WHAT’S NEW?

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BIRTHDAY
Jan. 20, city offices closed
TRASH COLLECTION JAN. 20
No yard waste collection

TAKOMAPARK
A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland
Volume 53, No. 1 takomaparkmd.gov

January
2014

Republic one of several new businesses in town

By Virginia Myers

There’s a whole lot of buzz about the new restaurant in town: Republic, named after Takoma Park’s revolutionary monument, “The People’s Republic of Takoma Park.” Run by Takoma Park native Danny Wells, Republic is part of the well-respected Black’s Restaurant Group, a local chain of six fine dining establishments in the D.C. area, but is striving to stay hyper local, featuring signature drinks like The Local (sourced with locally distilled gin and honey from a nearby apiary) and the Fascist Killer (with a nod to the town’s political reputation). Besides the write-ups in every publication from Washingtonian to the Prince of Petworth blog, locals are giving the restaurant’s food, service and atmosphere good reviews on neighborhood list servers — along with a few comments about what it’s like to have such shiny new attraction in town.

If you visit, you’re likely to find at least as many out-of-towners seated at the bar and tables as there are neighbors. Republic is expected to be a destination restaurant, the books inside may be borrowed by anyone.

LFL proponents hope to promote a love of books and reading. As this is also a goal of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library, the Friends have purchased an LFL to install outside the Takoma Park Food Co-op. That sturdy post near the sidewalk in front of the Co-op will soon hold a two-shelved LFL containing an array of LITTLE LIBRARIES

Little Free Libraries inspire reading

By Pat Hanran
President,
Friends of the Takoma Park Md. Library

What’s better than a library that is open seven days a week? A Little Free Library where you can find a good book 24 hours a day!

Little Free Libraries (LFL) are small containers for books. They have one or more shelves and a door that is easy to open but protects the contents from bad weather. Located in public spaces, the books inside may be borrowed by anyone.

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The committee strongly supported the Middle School with Emotions program at Takoma Park Middle School. A committee of volunteers reviewed seven applications for the funds, and held a public hearing with the city council to consider the needs of low-income residents of Takoma Park.

The funds were distributed as follows:

• $106,250 to the Flower Avenue Green Street project
• $5,000 to the African Immigrant and Refugee Foundation’s Catching Up Program
• $5,000 to the Crossroads Community Food Network’s Micro-enterprise Development in the Local Food Network project
• $5,000 to the YMCA’s Smart Choices with Emotions program at Takoma Park Middle School

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**City Council & Committee Calendar**

Official City Government Meetings*

**CITY COUNCIL**
- Monday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.
- TPCC Auditorium

**SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE**
- Thursday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.
- TPCC Hydrangea Room

**FAÇADE ADVISORY BOARD**
- Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m.
- TPCC Hydrangea Room

**NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE**
- Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.
- TPCC Atrium Room

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**
- Thursday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m.
- TPCC Hydrangea Room

**TREE COMMISSION**
- Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m.
- TPCC Rose Room

**COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT**
- Monday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.
- TPCC Hydrangea Room

**RECREATION COMMITTEE**
- Thursday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
- TPCC Hydrangea Room

**RECOGNITION TASK FORCE MEETING**
- Thursday, Jan. 23, 9:30 a.m.
- TPCC Hydrangea Room

**ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION**
- Tuesday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m.
- TPCC Hydrangea Room

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**ORDINANCE 2013-54**
Adopted Nov. 25
Consulting Services Contract with PDA, Inc. The resolution authorizes the city manager to enter into a contract with PDA, Inc. for the not-to-exceed amount of $40,000 for consulting services related to the Certificate of Need application for Washington Adventist Hospital.

**ORDINANCE 2013-55**
Adopted Nov. 25
Repeals Ordinance 2013-42 and re-authorizes Purchase of a Large Air Compressor
The vendor that was awarded a contract by Ordinance 2013-42 was not able to honor its bid. This ordinance repeals 2013-42 and awards the contract for a large air compressor to Washington Air Compressor for a price of $14,500.

**RESOLUTION 2013-70**
Adopted Nov. 18
FY 2015 Community Development Block Grant Projects
The resolution accepts CDBG eligible projects for consideration for FY 2015 funding: Flower Avenue Green Street ($106,250); Catching Up Program ($8,000); Microenterprise Development ($6,480); and Smart Choices with Emotions ($2,700). The approved projects are to be forwarded to Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs for further review and action.

**RESOLUTION 2013-71**
Adopted Nov. 25
Removal of Class B Sunset Provision
The resolution requests the General Assembly to remove the sunset provision regarding Class B on and off-sale license availability in Takoma Park as specified in proposed bill MC 18-14. ( Voting No: 4-3)

**RESOLUTION 2013-72**
Adopted Nov. 26
Amended Contract with City Attorney
The resolution authorized an increase in the hourly rate paid to the city attorney (Susan Silver and the law firm of Silber, Perlman, Sigman and Tieve, PA) from $150 per hour to $175 per hour.

**RESOLUTION 2013-73**
Adopted Nov. 26
City Council Winter Recess
The resolution sets the City Council’s recess to run from Dec. 10, 2013 through Jan. 5, 2014.

**RESOLUTION 2013-74**
Adopted Nov. 25
Purple Line Corridor Coalition
The resolution supports the city joining the Purple Line Corridor Coalition which has been established to bring together communities, businesses and organizations along the Purple Line corridor with the goals of preserving and providing affordable housing, promoting economic development, stimulating and sustaining small business growth, advancing workforce development and fostering a sense of place through cultural and historic roots.

**RESOLUTION 2013-75**
Adopted Nov. 25
Residential Streetscape Task Force
The resolution appoints the following residents to serve on the Residential Streetscape Task Force: David Coakley, John Lorenz, Thomas Luukke, Pierre Perrolle and Frances Phipps.

**RESOLUTION 2013-76**
Adopted Nov. 25
Appointment to the Emergency Preparedness Committee
The resolution appoints Claudine Scheuber to serve on the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

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**VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

**BOARD OF ELECTIONS**
(two vacancies)
The Board of Elections plans and conducts city elections in coordination with the city clerk. Meetings are generally held monthly but will be more frequent around election time. Board members also serve as election judges in city elections. Although the council will consider all applications, an appointment from Ward 5 and Ward 6 each would ensure that all wards are represented on the board.

