reconfiguring Flower Avenue sidewalk areas last month. Twenty residents gathered at a public meeting Jan. 17, at Washington Adventist University’s Wilkinson Hall, to learn about plans to improve infrastructure along the busy street, and to create a more pedestrian-friendly, green thoroughway. They then broke into smaller groups that addressed individual blocks, so that residents could see how the property closest to their homes would be affected, and so they could provide feedback for designers to consider as the project moves forward.

Engineers and landscape architects described elements such as new bus stop locations, expanded areas where people can wait for buses (pads and extensions), the location of “bump outs” that increase green space, types of lighting designed to serve pedestrians, smooth sidewalk curb cuts required by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), and stormwater management elements such as rain gardens and other plantings that help process and clean stormwater before it goes into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Maps showed the exact location of various elements of the plan.

Directing the project are engineers and landscape architects, smooth sidewalk curb cuts required by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), and stormwater management elements such as rain gardens and other plantings that help process and clean stormwater before it goes into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Maps showed the exact location of various elements of the plan.

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Takoma Park Food Pantry

EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

For Eligible Residents of Takoma Park

The Food Pantry offers both perishable and non-perishable foods to individuals and families requesting assistance. Also, our special-needs clients (seniors or people with disabilities) will have their allotment of groceries delivered to their doors each month.

For Delivery or Appointment

Call 240-450-2902 or Email educare_ss@yahoo.com

Website: www.educaresupportservices.org

Center Location

7001 New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park, Md.

Requirements

• On every visit, you must provide a picture ID and proof of residency, such as a utility bill or rent receipt.

• On your first visit, you must provide identification for every member of your household - children and adults. Acceptable forms of identification include social security cards, food stamp cards, driver's license, unemployment letter, proof of income, birth certificates, passports and other legal documents.

This program is offered in partnership with the City of Takoma Park.

In addition to the green elements of the project, the street will be repaved and new crosswalks and lighting will be installed. Other changes will address long-term problems along the road—crumbling sidewalks, poorly marked crosswalks, which make walking uncomfortable and dangerous, and a general lack of room for waiting at bus stops, where there are no shelters or benches.

As this is a heavily used area, with many apartment buildings, small businesses, a university, a hospital and a church, traffic can be heavy and there is an ongoing need for parking — so parking spaces will be balanced with other elements of the plan.

Other considerations for planners include the multiple jurisdictions that are responsible for the various properties (including Washington Adventist University, Montgomery County and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission), the possible move anticipated for Washington Adventist Hospital, and the eventual replacement of the Carroll Avenue bridge over Sligo Creek.

Updated plans and other relevant documents and maps are available online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/floweravenue and for viewing on the third floor of the Community Center. Upcoming public meetings will also be posted on the website.

There will be another meeting similar to the Jan. 17 gathering this spring, as well as neighborhood information sessions about stormwater management options.
FEBRUARY EVENTS IN THE ARTS

THE ARTS

World premiere production of Butterfly
Feb. 15, 16, 22, 23, 8 p.m.
Feb. 16 and 22, 2 p.m. matinee
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
$20
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/295255

We Are Takoma performance - Feb. 13, 8 p.m.
Suggested donation $20

Catch the world premiere of local playwright Tom Block's latest play Butterfly, the second in a trilogy exploring the intersection between human spiritual urges and contemporary society.

Butterfly takes place during the final day of a self-appointed prophet's life. Characters include Todd, the half-black, half-Jewish prophet and his single acolyte, Jan (a Serbian refugee); a therapist; a medieval Muslim mystic (Ibn Sina) that he called back from the dead; the bubbly Martini, a beautician; his mother and doppelganger, and his invisible father who is interred in a mental asylum in Poughkeepsie, NY.

The production also features a series of paintings from Block's In the Garden of the Mystical Redoubt series, which explore the psychic experiences of the play's characters.

The play is directed by Wanderlust Theater Lab founder Roselle Vasquez-Yetter and will be accompanied by an original score written and performed by cellist Desiree Miller. Butterfly received its first reading at the Kennedy Center in September 2012.