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE**
(two vacancies)
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 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

**RESIDENTIAL STREETSCAPE TASK FORCE**
(vacancies)
On June 3, an ad hoc committee of Takoma Park residents presented recommendations on development of a residential streetscape policy for the city. The presentation is available for review online at: http://citycouncil.takomapark.md.gov/agenda-items/2013/060313-1-improving-the-tp-streetscape.pdf. As a follow-up to the presentation, the city council agreed to seek volunteers to serve on a temporary task force to review guidelines for residential streetscapes and make recommendations to the council. Initial appointments were made in 2013. Interested individuals are still invited to apply.

**ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION**
(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. At least 2/3 of the members must be Takoma Park residents. The AHC generally meets on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. For information, contact Sara Anne Daines, sadaines@takomapark.md.gov or 301-892-7224.

**VOLUNTEER NEEDED**
The City of Takoma Park has one seat on Montgomery County’s Cable and Communications Advisory Committee (CCAC). The city council is seeking a volunteer to serve as the city’s representative on the CCAC (who is knowledgeable and/or excited about new technologies, the use of video on multiple devices, and the possibilities of interactivity with residents through these technologies. Additionally, the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County are in the process of negotiating the franchise agreement with Comcast, and the agreements with Verizon and RCN expire in 2014. The CCAC will have an advisory role in the franchise renewal process. For more information, contact Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow, suzanne@takomapark.md.gov or 301-891-7229.

Limited opportunities are also available on the Committee on the Environment, the Facade Advisory Board, Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee, Recreation Committee, and the Task Force on Voting.

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**New Year – New Opportunities to Get Involved**

**TAKOMA TOPICS:**
"We love #FoodTruckFridays! Check out this great video by Docs In Progress! http://bit.ly/1aMReKX"

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*Wards 4, 5 and 6 are especially invited to step up. Applications are made by the city council. Apply by completing an application form and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications to the city clerk. View information at www.takomapark.md.gov. For additional information, contact the city clerk at jessie@takomapark.md.gov.*
Discovering Takoma Park, one sweet bite at a time

By Virginia Myers

I have lived in Takoma Park for 25 years. I know the place pretty well, right? Well, yes and no. I know my neighborhood. I know Old Town, the Junction, the parks, the library, the schools. My bank and the Crossroads Farmers Market take me to Takoma/Langley, and I’ve taken aerobics classes at the Rec Center on New Hampshire Avenue (what a workout!) Still, there’s plenty that is unfamiliar to me.

So this month I went exploring. The New Ave was a great place to start: the city-sponsored web site/concept works hard to expose the intriguing little nooks and crannies of New Hampshire Avenue and Takoma/Langley Crossroads to folks who are more commonly wrapped up in all things Old Town and historic district.

The New Ave walking tours each list a handful of destinations that echo one of five themes: Latin America and the Caribbean, South Asia, groceries, fabrics or sweets. I choose sweets. Yum.

Caribbean Market
7905 New Hampshire Ave.
Reggae drifts out the doors of the Caribbean Market, a grocery store and eatery tucked into the lower level of a mixed-use building that includes professional offices at the back, and retail stores on the ground floor. Despite its hidden entrance, inside it’s a big space, with aisles of dry goods as well as a full butcher, a produce section, and my destination: the prepared food counter.

Hanging out in this store is half the fun, so I take my time getting to the sweets. Wandering the aisles I feel like a tourist, wondering about this oddly shaped root vegetable (eddoes) and finding an item I remember from a trip to the islands, where I slurped calaloo soup.

The market has fresh calaloo, a spinach-like vegetable I’ve never seen at Safeway. The meat case has whole legs from various animals, as well as hoots and organs. I’d need a guide to describe a lot of the produce accurately, but I recognize mango, avocados and bananas. The spice aisle is great for bulk buying; there are one-pound bags of curry, and five-pound jugs of cayenne pepper.

Finally I make my way to the prepared food. Posted above are photographs of each dish: jerk chicken, pumpkin and roti, cow foot, ackee and salt fish. I’ll definitely have to return for the curry goat.

The sweets are in the case, and I have to ask to be sure that these are sugary foods, and not savory. There’s black cake, currant roll, banana cake and cassava pone. I ask for a pine tart, which is flaky and full of tiny diced pineapple. Then I see a coconut pie on the counter filled with toasted coconut. How could I pass that up? On my way to the cash register, I find tamarind balls, another treat I can’t resist. The round, sugar-coated spheres of tart tamarind pulp and sugar are a blast of flavor.

To wash down my treats, there’s spicy ginger beer. I take all this to go, but promise myself I’ll return to sit at one of the tables tucked in a corner, where I can easily imagine I am on a Caribbean island miles from Takoma Park.

Casa Blanca and Sam’s Donuts
7988 New Hampshire Ave.
It’s a two-fer at Casa Blanca and Sam’s Donuts, side-by-side bakeries with similar arrays of Central American-style sweets plus meal options like tamales, refried beans, pupusas and more. Customers, nearly all of them Latino, know the drill: they pick up a tray and tongs, serve themselves from displays of light, flaky breads, gooey bread pudding, and fruit-filled turnovers, and bring the trays to the cashier, who bags the items and rings them up.

In Casa Blanca, it’s hard to choose amidst all the various shapes and ingredients, so my friend and I wind up with a bag that includes four different selections. When we ask, the accommodating server writes down the name of each, which seems easier than translating from Spanish. We have lengua, literally “tongue,” a long, crisp, sugar-crusty sweet bread, a plain sweet bread called concha (like the conch shell), named for its round shape, chumpurrudas, a sesame seed-topped, airy cookie, and a huge square of bread pudding with bananas and raisins.

The whole bag of treats cost $3.25, and on our way out the friendly woman server gives us a small piece of torta de leche to try. Literally “milk cake,” it is not only moist, creamy and light, unlike any American equivalent I’ve encountered, it is beautiful. The whole cakes on display are trimmed with fresh fruit and sliced almonds, picture-perfect and ready for special occasions.

Next door at Sam’s Donuts, we jostle ourselves in with a crowd of men and women who must be regulars, standing around the coffee machine and visiting at small tables. We order coffee ($1 a cup) and friendly customers direct us to powdered cream, milk and sugar.

We also choose from the bakery trays, again filled with a variety of shapes and sizes of sweet breads and pastries. The pineapple turnover looks flaky and I love a fruit filling, so we go with that and a piece of tres leches cake, recommended by one of Takoma Park’s police officers earlier in the week (apparently Takoma Park’s finest have discovered this place, too!).

Then we settle down at a table beside two young women and an adorable baby girl eating frijoles and platanos for breakfast. Outside the big windows, the rain falls, but we are cozy inside and linger over our coffee and sweets, discovering (as The New Ave website advises) that the dry, sugary lengua and chumpurrudas are perfect dipped in coffee.

Ten-4
1401 University Blvd. East
It is time for an afternoon pick-me-up, and I have before me an array of sand-colored pastries and cookies on a plate beside my mug of tea. I’ve carefully cut each in half so that I will not eat them all at once, but these are so addictive I am afraid I might break into the rest before it’s all over.

The boost is from Ten-4, a tidy panade

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER
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Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar. Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled–content paper.
The landlord is required to give the tenants a two-month written notification of the fair return rent increase. This fair return rent increase granted by COLTA substitutes for the 1.4 percent rent stabilization increase that the landlord was entitled to take during the current recording period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

To review the full decision, please access it on the city’s website at www.takomaparkmd.gov, click on “Landlord–Tenant” and scroll down to “COLTA Case Summaries.”

In addition to entertainment, presenters will offer homemade cupcakes and other refreshments from blogger Lauren Seat (seatatetable.wordpress.com) during intermission. Takoma Radio is being created as a hyper-local, non-commercial listening alternative. The coverage area includes neighborhoods in Northeast and Northwest D.C. and Montgomery and Prince George’s counties. The programming, as well as the deejays, announcers, and board members will be local. Tickets to the event are $20 in advance (available at www.carrollcafe.org) and $25 at the door.

For more information, see www.takomaradio.org or www.carrollcafe.org.
Ballad’ve to warm your spirits on a mid-winter’s eve

Wednesday, Jan. 22 at 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center

The local folk trio Ballad’ve will be coming to Takoma Park to warm up the night, performing its modern interpretation of traditional shape note songs. Shape-note singing dates back to the early 1800s and became a popular way to teach music; shapes were added to musical notation to help singers find pitches. The music has mostly been performed in a religious context, and though it originated in New England, it is now mostly practiced in the South.

Rather than performing the hymns in the traditional unaccompanied manner, Ballad’ve fuses sacred singing with a variety of styles including folk, blues and a mix of percussive elements from around the globe. This reinterpretation reflects the group’s American cultural roots and pays tribute to the music, all “while challenging and expanding the stylistic boundaries of the tradition itself,” explains the band. The D.C.-based band gets its name from the ubiquitous phrase, “Ballad of,’ (or, the quickly-pronounced “Ballad’ve”) that appears in the title of countless folk songs (e.g. “The Ballad of Casey Jones”) as well as many popular songs (e.g. “The Ballad of John and Yoko”). Ballad’ve consists of banjoist and ethnomusicologist Anders Fahey; vocalist, songwriter and guitarist Margaret Wasaff; and Manny Arciniega, a classically trained percussionist, arranger, composer and music educator.

A question and answer session will be held at the end of the evening along with a group sing-through of a selected hymn. The evening is part of the We Are Takoma series sponsored by the City of Takoma Park’s Arts and Humanities Commission.

Old-time Appalachian music

Thursday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
Suggested $20 donation

The father-son duo of Ken and Brad Kolodner will be coming to the Takoma Park Community Center this January for a set of traditional and original Appalachian Old-Time Music played with modern sensibilities. Ken is a world-renowned hammered dulcimer player and fiddler who has been teaching and performing full-time for nearly 30 years. His son Brad is a rising star in the music scene. He is a 2013-14 Strathmore Artist in Residence. Together, the Kolodners have recorded two studio albums. These multi-instrumentalists will be playing hammered dulcimer, banjo, twin fiddles, guitar, gourd banjo, banjola, hammered mbira and vocals. They will be accompanied by Alex Laquement on bass.

This event is part of the We Are Takoma series sponsored by the City of Takoma Park’s Arts and Humanities Commission.

Hidden Books – The art of Kumi Korf

Thursday, Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Free

This award-winning short film about internationally known artist Kumi Korf (an early contributor to the Pyramid Atlantic Art Center), unfolds very much like one of Korf’s artworks. “Hidden Books – the Art of Kumi Korf” gives a unique perspective on Korf’s life as a painter, printmaker and book artist, and how the world around her influences her work.

The film is being screened in partnership with Docs In Progress. A question and answer session with filmmaker Sam Hampton will follow the screening. This event is part of the We Are Takoma series sponsored by the City of Takoma Park’s Arts and Humanities Commission.

Gallery openings – Transformations and Into Dreamland

Jan. 9, 7–9 p.m.
Galleries at the Takoma Park Community Center

On Jan. 9 the artists in the new exhibit, Transformation, will be hosting a reception for their latest installation at the Community Center. Exhibit openings are a great opportunity to meet the artists and learn about the inspiration behind their work.

The quest for personal transformation unites the work of artists Mary Freedman, Jackie Hoysted, Megan Peritore and Lisa Rosenstein in this multi-media show, which features drawings, assemblages, paintings and sculpture. The show poses the question: Is art transformation or manipulation? Freedman’s drawings and Peritore’s sculptures are motivated by nature and reflect their quest for balance and unity with the world. Conversely Hoysted’s cigarette project and Rosenstein’s white paintings are driven from within. Hoysted uses art as a tool to manipulate herself and ensure success with her goal to quit smoking, while Rosenstein wraps or marks canvases in an effort to control time, seeking solace and solitude from a world that is too demanding at times.

Also exhibiting work in January is Teruko Bowens whose show in the Dempsey Gallery, Into Dreamland, seeks to capture the beauty in the world around her. Bowens was born in Tokyo in 1930. After World War II, she worked for the U.S. Army in Shinagawa, Japan, where she met her husband. She emigrated to Benton Harbor, Mich. in 1952 and made history as the town’s first war bride.

The film is being screened in partnership with Docs In Progress. A question and answer session with filmmaker Sam Hampton will follow the screening. This event is part of the We Are Takoma series sponsored by the City of Takoma Park’s Arts and Humanities Commission.