Elizabethan Ardor: Passion in the Court of the Virgin Queen
Barbara Hollinshead, mezzo-soprano, and Howard Bass, lute
Saturday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Free

The lute songs and solos on this program come from the musical treasury of late 16th and early 17th century England, a time when music, poetry and drama flourished as never before (or, perhaps, since). Between 1597 and 1620, 30 books of lute songs by 20 composers were published, and hundreds of pieces for solo lute were written and preserved in manuscripts. Drawing on this exquisite repertoire, mezzo-soprano Barbara Hollinshead and lutenist Howard Bass present a pre-Valentine's Day story of love in four short acts, encompassing passionate beginnings, courtship, disappointment and the ever-hoped-for happy ending.

Docs In Progress Screening
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7:30 – 9:30 pm
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Free

This work-in-progress series provides an opportunity for local and visiting documentary filmmakers to screen their not-quite-finished films and get valuable feedback. After screening each film, a facilitator from Docs In Progress moderates a critique session with the audience.

The February screening will feature two films:

Over the Hurricane with Dr. Z (30 minutes)
by Aziza Baccouche

The wingspan of a DC-8 airplane is about the length of eight parking spaces. The average hurricane is about 600 miles wide. Imagine a DC-8 plane steering right at a hurricane, aiming to fly all the way to the eye and, hopefully, back out again. What kind of person is that pilot? And who on earth would volunteer to go along? Scientist and filmmaker Aziza “Dr. Z” Baccouche documents how NASA and NOAA scientists gear up for their dangerous mission to gather data from inside a hurricane moving over the southeastern part of the USA, featuring footage from Hurricane Katrina. This film is part of a series that connects breakthroughs in science research with the human experience.

This film will be presented with closed captioning and audio description.

Under Fire: Free Tutoring At Risk (35 minutes)
by David Long

Launched in 2001 as a provision of the Federal “No Child Left Behind” law, Supplemental Education Services (SES) provides free tutoring for low income students trapped in low performing public schools. SES has provided after-school and weekend tutoring services to millions of low-income students over the past decade, but in recent years, dozens of states have been awarded waivers to limit or discontinue SES. This film explores the value of the program and the efforts to maintain its existence.

Takoma Park PLAYS!

The Third Annual Takoma Park Midwinter Play Day
Thursday, Feb. 7, 6 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center

All are welcome to an evening of fun and games
Including storyteller Candace Wolf, bluegrass musicians Caroline and Tom Alderson, and yoga instructor Ashley Skye Litecky
Plus dress-up, board games, face painting, play dough and giant chess
FREE!
YOUTH/TEENS

Ice Skating
12 - 17 yrs.

Whether you are an experienced ice skater or just want to try it out, don’t pass up this opportunity to get out and have fun. We will be heading to a local outdoor ice skating rink in Maryland. Space is limited. Register now. For more information, please contact Ms. Leicia at leiciam@takomagov.org or 301-891-7283.

Friday, Feb. 8, 4:30 – 8 p.m.
TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Free

Kid’s Night Out

Ages 6 to 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

M.A.N.U.P.

Ages 11 to 18

The mission of MANUP is to develop the next generation of successful leaders by impacting the lives of youth through the principles of education, social responsibility, self empowerment and economic awareness. The programs are gender-specific to enhance male and female development. Several programs include guest speakers, field trips to various educational and fun locations, career development and more. This mentoring program is made possible by countless volunteer hours. These mentors work in cooperation with the Takoma Park Recreation Department. For more information, please contact Ms. Leicia at leiciam@takomagov.org or 301-891-7283.

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8 p.m. (ongoing)
TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Free

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

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.

Mondays, Jan. 14 – March 18, 7-8 p.m.
TP Recreation Center
$50/8 weeks

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, Feb. 7 and 21, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP residents $39
Non-residents $49

Kung Fu

Ages 4 to 16

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

TP Community Center Dance Studio

Saturdays, Jan. 26 – Apr. 6
Beginners: 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
Advanced: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
TP residents $150
Non-residents $170

Ladies’ Boot Camp I

Ages 16 and older

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

Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 12 – May 2, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
TP Recreation Center
$85/8 weeks

Ladies Boot Camp II

Ages 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.
TP Recreation Center
Non-class $165
Class $180
TP residents $150
Non-residents $165

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 re-align their body.

TP Recreation Center
$60/6 weeks

Taekwondo

Ages 5 and older

The Korean martial art of Taekwondo promotes fitness and strength in a fun and social environment. Taekwondo (foot-hand-way) is known for beautiful and powerful kicks. Students learn self-defense and practice drills, forms and sparring. The Tenets of Taekwondo – courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self-control and indomitable spirit – are emphasized. Adults are welcome to register with their children.

Wednesdays, Jan. 16 – March 2, 6 – 7 p.m.
TP Recreation Center
TP residents $25
Non-residents $50

Yoga Nidra – Meditation and Relaxation

Ages 16 and older

This meditative yoga practice helps reduce stress, increases general physical and mental well-being and brings greater joy and ease into everyday life. Students are guided through the meditation while lying on a yoga mat and blankets or seated in a comfortable position. This systematic practice uses positive affirmations, visualization, awareness of the body, breath, and self-inquiry. Each student should bring their own yoga mat, a few blankets, and a pillow.

Mondays, Mondays, March 4 - March 25, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Dance Studio
TP residents $50
Non-residents $60
Drop-in $15

Zumba

Ages 16 and older

An exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness program, Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Four weeks.

TP Recreation Center

Non-residents $40
4/week per session
$10 drop-in fee

ART

Collage

Ages 16 and older

Using a variety of collage and paper altering processes, students combine found and altered materials. Principles of color and design will be presented including structure, balance, repetition, value and gradation. This class is suitable for beginners, as well as more experienced students. Basic materials will be provided (some personal or found collage elements may be desired to enhance the collage as well). There is a $30 materials fee due on the first day of class.

TP residents $210
Non-residents $240

MAKE/Shift Studio I - Art Inspirations

Ages 8 to 10

Elementary students create exciting two and three dimensional projects in this new after school class. Lessons include drawing, painting, collage, assemblage and mixed media – every class a different subject and...
RECREATION

medium. Children learn to express themselves and engage in visual problem solving while producing beautiful works using color, shape, line, texture and pattern. Beginning students welcome. Materials fee included.

Thursdays, March 7 – April 18, 3:45 – 5:15 p.m.
TP Community Center Art Studio
TP residents $150
Non-residents $170

MAKE/Shift Studio II - Drawing & Watercolor

Ages 11 to 14

Have fun learning to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Beginning students welcome. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School. Materials fee of $25 due on the first day of each session.

Tuesdays, March 12 – April 30, 3:15 – 5:15 p.m.
TP Community Center Art Studio
TP residents $140
Non-residents $160

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Babysitting Class

Ages 11 to 13

Designed for those interested in learning more about babysitting. Topics cover CPR, fire safety, first aid, infant and child care and personal safety. A certificate will be issued upon completion of all five classes and exam. Co-sponsored by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department.

Mondays, 7 – 9 p.m., Feb. 11 – March 18
TP Community Center Lilac Room
Free, but must pre-register

In Pursuit of Destiny

Ages 22 and older

This is a seven-week women’s empowerment class designed for the woman who has a sense of purpose but has faced obstacles that include, but are not limited to: relational brokenness, a recent loss, stress, depression, domestic violence, personal crisis or past trauma that has hindered her from fulfilling her potential. The class encompasses a peer support model and features a psycho-educational curriculum taught by a licensed professional counselor. There is a one-time $10 materials fee paid to the instructor at the first class.

TP Community Center Hydrangea Room
Wednesdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Feb. 13 – March 27
Free, but must pre-register

COMPUTER/MULTI-MEDIA

High Definition Video for Community Purposes

Ages 16 and older

One-day workshop: 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, learn about home made, 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.

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
TP residents $29
Non-residents $39

PETS

Doggie Fun and Games

Dogs of any age

This series of one day sessions will show you a variety of new activities your family can enjoy with your dog. We’ll cover hide and seek, tricks, put the toy away, pick the toy, fetch, Frisbee, agility ground work, and maybe even bowling and basketball. If you have any obedience issues you don’t know how to resolve, our trainer will work with you on that too.

Saturdays, March 2 – March 30, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Heffner Park Community Center
42 Osweego Ave.
TP residents $20/per dog, per day
Non-residents $25/per dog, per day

UPCOMING

Flag Football League (co-ed)

Ages 6 to 14

Takoma Park Recreation Department in association with Takoma Park Boys Girls Club brings you the Takoma Park Flag Football League. This is a non-competitive, instructional, community league. The goal of our league is to teach the fundamentals of Flag Football in a safe environment. Practice begins the week of April 8 and the first game will be April 13.