Progress. A question and answer session with filmmaker Sam Hampton will follow the screening. This event is part of the We Are Takoma series sponsored by the City of Takoma Park’s Arts and Humanities Commission.
TOTS

CLASSES

Let's Pretend
Ages 2½ - 5
Preschoolers love to exercise their imaginations through pretend play. Let’s Pretend class members will develop this natural creative behavior through dramatic readings, imprey, 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, Jan. 16 - March 16, 9:30 - 10:15 a.m.
TP residents $115
Non-residents $135

MARTIAL ARTS

Kung Fu
Ages 4 – 16
This ancient form of self defense provides physical and mental exercise which could help students defend themselves by strengthening hand and eye coordination. The student will gain physical fitness, and mental and spiritual strength. There is a one-time, non-refundable fee of $50 paid to the instructor at the first class for uniform.
TP Community Center Dance Studio
Saturdays, Jan. 11 - March 15
Beginners 10:15 - 11:15 a.m.
Advanced 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
TP residents $129
Non-residents $149

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.
There is a one-time fee paid to the instructor at the first class (non-refundable) for uniform.
($40 children, $50 for adult).
TP Community Center Dance Studio
Wednesdays, Jan. 8 - March 12, 6 – 7 p.m.
TP residents $125
Non-residents $145

DROP IN

Comics 101 (an introduction to comics)
Ages 6 – 12
Jump into the world of comics. Learn about your favorite heroes and villains and their origins. Learn how superman became the “Man of Steel” or how Batman became the world’s “Greatest Detective.” Join us in discovering new worlds and fighting crime.
TP Recreation Center front room
Fridays ongoing, 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Free with membership card

YOUTH

CLASSES

Sign Language: For Beginners
Ages 6 – 18
The American Sign Language is not only reserved for hearing challenged individuals, but is an exciting new language to learn. Communicating in signs is a creative experience when put to music and songs. It can be fun when signing to a friend across a crowded room or when sharing special information in a silent world. This visual language encourages and demands attention. At the end of this four week course, students will be able to participate in a basic sign language course.
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room
Tuesdays, Jan. 7 - Jan. 28, 4 - 5:30 p.m.
TP residents $59
Non-residents $69

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Job Training - Resume Writing-Mock Interviews
Ages 13-17
This training will help teens create a resume, participate in mock interviews and receive evaluations from instructors. For more information, contact Ms. Leicia at LeiciaM@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7283.
TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Fridays, Jan. 10 – Feb. 7, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
TP residents $10
Non-residents $15

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

TEEN

Teen Fitness
Ages 12-16
Teen Fitness will show you how to do a workout appropriate for your ability level, concentrating on cardio and strength. These two healthy and energizing routines will help you burn calories and strength while building muscles, to help you build a lean, healthy body. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.
TP Recreation Center Fitness Room
Mondays, Jan. 6 - March 31, 7 – 8 p.m.
No class on Jan. 21
Free with membership card

ADULT

Aerobics: Cardio-Intense Groove and Strength
Ages 16 and older
Heart pumping and easy to follow, Hi-Low Aerobics flows to the beat of a great sound system. Fifty minutes of high-energy moves interspersed with moments that really make you sweat! Following the beat liberates the body and mind to move in the moment. Revel in a free flow of endorphins; your own “feel-good” chemicals. Muscle-building strength work with resistance tools follows, and then a well-earned stretch.
TP Community Center Dance Studio
Mondays, Jan. 6 - Feb. 24, 6:10 - 7:15 p.m.
TP residents $85
Non-residents $95

Jazzercise
Ages 16 and older
Jazzercise is the art of Jazz combined with aerobic movement.
TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Fridays, Jan. 10 – Feb. 7, 7, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
TP residents $10
Non-residents $15

Young Entrepreneurs Program
Ages 12-17
The Young Entrepreneurs Program (Y.E.P.) encourages teens to develop their business skills and inspires them to be entrepreneurs. Through this program students will gain transferable business skills for both self employment and the job market, understand the relevance of education, choose to stay in school or pursue higher education, and develop life management and problem solving skills.
TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Fridays, Jan. 10 – Feb. 7, 7, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
TP residents $10
Non-residents $15

For a full listing of Takoma Park Recreation Department programs, activities and classes, please see the Rec Guide for Winter 2014 or visit us online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.
Pilates (Advanced)  
Age 16 and older  
Strengthens your abdominals as well as your glutes, back and shoulders. We build long lean muscles using a variety of tools and approaches. A challenging workout that is surprisingly enjoyable. Gain a stronger, more flexible core and better posture that will benefit you 24 hours a day. Participants are required to bring a mat and their own 3-pound weights.  
TP Recreation Center Fitness Room  
Tuesday, Jan. 7 – Feb. 11, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
$80/8 weeks  

Tai Chi Chuan  
Age 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. In this introductory class the focus is on tai chi principles and how they help us relax and make our bodies stronger, more flexible and more efficient.  
TP Community Center Dance Studio  
Thursdays, Jan. 16 – March 20  
Tai Chi Classics: 8:15 - 7:10 p.m.  
The Tai Chi Form: 7:15 - 8:15 p.m.  
Continuing: 8:15 - 9:15 p.m.  
TP residents $75  
Non-residents $85  

Yoga Nidra: Meditation and Relaxation  
Age 16 and older  
Feeling stressed, fatigued, or just need to relax? This meditative yoga practice helps reduce stress, increases general physical and mental well-being and brings greater joy and ease into everyday life. Practitioners report decreases in insomnia, anxiety and chronic pain. Students are guided through the meditation while lying on a yoga mat and blankets or seated in a comfortable position. Each student should bring their own yoga mats, a few blankets and a pillow.  
TP Community Center Dance Studio  
Mondays, Jan. 13 – March 24, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.  
TP residents $75  
Non-residents $85  

Fitness Expo 2014: Commit to Stay Fit! All Ages  
Making fitness fun and accessible is what this Fitness Expo is all about. Free and fun for all ages! Find ways to keep your New Year’s resolution this year. Twenty-minute demonstrations (such as: Jazzercise, Zumba, Tenny Fitness, Pilates, Kung Fu Self-Defense, interactive presentations, health screenings/kerninars and much more) Saturday, Jan. 4, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.  
TP Recreation Center  
Free  

`FORWARD YOUNG: 55 PLUS`  
DROP-IN  
Adults 55 Plus Multi-Activity Room: Open For Your Leisure  
Ages 55 and up  
This comfortable room is available for adults age 55 and older to read, play cards and board games, use the computers, and attend classes at various times each month.  
Monday – Friday, noon – 8 p.m.  
Saturday/Sunday, noon – 5 p.m.  
*Daytime hours may be adjusted at various times during the month to accommodate a variety of special events and classes for seniors. Food and drinks are not permitted except for City of Takoma Park Recreation Department sponsored events. Four computers are available to seniors. You need a Takoma Park Library card to access the computers. For more information about the library cards and computers, please contact the library at 301-891-7259. Computers are also available in Computer Labs A and B and the library.  