Registration begins Feb. 1
Divisions: ages 6-8, 9-11 and 12-14
TP residents: $40; Non-residents: $50

Spring Break Camp

Come explore with us as we experience nature. Go on a nature scavenger hunt finding nature’s little secrets. Find out why the sun is so important and why water is essential to all living creatures. Hiking, swimming at Rollingcrest Pool, crafts, special guests, a trip to the Botanical Gardens and fun are in store.

TP Community Center Azalea Room
TP resident: $160
Non-resident: $180

March 25 – March 29, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Before Care, 7 a.m. – 9 a.m.
TP resident: $35; Non-resident: $45
After Care, 4 – 6 p.m.
Resident: $35 / Non-resident: $45

Annual Egg Hunt

Get your baskets ready and join the Takoma Park Recreation Department for easter egg hunting time! There are four age categories: ages 2 and under, 3 – 4 yrs., 5 – 6 yrs. and 7 – 8 yrs. The fun begins at 11 a.m. Be sure to bring your basket and don’t miss out! Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School)
March 30 (rain date: April 1)
11 a.m.
Free

Recreation staffer volunteers in Caribbean

Do you ever wonder what Recreation staff do while they are not working at the Community Center? One staff member recently volunteered for a mission trip to the Caribbean.

Stephany Sulbaran, a recreation program assistant and student at Washington Adventist University, visited Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, and the Dominican Republic in early January. She and other students provided medical supplies and health services to families on all three islands. Sulbaran is majoring in social work with a minor in forensic psychology. In addition, she enjoys helping students with their homework at the front desk in the afternoons.

This photo was taken with the children Sulbaran served in the Caribbean.
Black History event brings slave story to life

In honor of Black History Month, we’re offering a special program on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. for adults and teens featuring Gigi Amateau, author of a riveting new book, “Come August, Come Freedom,” based on the true story of a literate Richmond, Va. slave named Gabriel who plotted a rebellion to secure freedom for himself and others.

Amateau will read from her book and then take questions. It’s a great chance for both teens and adults to meet a well-regarded author and learn more about a little-known historical event. Politics and Prose bookstore will be selling Amateau’s book to anyone who wants to purchase it and have her sign it, but our program is free and no purchase is required.

Because so little is known about Gabriel’s life, Amateau uses a mix of original documents and a fictionalized narrative to flesh out his story. She creates a childhood for him that is shaped by his mother’s love and his father’s passion for freedom, as well as a friendship with his white master’s son that turns sour as they grow up. Amateau also imagines a wife for Gabriel, someone who inspires him as he hopes — and fails — to buy her freedom.

Emboldened by François-Dominique Toussaint L’Ouverture’s successful rebellion against Haiti’s slave masters, Gabriel decides to use his blacksmith trade to help re-fashion pitchforks as swords to arm thousands of his fellow slaves. But Gabriel’s plot is discovered by authorities, thanks to an informant who betrays their cause; Gabriel and two dozen of his followers are hanged.

Kirkus Reviews calls “Come August, Come Freedom,” “an anguished tale told with poetry and heart,” while The Horn Book Magazine says, “In this beautifully written novel, Amateau makes Gabriel a fully realized character fighting not just for an abstract ideal of liberty but also for the freedom of Nanny and their future family.”

Amateau’s book is recommended for ages 12 up, although adults will undoubtedly find inspiration in Gabriel’s story.

Comic relief

Read any good comics lately? Come and check out the latest in the comics world at our next monthly Comics Jam program on Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 4 p.m. Dave Burbank, our comics guru, will read comics on the big screen; kids also are invited to bring some of their favorites to read with Dave, or have him read them aloud to the group. Dave concludes the program by taking drawing requests from audience members. No registration required.

Caldecott klatch

Come and read the winner of the 2013 Caldecott Medal at our next Caldecott Birthday Club meeting, scheduled for Monday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. The winner of the Caldecott Medal, given annually by the American Library Association to the best-illustrated children’s book, will be announced on Jan. 28. At our February meeting, we’ll also look at some of the Caldecott Medal and Honor books from the 1980s, including “The Polar Express” and “Jumanji,” both written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg. Lemonade and cookies will be served. All ages welcome, no registration required.