Needlework Get-together  
Ages 55 and up  
Are you bored sitting and knitting alone? Join us for fun, conversation and support with needlework projects. Bring your projects with you. This is not an instructional class. The group will meet during inclement weather.  
TP Community Center Senior Room  
Mondays ongoing, 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Free  

Dog Obedience Training  
Dogs of any age  
Getting your dog started with a solid foundation of obedience training is one of the most critical and rewarding things you can do for your dog. Improve your relationship with your dog and build your dog’s confidence with proven positive reinforcement techniques that use not only food, but real time rewards such as praise, play time, toys and freedom.  
Hefner Park Community Center  
Tuesdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 11, 7 – 8 p.m.  
TP residents $109/per dog  
Non-residents $129/per dog  

PETS  
Dog Obedience Training  
Dogs of any age  
Getting your dog started with a solid foundation of obedience training is one of the most critical and rewarding things you can do for your dog. Improve your relationship with your dog and build your dog’s confidence with proven positive reinforcement techniques that use not only food, but real time rewards such as praise, play time, toys and freedom.  
Hefner Park Community Center  
Tuesdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 11, 7 – 8 p.m.  
TP residents $109/per dog  
Non-residents $129/per dog  

Celebrate Takoma Steering Committee Members Needed  
The Recreation Department is beginning to plan the Second Annual Celebration Takoma Festival for Sunday, May 18 and we need your help. The festival celebrates the cultural diversity of Takoma Park. We will be looking for food, merchandise vendors and local entertainers. If you’d like to volunteer to be a part of the Steering Committee please email Debbie Huffman at DeborahH@tkakomaparkmd.gov. The committee meets monthly in the evenings. Come join the fun!  

Inclement Weather Info:  
For information, cancellations and updates, call our weather hotline: 301-891-7101 ext. 5065  
If the Federal Government declares it is closed, or announces a delay (such as a 2-hour delay), the City of Takoma Park follows that declaration. If the Federal Government delays opening, then regularly scheduled dog classes, which normally take place after the delayed start time, will be held at their normal time.
CALENDAR

Circle Time
Every Tuesday
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

Spanish Circle Time
Every Thursday
10:30 a.m. with Señora Geiza

Morailities of Everyday Life
Sundays beginning Jan. 26, 12:30 p.m.
Discussion for those taking the free online class offered by Coursera and taught by Yale’s Paul Bloom
Registration encouraged at tinyurl.com/tmpmorality

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time
Saturday, Jan. 4, 10:30 a.m.
Have fun singing and rhyming in French with Madame Marie.
Registration highly encouraged as participants can be updated with upcoming program dates.

Little Free Library Launch
Saturday, Jan. 4, 11 a.m.
Takoma Park Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.

Yoga Storytime
Sunday, Jan. 5, 2 p.m.
Ms. Kati will lead a program of stories and gentle yoga stretches for kids ages 3-5 and their grown-ups.
Spaces limited; registration required.

Caldeccet Club: A Family Book Club
Monday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m.
Join us for a look at some great new picture books. We’ll also be voting for our “winner” Lemonade and cookies served.
No registration.

Bedtime Stories – NEW NIGHT!
Tuesday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m.
Come in pij; great for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

WinterQuest Wrap-Up
Monday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.
Join us for a discussion of the books you read during our first-ever WinterQuest program. We’ll end with a party!
Registration encouraged to ensure we have enough cupcakes!

Comics Jam
Tuesday, Jan. 14, 4 p.m.
Join comics guru Dave Burbank at our monthly comics book club.
No registration required.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7:45 p.m.

Fashion Design Workshop
Sunday, Jan. 26, 2 p.m.
Please join us to create fashion crafts and accessories and rainbow loom bracelets. For ages 8 up.

Graphic Novelist George O’Connor
Wednesday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m.
Join us for a special program with the acclaimed author/illustrator of “Athene,” “Zeus” and other Greek hero graphic novels.

Salvage the Bones
Friends Reading Group meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
See briefs for more info

LibRARY

French book collection expands to include fiction for adults

By Nadia Pazolis-Gabriel

Nadia Pazolis-Gabriel is a native of France, a librarian, and a member-at-large of the Board of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. On a recent trip home, she agreed to select some adult and children’s French books for the library, with funding from the Friends of the Takoma Park Library. Though the library has had an expanding collection of French books for children for some time, as well as a subscription to Jeune Afrique, which is especially popular with West African patrons, this selection of new French fiction for adults is something new. Librarians staff hopes Pazolis-Gabriel will lend her expertise to help make it grow.

From Live from France, fresh from Paris, are 14 fiction books awaiting your reading at the Takoma Park, Md Library.

Chantal Thomas’ new historical novel, “L’Échange des princesses” follows her novel-made-into-a-movie “Farewell my Queen.” The French magazine L’Express said, “Remarquablement documentée, notoire d’anecdotes surprenantes, cette tranche d’histoire se savoure avec délectation. Et un peu d’effort aussi...” (remarkably documented, full of surprising anecdotes, you will relish this slice of history... and it may frighten you a bit, too.).

Based on true events, the book recounts the plans of Louis XV’s regent to arrange political marriages among the children of the French and Spanish royal families in the 1720s. Back to the 21st century, the strangely entitled “Extraordinaire voyage du fakir qui était resté coincé dans une armoire Ilea,” or “The Extraordinary Journey of the Fakir who got Stuck in an Ikea Closet” is repetitive at times but quite goofy and funny, with insights in today’s global world and the clandestine populations. The book, written by Romain Puylolas, was released in France a few months ago and has already been published in 30 other countries.

The Princesses and the Fakir books are both part of the French Rentière Littéraire frenzy. It’s new books season every year between late August and early October. A few weeks before the literary prizes season, hundreds of books are published, prompting weeks of discussion in the media. Deciding which to offer the readers is a librarians dilemma. According to the official figures, 555 new titles appeared this year, down from 646 in 2012.

Typically, the new publications fall in three categories: French fiction, foreign fiction and non-fiction. Sometimes, an extra category is included: La francophonie. Thus the distinction is made between metropolitan French authors and authors from other countries who write in French. Among our new books, you will find Canadian author Jocelyne Saucier’s “Il pleuvait des oiseaux.” The title, “It was Raining Birds,” refers to the great fires that took place in the Abitibi-Témiscamingue region of western Canada in the early 20th century. The book section of Le Monde, Le Monde des Livres, called it a naturalist thriller and a roman lumineux (a novel full of light). Among the many prizes for this book, Saucier received the Prix des cinq continents de la Francophonie, and the Prix France-Québec.

Our selection also includes three collections of short stories by two authors, ideal for the intermediate level speaker of French. Author Bernard Comment’s “Tout passe” received the Goncourt prize for the short stories collection in 2011. The other two books, “La femme au miroir” and “Oudete Toulemonde et autres histoires,” are from best-selling author Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt. His stories are usually simple and optimistic, focusing on one person’s life, emotions, and secrets. He often makes us smile.

Some of our other new French books include: “Pietra viva” by Léonor de Rcondo; “14” by Jean Echenoz; “La grâce des brigands” by Veronique Ovalle; “Fleur de tonnerre” by Jean Teulé; and “La Délicateuse” by David Foenkinos.

“We think we made a bon choix for you, so... à bientôt à la bibliothèque!”

BOOK SALE SUCCESS

Friends Board members and book sellers Rebekah Zanditon, Merrill Jeffles, Nadia Pazolis-Gabriel and Pat Hanrahan helped organize a successful book sale for the library this past fall. The event netted approximately $900.

Photo by Michelle Morgan

LIBRARY BRIEFS

“Salvage The Bones” chosen by Friends Reading Group

Described as “the first great novel about Katrina” (Kate Tuttle, Boston Globe), “Salvage the Bones” by Jesmyn Ward has been chosen by the Friends of the Library Bi-Weekly Book Club for its next discussion on Feb. 11. Written from a teenager’s point of view, the book dramatizes how one black Mississippi family – a widowed father, three sons, and the narrator Esche – endured poverty, sexual abuse and violence, and then braved Hurricane Katrina.

“Salvage the Bones” won the 2011 National Book Award for Fiction, as well as numerous other awards. It has been described as “an intense book, with powerful direct prose that dips into poetic metaphor. We are immersed in Esch’s world, a world in which birth and death nestle close, where there is little safety except that which the siblings create for each other. That close-knit familial relationship is vital and compelling, drawn with complexities and detail” (Carolyn Kellogg, the Los Angeles Times).

Join us in the Takoma Park Community Center at 7:30 p.m. for a spirited discussion of this widely praised novel. Copies are available at the Takoma Park Library.

Greeks in graphic form

Greek mythology has become all the rage among younger readers because of the popularity of the “Percy Jackson” books by Rick Riordan. Among the best new books of Greek mythology are the “Olympians,” a series of award-winning graphic novels by George O’Connor.

On Wednesday, Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m., O’Connor will be at the library to talk about his new graphic novel of Greek mythology, "The Trials of Perseus." His previous books are "The Greek Myths." The Library also plans to display the books and other graphic novels about Greek myths from ancient to modern times.

BRIEFS □ Page 9

January 2014
and will likely draw people from all over the Washington metropolitan region. Many city officials and merchants are happy about that. “We have already seen the positive benefit from Republic. Retailers are reporting more late night foot traffic in their shops from their patrons,” says Laura Barclay, co-executive director of the Old Town Business Association. “Plus Republic kindly offers to text-message customers after they put their name on the list for dinner that their table is ready. While waiting, the diners have been spotted having cocktails at The Olve Lounge or shopping at Art Spring Community Arts Store or Now and Then.”

Over the past five years or so, Takoma Park has developed a solid base of restauranteurs: Takoma Bistro, Roscoe’s and Capital City Cheesecakes have joined Mark’s Kitchen and Middle Eastern Market as mainstays in Old Town. In Takoma, D.C. the newcomers — Horace and Dickey’s, Cedar Crossing, Souper Girl and La Mano — join stalwarts Spicy Delight and Takoma Station. At Takoma Langley Crossroads, there’s a new Chuck E. Cheese, plus a FroZenYto and Little Caesar’s pizza.

There are also some new businesses that have nothing to do with eating out — like the Walgreen’s that opened on University Boulevard in 2011, and the Expo E-Mart on New Hampshire Avenue, here since 2009. Here’s the rundown of the latest newcomers in town:

Emma’s Beauty Salon opened in Summer 2012 at 1333 Holton Lane, and Beauty and Barber Supplies opened last month at 1335 Holton Lane. Comfy Dental, at 7505 New Hampshire Ave., opened Nov. 7 under Dr. Ying Meng (taking over from Christine Hinds-Noël). Sardi’s Pollo a la Brasa at 1159 University Blvd. East is expected to open within the next few weeks. Bele’s Accounting, which handles taxes and accounting, recently moved two doors west to 1356 Holton Lane (into the eStorage building), to take advantage of a larger space. Sisters Juana Soto and Santa Lucia Perdomo just took over Julie’s Hair Salon, at 1171 University Blvd. East, from Juliana Marcial. Other relative newcomers include 7 Brothers Cleaners, #1 China Restaurant, Gold Design, Acute Spine and Injury Center, Star Halal Meat and Grocery, and Yasmin Insurance.

Republic may be high-profile, but it is far from the only new business in town.

LITTLE LIBRARIES

From page 1

books that neighbors will be able to borrow at any time, day or night. There is more information on the Friends website and Facebook site, and at the Co-op. Friends and the Co-op will formally open the LFL’s door on Saturday, Jan. 4 at 11 a.m. At that time, it will be filled with books.

Two LFLs already exist near the Takoma Park Library. One is on Hilltop Road near Sligo Creek, and is the project of Cub Scout Troup 33. The other is in Takoma, D.C., on Aspen Street NW, and was erected by Ken Samson. They have been “open” to visitors for some time.

LFLs originated in Wisconsin when Todd Bol constructed a small replica of a one-room schoolhouse and filled it with books for public use. He was inspired by Andrew Carnegie who launched public libraries, by librarians who in the late 1800s traveled throughout Wisconsin making books available to readers in isolated places, and by grassroots empowerment movements worldwide.

The idea was contagious. When others learned about Bol’s effort to put books into readers’ hands, they started erecting LFLs in their home towns. This was in 2009. By 2011, there were nearly 400 LFLs in the U.S. The movement has grown far beyond Wisconsin or even the United States.

The Little Free Library program born of this groundswell estimates there will be 10,000 to 12,000 LFLs around the world by January 2014. Read more about them and see examples of creative LFLs the world over at www.littlefreelibrary.org.

Calling all you fans of the “Rainbow Magic” series

On Saturday, Jan. 25 at 2 p.m., we’re having a Rainbow Fairies party. You can make a wand, a crown or a fairy house; we’ll also read some fairy tales and enjoy light refreshments. Participants also are invited to come dressed in their favorite clothes. The suggested ages for the program are 5-12, and registration is required, as spaces are limited. To register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

CDBG GRANTS

From page 1

The Catching Up Program will pay for two staff members to oversee a homework club for 20 African immigrant students who live in the Essex House on Maple Avenue. The students will receive 12 hours of tutoring and generalized help each week for ten months.

The micro-enterprise development from the Crossroads Community Food Network is a suite of services offered to residents who want to develop food-related businesses. The project will provide financial counseling, business plan development, marketing advice, mentoring, and assistance in finding space for production of sale items like ready-made salsas, jams, breads and baked goods.