Exploring a world of travels on the library shelves

No need to delay that long-awaited vacation in an exotic locale. Whether you are planning a special get-away during these cold winter months, or simply seeking an arm chair escape, the library has many brand new travel books to stimulate your imagination and bring far-away places to life.

There are now 2013 travel guides to Guatemala, New Zealand, Peru, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Honduras and Iceland, as well as popular tourist destinations such as England, India, Ireland and Puerto Rico. Destinations closer to home include Alaska, Florida and San Francisco. These are only a few of the up-to-date guides we will have in the next few months — look for Croatia, Thailand and Pakistan, France, Italy, U.S. National Parks and many others.
A New Look at Takoma Park Schools
By Anand Parikh

Among the Library's new books with links to Takoma Park is “The Diverse Schools Dilemma: A Parent's Guide to Socioeconomically Mixed Public Schools,” by Mike Petrilli (Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2012). Petrilli, known to many Takoma Parkers with preschool-aged children from play-dates and birthday parties around town, is an education scholar. His book serves as a mixture of a cultural analysis, education and social policy critique and (for me) an exploration of elementary school options available to some families in our community.

Petrilli’s research explores important questions, including whether racially and socio-economically diverse schools will provide a strong education for his own children, and how these same schools serve the educational needs of the different groups that make up their communities.

The book reflects the tone of conversations it wouldn't be hard to imagine Petrilli having with many friends and his former Takoma Park neighbors. Although it doesn't include too much heavy analysis, it is fully cited with relevant statistical comparisons and lends insight from his discussions with Takoma Park school and PTA leaders.

In his Washington Post review, education writer Jay Matthews observes: "I have never seen [these issues] dissected as well...It is deep, up to date, blessedly short (119 pages) and wonderfully personal.”

Bryan Hassel, co-author of “The Picky Parent Guide: Choose Your Child's School with Confidence,” calls it “...a must read for parents who want it all for their kids—that is, all parents. Blending facts and research with revealing stories about real families and schools, Petrilli helps readers take into account the whole picture: from the 3Rs to a child’s peer group and neighborhood. A vexing decision just got easier!”

The book doesn’t shy away from challenging members of his target readers, the “progressive, creative class,” to think about whether the risks of diverse schools outweigh the benefits. Take a peek at the book; you might be surprised at some of what you’ll learn. I was.

On-line reference tools expand
By Rebecca Brown

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, the library has expanded its offering of online reference tools by purchasing a group of 30 standard reference works published by Gale, Scribner and Macmillan. Most of these are the most current editions of multi-volume sets.

This selection includes adult titles, student titles, and many that can be used by either group. Among the new titles are “The American Writers Collection,” “The Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture,” and “The Gale Encyclopedia of Senior Health.”

Anyone with a card from this library can access the books online, download articles in pdf format, bring up translations in any of a number of languages, listen while reading, and even download the audio versions as mp3 files. No check-outs are required. Up to 50 articles can be downloaded in a single session.

Unlike its subscription reference resources, the library owns these books. This means the only ongoing annual fee is a rather small one for web hosting. However, the library will need to discard titles when they become outdated, or replace them with new editions, just as with the print equivalents. (Subscription reference content, on the other hand, is always current, automatically updated and continually enhanced.)

This new framework also works for non-fiction and reference works from other publishers. For example, digital versions of children’s DK Eyewitness books were purchased and added to the same web hosting service.

Going to visit the dinosaur bones downtown? If you visit the Eyewitness book on fossils you can download the interesting sections to your mobile device and access them as you walk around the exhibits.

TAKOMA CENTRAL
■ From page 1

point the building was to be condominiums, now it will be apartments. The final design reflects a mix of the architectural styles of the area, incorporating a Victorian warehouse-style component, a contemporary Art Deco style building and a glass “byphen” connecting the two. “Now that the details of the design are worked out and permitted, we are ready to go ahead with construction,” says Jon Kardon, Level 2 Developers.

Takoma Central will be a mix of studio apartments and one and two-bedroom apartments, plus retail or other commercial business on the ground floor. Amenities will include a fitness center, a resident lounge, a landscaped courtyard, a business center with WiFi, secure bicycle storage, on-site car-sharing and controlled access. The buildings are designed for LEED Certification, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating, for high performance green buildings. Leasing will not begin until the project is nearer completion.