Smart Choices is designed to teach at-risk sixth through eighth graders coping skills that will help them manage their strong emotions, like anger, anxiety and stress. Students attend an in-school program of therapeutic group sessions and take an interactive, outdoor field trip. The project also involves workshops for parents. It is designed to address the high suspension rate at Takoma Park Middle School.

Proposals that were not accepted for funding included recreation scholarships for City of Takoma Park Recreation Department programs; a job readiness and employment program by EduCare Support Services, Inc.; community life programs at 7610 Maple Avenue, run by the Montgomery Housing Partnership; and a free performing arts summer camp through Washington Adventist University.

To find out more about all the projects, see the city’s web site, takomaparkmd.gov.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

From page 8

about the quarter of books currently in the series. “Zeus,” “Hera,” “Hades” and “Athena.” O’Connor will discuss why he chose to focus on Greek mythology. He will show a bit about how he works, and finish by signing books.

The program is co-sponsored by Politics and Prose Bookstore, which will be selling copies of O’Connor’s books at the event. But the program is free, and no purchase is required. Anyone interested in Greek mythology — kids and adults — will enjoy this event; registration is encouraged but not required. To register, please go to: www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents or call us at 301-891-7259.

Draw with Dave

“Scribbler-Cabal,” a la “Draw With Dave,” returns on Friday afternoons after school at the library. At the program, young artists are invited to spend time drawing in the Children’s Room with Dave Burbank, our in-house artist extraordinaire. The program requires registration and will take place most Fridays.

Moralty play

You’re invited to join the sure-to-be lively discussion related to our new MOOC (massive online open course) choice: “Morality of Everyday Life.” Each Sunday at 12:30 p.m., beginning Jan. 26, a group will meet to discuss what they’re learning in this course, which will be taught by Paul Bloom of Yale University. In the course, Bloom will tackle such topics as “How can we explain kindness and cruelty?” “Where does our sense of right and wrong come from?” and “Why do people so often disagree about moral issues?”

The course offered by Coursera is free, and is done at your own pace and in your own space. Our discussion is designed to close the distance of online learning by creating a weekly discussion group for people who all are taking the same course. Register for the course at https://www.coursera.org/course/moralities and then register for our library discussions at www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

Has Weather Canceled City Programs?

For General info: 301-891-7100
Recreation: 301-891-7101 ext. 5065
Library and Computer Learning
301-891-7259
City of Takoma Park government offices follow federal government policy for opening in the morning during inclement weather. Recreation follows Montgomery County Public Schools for program cancellations.

The Police Department is open at all times.
Scam artists posing as IRS callers

The Takoma Park Police and the IRS are warning the public about a phone scam that has targeted individuals in Takoma Park and across the nation, including recent immigrants. Callers claiming to be from the IRS tell intended victims they owe taxes and must pay using a pre-paid debit card or wire transfer. The scammers threaten those who refuse to pay with arrest, deportation or loss of a business or driver’s license.

The callers who commit this fraud often:

• Use common names and fake IRS badge numbers.
• Know the last four digits of the victim’s Social Security number.
• Make caller ID appear as if the IRS is calling.
• Send bogus IRS emails to support their scam.

By Jim Jarboe

As of Nov. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 582 fire-related incidents in 2013. The department addressed or assisted with 2,542 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for total of 3,124. Totals for 2012 were 591 and 2,712, representing a decrease of 179 incidents.

New Year’s resolution for a fire safe year

• Check your home for potential fire hazards.
• Install smoke alarms on all levels of your home. Test them monthly.
• Teach children the dangers of matches and lighters.
• Practice EDITH – Exit Drills In The Home. Draw an escape plan for your family that shows two ways out of every room in the event of fire. Review and practice the plan on a regular basis.
• Never leave cooking unattended.
• Check all appliances for broken plugs or frayed wires. Repair or replace them before using.
• Have your fireplace checked thoroughly, if it has not been used in the last year. Make sure the chimney is clear. Don’t forget your other heating devices.

Thank you for Thanksgiving

A special thanks from Thanksgiving dinner coordinator Jim Jarboe to the following, for making the 19th annual Dinners for Needy Families at Thanksgiving a success: the Takoma Park Lions Club, Cissel Saxon American Legion Auxiliary and the Takoma Park VFD. They provided the funds to purchase the dinners.

Also a special thanks to TPVFD member Dave Hooker for his assistance with the delivering the dinners.
Snow removal on the move

As we prepare for this winter’s snow and ice storms, the Public Works Department is ready, set, go with a winter weather response plan. Here are some of the details.

For snow and ice control, the city is divided into five zones, each with an assigned response vehicle. Each zone has three types of streets, and each type gets a different snow-and-ice treatment.

**Primary Streets:**
These roads carry the most traffic and connect neighborhoods.
Any street with a steep hill is also included.

**Secondary Streets:**
These are neighborhood streets connected to the primary streets. Roadways with slight inclines are also included.

**Tertiary Streets:**
These are short streets with few homes, including courtyards and alleys.
City crews are first dispatched to the primary streets. Once these roads are passable crews proceed to the secondary streets. After these receive treatment, the tertiary streets are addressed.

The goal of the city’s snow and ice response plan is to have two travelable lanes on each primary street within a 12-hour shift, if the snow fall is six inches or less.
If the snow fall is six inches or more, the goal is to have one travelable lane.

Snow removal equipment remains in service around the clock until all the roads are cleared. Often, when severe weather is on the way, the city begins anti-icing procedures on the primary streets. Once snowfall has accumulated to an inch or more, the city begins anti-icing procedures on the secondary streets. After these receive treatment, the tertiary streets are addressed.

Once snowfall has accumulated to an inch on the street, the snow plows are put into use. If the storm produces only sleet and ice, the city crews treat roadways with sand and salt.

The city provides snow plowing, sanding and salting on city roadways except for the following roadways, which come under the responsibilities of State Highway Administration (301-948-2477) or Maryland National Capital Park and Planning (301-950-2600).

**Keep your sidewalks clear of snow**

Did it snow? That means you must clear the sidewalk and driveway in front of your home or business. Snow removal is the responsibility of the resident or property owner/manager in Takoma Park, and it is required for safety reasons, by city law.

Snow must be cleared, but not into the street – piles of snow in the street can cause problems with passing vehicles.

**Roadway/Snow Response Agency**
Carroll Avenue/State Highway
Ethan Allen Avenue/State Highway
Philadelphia Avenue/State Highway
Pennsylvania Avenue/State Highway
Finley Branch Road/State Highway
Sligo Creek Parkway/State Planning

However, as city vehicles often travel these roads to get to city streets, they supplement the other agencies’ snow removal activities.

All residents are encouraged to remove vehicles from the roadway, if possible, when a snow storm has been predicted.