“I think the project across the street will push the area over the tipping point for making Takoma a real destination.” — Ben Homola, Troy Home Store

underground utilities and concrete footings will be installed at the foundation level and excavation will begin of Phase II, in the former PMI parking lot. The developers have an ambitious schedule, expecting to have the construction done in about 18 months, subject to weather conditions.

Ben Homola, owner of Troy, a home goods and gift store across the street from the site, is glad to see renewed activity at that location. “I think the project across the street will push the area over the tipping point for making Takoma a real destination,” he says. “People will come here and have multiple options in the area. It will also increase the time that Takoma is ‘open for business’ by adding additional commercial activity. My only concerns have been about it not getting done.”

During construction, the site will have two construction entrances one on Maple Avenue and the other on Carroll. The curb lane on Carroll will be used for a truck delivery and loading zone. The centerline of the 200 block of Carroll Street will be re-striped and shifted to the south. Flagmen will help direct traffic when trucks are loading and unloading. The sidewalk in front of the site will be closed, with pedestrians rerouted to the south side of Carroll, and metered parking will be removed in the 200 block of Carroll. The sidewalk on Maple adjoining the site will also be closed and two parking spots will be removed during the construction.

TP ON TV
■ From page 1

program airs on Mondays at 9 a.m.
Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Fridays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

The lack of a studio does not mean City TV has to limit its production, says Alvaro Calabia, City TV Manager. “We decided we had to create a studio out of the stage,” he says. “I’ve seen people doing more with less. We need to bring a lot of Takoma’s faces to City TV. There are great messages in our streets, but not enough cameras to spread them.”

Calabia recruited Regina Reese, Akili Brown, and Bienvenido Martinez, contractors who have worked behind the cameras, as co-producers and hosts. They have invited guests ranging from representatives of the Social Security Administration to people from the Piney Branch Pool. The show even has some episodes in Spanish, Somos Takoma.

“Takoma has a large Hispanic population that needs to be informed, but it also needs a push to get involved in the community life and in the political arena of the City,” says Martinez, co-producer and Spanish host of the show.

“Our goal, of course, is not to produce Lost or 24 or Salvado Gigante and get millions of viewers,” he says. “Our mission is to bring Takoma Park to Takoma Park and Montgomery County. As much as we can, we must show the faces and ideas that are ignored, rejected and despised by mainstream television. Minds that have a lot of good information in them.”

“We Are Takoma recognizes people and organizations that are making a difference right in their own backyards,” says Reese. “It’s undeniable that education changes lives and inspiration is magnetic. When you’re able to use television as a vehicle to educate, that’s when communities change as a whole. The show exposes the reality that this small city has such big character.”

The program is limited to a twice monthly show due to its small budget—a real challenge for producers who have so many organizations they want to feature. One schedule change might mean months of waiting until the next chance to tackle an important issue comes around, says Calabia.

And the stories just keep coming. “I love the myriad of opportunities that City TV provides me to interact with the community,” says Brown. “Takoma Park has such a rich history of diversity and the medium of TV is a really great way to document and share that. The possibilities for programming are endless.”

For Calabia the future looks bright. “The next step will be to go live with the show,” he says. “After that, who knows? Maybe tape two the same day, something we do when we cover the same topic in English and Spanish. Maybe we’ll be able to produce some in French for the large African and Caribbean communities. Takoma’s sky is the limit.”

City TV has launched a new program, We Are Takoma, featuring interviews that introduce viewers to the many diverse members and aspects of our community. From left, Bienvenido Martinez, Regina Reese and Akili Brown, who produce and host the new program.

Photo by Robin Randolph

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The suspect was fleeing the scene at a Ford Focus, operated by the suspect. According to a witness, later identified as a second officer, the suspect had demanded property from the victim and deployed her taser, but it had no effect. The suspect then charged the female officer and assaulted her. A second officer, Largent, arrived and demanded that the suspect stop. Fearing for the life of his fellow officer, he fired his weapon multiple times, causing the suspect to fall off the vehicle.