The fewer cars on the street, the easier and safer it is for plows to clear the roadways. On Maple Avenue, the city’s one marked Snow Emergency Route, all parked cars are required to be removed from the street.

Please remember that removal of snow in driveways and sidewalks in front of residential or commercial property is the responsibility of the resident or property owner/manager and is required, for safety reasons, by city law. When clearing snow from your sidewalk or driveway we ask that you pile it in a yard, when possible, and not out in the street. Piles of snow shoveled out into the street can cause problems for passing vehicles.

The city can provide special services to residents who have health issues which require them to be able to use their street to access health care. Residents need to contact the Public Works Department to notify the city of those needs. If you have any questions, please contact the Public Works Department at 301-891-7633 between 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Environmental survey calls for local resident input

The Takoma Park Committee on the Environment is collecting the opinions of Takoma Park residents about their local environment through a new environmental survey. The survey’s 12 short questions are accessible through Survey Monkey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5R5RYQ9, or you can pick up a copy at the Takoma Park Library or the Takoma Park Community Center. Completed surveys can be returned to the receptionist desk in the main lobby of the community center. The survey runs till Jan 21.

The committee is encouraging all residents to participate, as the city envoys are certified as a Sustainable Maryland Municipality.

The Sustainable Maryland Initiative is designed to support Maryland’s 137 municipalities as they look for cost-effective and strategic ways to protect natural assets and revitalize communities. Using best practices in resource areas like water, energy, planning, health, food and economy, a municipality can earn points toward sustainability certification. Your responses to this community survey will help shape the city’s Action Plan, and meet a pre-requisite of certification.

The Committee on the Environment was re-established by the City Council in January 2012. Major first year projects are Sustainable Maryland certification and a sustainable energy plan for residential and commercial properties in Takoma Park.

A warm car can mean a stolen car

The cold weather is upon us. Although many of us would like to start our cars and have them warm by the time we slip into them for the drive to work, school, etc., Takoma Park Police are reminding residents that leaving your vehicle running is not a good safety habit.

Leaving your car running gives criminals the perfect opportunity to steal it. In fact, some potential car thieves carefully watch the neighborhood, waiting for residents to go out, start the car, and go back inside the residence.
Police recommend that residents are especially careful at day-care centers and schools. Parents who are rushing to get their children inside may leave the car running to make it easier when they come back out—but there’s nothing easy about having your car stolen.

If you have acquired the habit of leaving your car running unattended, police advise that you spare yourself and break it. A criminal will select a target because it offers him the best opportunity to carry out his crime undetected and with the fewest number of obstacles in his way. The more time he has to spend stealing a car, the greater the chance of detection.
That’s why he’ll take the easy route — it’s faster. Don’t help him out!
Please, maintain good safety habits as we approach the winter season.

GET THE WORD OUT!

The City of Takoma Park is now on Twitter and Facebook! Keep up to date on events, news and other community info. It’s a great opportunity to get the word out about your own events as well: just send an email to craigt@takomaparkmd.gov. Help us build an on-line community that supports arts and culture right here in Takoma Park!

http://twitter.com/TakomaParkMD
http://facebook.com/TakomaParkMD
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 issue is Jan. 27, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Feb. 7.

To submit calendar items, email tpnews.editor@takomaparkmd.gov.

“TP Community Center” is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park.

All addresses are in Takoma Park or Takoma, D.C. unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC MEETINGS / OF NOTE

City offices closed
Wednesday, Jan. 1
New Year’s Day

City Council
Monday, Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Auditorium
For agendas, see takomaparkmd.gov

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 educate_ss@yahoo.com

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Takoma Park Farmers Market
Every Sunday, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Year-round
Laurel and Carroll avenues in Old Town
Locally grown produce, baked goods, meats, cheeses

Takoma Farmers Market
Laurel and Carroll avenues in Old Town
Locally grown produce, baked goods, meats, cheeses

Food Truck Fridays
5 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.
Troyh, 223 Carroll Street, NW
Various food vendors

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5 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.
Troyh, 223 Carroll Street, NW
Various food vendors

Fitness Expo 2013: Commit to Stay Fit!
Saturday, Jan. 4, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
TP Recreation Center, 7215 New Hampshire Ave.
Demonstrations of Recreation Department programs like Jazzercise, Zumba, teen fitness, Pilates and Karate plus health screenings and seminars
Free

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Jazz Jam
Open mic for jazz musicians
Tuesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.
Takoma Station, 6914 14th Street NW

Wednesday Night Drum Jams
Hosted by Katy Gaughan and friends
Wednesdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m.
The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll Street, NW

Takoma Radio benefit concert
Friday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Seekers Church, 276 Carroll Street NW
Local artists support the formation of hyper-local Takoma Radio (www. takomaradio.org). Features Pam Parker with Brian Koeko; Hula Huskers: Jonna Huusman and Joe Nelson; Joe Uehlein, Anna Grace Uehlein, Avril Smith, Mindy McWilliams; Emma’s Revolution; and radio bits from posse.
$20 in advance/$25 at the door

Third Thursday Poetry
Thursday, Jan. 16, 7:30 pm
Featuring David Ebenbach, Donald Illich, Riggin Waugh, Mary-Sherman Willis
TP Community Center Auditorium
Free
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

MTV: MusicaTurca...The Turkish Sound of Carol Coffee coffeehouse
Saturday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Free
Takoma Radio benefit concert
Friday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Seekers Church, 276 Carroll Street NW
Local artists support the formation of hyper-local Takoma Radio (www. takomaradio.org). Features Pam Parker with Brian Koeko; Hula Huskers: Jonna Huusman and Joe Nelson; Joe Uehlein, Anna Grace Uehlein, Avril Smith, Mindy McWilliams; Emma’s Revolution; and radio bits from posse.
$20 in advance/$25 at the door

Visit these sites for more arts and literature events:
www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts
www.tpcommunitycenter.org

Agenda format change for city council meetings

The City Council agendas will look a little different in 2014. Several changes are in the works to make meetings more efficient. Residents or others who wish to comment on legislation to be voted on at a meeting may comment early in the evening rather than when the agenda item comes up for discussion. Other changes include:

• There will be more emphasis on council discussion of legislative items at work sessions so that the public, and the council, has more notice of pending items.

Written testimony received after the work session and before the Friday agenda packet deadline will be included in the agenda package and posted online.

The focus of the first and third meetings of the month will be on work session items. Legislation will be voted on at regular meetings to be held on the second and fourth Monday of the month and for the most part after being first discussed at a work session.

Major public hearings will begin at 7 p.m. and before the regular public comment session, council comments, or comments by the city manager.