The suspect was transported to MedStar Washington Hospital Center where he was pronounced deceased. The stabbing victim was also transported to Star Washington Hospital Center where he was pronounced deceased. The stabbing victim was also transported to MedStar Washington Hospital Center where he underwent surgery and remained in critical condition for a period of time. Because of the life-saving efforts of all Takoma Park Police officers involved, the victim survived and physically recovered.

The department put in a grand total of 15,480.5 hours of standby duty time at the fire station during 2012. The time at the station consisted of running on emergency incidents, training, meetings, etc. In the Jan. 9, 2013 membership meeting, the department voted into membership the following: Jesse Dubon, Tiera Curty, Britany Ryan, Lea Sanon, Ross Williams, Wakeen Luke, Troy Bint, Thomas Miller and Nigel Draper. If you would be interesting in joining, please contact Mike Livingston at the station, 240-773-8954. All we need from you is time and commitment.

TPVFD 2013 Officers

The Takoma Park VFD 2013 Board of Directors – President Elmer Hamm, First Vice President Richard Willey, Financial Secretary Steve Novik, Treasurer Bruce Allen, Directors Jorge Alfaro, Mike DeVore, Tina Willey, Tom Musgrove and Jim Jarboe, Recording Secretary Leslie DeLeon. The Takoma Park VFD reps Mayor Bruce Williams and Councilmember Kay Daniels Cohen. The Takoma Park VFD Auxiliary Officers – President Tina Willey, Vice President Betty Fickes, Treasurer Marion Brown and Secretary Ashlee Willey.
K9 bus gets you moving on the New Ave

By Erkin Ozberk
Planning Division

There’s a new, blue bus rolling on New Hampshire Avenue during the morning and evening rush hour. The new K9 MetroExtra bus route is a limited-stop service, which means it makes fewer stops and runs faster than its counterpart the K6. The new service is intended to help relieve crowding along the busy New Hampshire corridor between Northwest Park and Fort Totten Metro Station. The existing K6 schedule is not impacted by this additional service.

The K9 is distinguished from regular Metro buses with its blue paint job. It’s important for riders to know that if a blue bus passes their local New Hampshire Avenue stop, a short walk might get them to a K9 stop with a faster bus. In Takoma Park, the stops are at Kirklynn Avenue (near University Boulevard), East-West Highway / Ethan Allen Avenue, Poplar Avenue / Ray Road, and Eastern Avenue.

The K9 is the first MetroExtra bus route that extends into Maryland, which demonstrates the importance of the New Hampshire Avenue corridor in the region’s transportation network. On Monday, Jan. 7, Metro hosted a press event at Fort Totten Station to launch the new service. Elected officials from the District of Columbia and Montgomery County remarked on the social and economic importance of this transit investment for the riders in the corridor.

The K9 service received strong support from City officials; it immediately benefits Takoma Park riders, and aligns with long-term plans of converting New Hampshire Avenue into a multi-way boulevard that is more pedestrian-friendly and community-oriented.

Metro officials evaluating the new K9 say the route is meeting expectations in the first two weeks of its operation, capturing about 20 percent of the morning rush hour riders in the corridor so far. Riders have provided mostly positive feedback, stating that they often wait for the K9 because it is a faster service, runs on a more dependable schedule, and they’re more likely to get a seat on board.

The K9 is a weekday service, running every 16 to 18 minutes during the morning and evening rush hours. For the complete timetable, see: www.wmata.com/bus/timetables

GOING OUR WAY?

Metro has released new and improved maps for the region’s extensive bus routes, including the new K9. Thick red lines on the new maps highlight routes with more frequent service. So at first glance, the most noticeable routes are those with the shortest wait between buses. The maps were released without much fanfare and are available online. Download and print one for your home or office and get rolling!

www.wmata.com/bus/maps
Tuesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.
Open mic for jazz musicians
Jazz Jam
ARTS AND LITERATURE
Trohv, 232 Carroll Street, NW
Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201
Free
do fun indoor play
Department welcomes all ages for an evening
Takoma Plays and the Takoma Park Recreation
Community Center
Thursday, Feb.7, 6 – 8 p.m.
Winter Play Day
Free
te environmental improvements
building through a self-guided tour highlighting
Public Works building, 31 Oswego Ave.
Monday, Feb.18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for
Hampshire Ave.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New
First Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Docs In Progress
TP Community Center Auditorium
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.
City Council
Monday, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
For agenda, see www.takomaparkmd.gov/