

November
2014

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 53, No. 11 ■ takomaparkmd.gov



WHAT'S NEW?

Takoma Junction Open House

Meet with potential developers
Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m.
Details, page 4

Veteran's Day

City offices closed Nov. 11

Thanksgiving holiday

City offices, library and computer center
closed Nov. 27-30

Trash/recycling collection

Veteran's Day, Tuesday, Nov. 11
Tuesday route pickup Wednesday, Nov. 12

Thanksgiving, Thursday, Nov. 27

Thursday route pickup Wednesday
Friday route pickup Saturday



Sweep the Creek

A record number of volunteers turned out in late September to "Sweep the Creek" of litter during the annual Friends of Sligo Creek cleanup event. For more photos and information on the event, see page 3.

Photo by Jan Morales

Tax on blighted properties suggested

By Rick Henry

Spurred on by a series of fires and complaints from residents about ill-maintained houses and properties in their neighborhoods, many of which have languished for several years, city staff and City Council, led by Ward 3 Councilmember Kate Stewart and Ward 2 Councilmember Tim Male, are moving to address the issue of blighted and vacant houses head-on. City Council is considering a tax on these problem properties.

"The cost of these properties in our community is many-fold," said Stewart. "They erode the value of nearby homes, require an enormous amount of staff time to deal with and pose a health and safety risk."

For example, a large, three-story house on Sycamore Avenue sat for many years with the porch boards rotting and visibly falling through, the roof collapsing and the entire house, with peeling stucco and boarded up windows, in an extreme state of disrepair. Raccoons had invaded, a tub in the third floor bathroom had fallen into the room below, invasive plants crept across property lines, and the property was an eyesore in an otherwise tidy neighborhood.

As it turns out, the property was eventually sold and renovated to become one

of the most high-end homes in the neighborhood, but only after years of work on the part of city staff, a court case, and a judge's order to sell the property. Sale was finalized on the condition that the new owner renovate.

Two other houses—one on Allegheny Avenue, the other on Philadelphia Avenue—also languished for years, virtually abandoned by their owners. The city stepped in to address extensive overgrowth, a collapsed roof and, in the case of the Philadelphia Avenue property, the collapse of the back half of the house. After a court case the city was granted the authority to demolish the houses. Both parcels remain vacant.

To address the issue of other such properties, Stewart and Male have proposed establishing a vacant and blighted property tax. The goal of such a tax is to encourage property owners to repair vacant and blighted properties or redevelop and sell them. Property taxes would be increased on vacant and blighted properties, but would readjust to conventional rates once the property was repaired. City Council is still exploring how exactly the tax might be crafted, and other options are also being investigated.

BLIGHTED PROPERTIES □ Page 7

Growth in Old Town

Urban vibe includes book store in Busboys and Poets

By Bob Guldin

The Old Town section of Takoma D.C. is in the middle of a growth spurt that is transforming the neighborhood. Because the Maryland and D.C. downtown neighborhoods are essentially one, the new developments will bring a more urban vibe to both sides of the District line.

Right now there are four apartment houses either under construction or in the planning stage: Takoma Central, on Carroll Street, N.W. between Maple and Eastern; the controversial 200-unit building proposed on land owned by the Metro Authority; garden apartments between Willow and Maple streets behind the CVS; and Metro Village on Spring Street immediately west of the rail lines.

Together, the new housing will mean a more urban skyline near the Metro, more customers for local businesses, increased auto traffic and perhaps more competition for parking.

Roz Grigsby, community development coordinator for the City of Takoma Park, says that new housing will translate into a more "activated streetscape. It creates a space where people want to be." Previously, she says, the area in front of the Metro, with its vacant space, parking lots and truck rental business, "wasn't the kind of space where people would say, 'Let's go and walk around.'" That may change now.

Apartments, Busboys and books

The development most obvious to people passing by is Takoma Central at 235 and 255 Carroll Street, N.W., currently in the latter stages of construction. It consists of two apartment buildings, with 150 units. Plans call for the first residents to move in in December. The building is now leasing, and has opened a small rental office within Trohy, the housewares store across the street at 232 Carroll.

Takoma Central will have studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments, with rents from \$1,600 to \$3,000 a month. Nine units will

GROWING UP □ Page 9

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

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

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

Inside

Break
dance
Page 5



Basketball
Page 6



Solar
co-op
Page 11



The Recreation Center is hosting its annual Fitness Expo on Saturday, Jan 3, 2015. We are looking for health and wellness vendors to exhibit. For more information contact Jurrel Cottman at 301-891-7286.

– www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD



City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS NOV. 10 - DEC. 7

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

Monday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.* (closed session at 6 p.m.)

Monday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 24, 7 p.m.

TPCC auditorium

*When public hearings or presentations are scheduled, meetings may begin at 7 p.m. Detailed agendas are always available for review online: www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

TREE COMMISSION

Thursday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m.

TPCC Atrium Room

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Council conference room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Atrium

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

TPCC Atrium Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

*All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. Additional meetings may be scheduled after the Takoma Park Newsletter deadline. For the most up-to-date information, check www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc. Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Ave. (TPCC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly council agenda and calendar update by e-mail should contact the city clerk at 301-891-7267 or clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

Notice on ADA Compliance

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services or accommodations is invited to contact the deputy city manager, Suzanne Ludlow, at 301-891-7229 or suzannel@takomaparkmd.gov at least 48 hours in advance.

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 jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov.

ORDINANCE 2014-52

Adopted Sept. 22

Awarding FY 2015 Community Grants

The ordinance awards FY 2015 Community Grants as follows: (Capital Project Grant) Old Takoma Business Association - \$8,000; (Program and Operational Support Grants) Community Health and Empowerment Through Education and Research "CHEER" - \$15,000,

Chesapeake Institute for Local Sustainable Food and Agriculture "Real Food for Kids" - \$5,635, Crossroads Community Food Network - \$18,000, EduCare Support Services - \$18,000 of which \$11,000 is funded from the Emergency Assistance Fund, Takoma Plays - \$2,500; (Cultural and STEM Grants) African Immigrant and Refugee Foundation - \$12,500, Docs in Progress - \$4,000, Moveius Ballet - \$8,930, Old Takoma Business Association - \$15,000, Takoma Ensemble - \$15,000.

ORDINANCE 2014-53

Adopted Oct. 13

Awarding a Contract for Website Improvements

The ordinance awards a contract for website

improvements to Ignition 72 of Baltimore, Md. in the amount of \$34,500.

ORDINANCE 2014-54

Adopted Oct. 27

Approving a Police Mutual Aid Agreement between the City of Takoma Park and Montgomery County

The ordinance adopts the terms of a Police Mutual Aid Agreement with Montgomery County and authorizes the mayor, city manager, and chief of police to execute the agreement. The agreement facilitates interagency cooperation within specific parameters in order to increase the efficiency

CITY COUNCIL ACTION □ Page 3

VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Consider visiting a meeting of one of the city boards, commissions and committees listed below to see if you are interested in serving. Meeting dates/times may be found on the city's calendar at www.takomaparkmd.gov/calendar.

Appointments 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.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc for complete information or to apply. For questions, contact Jessie Carpenter, city clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION (five vacancies): The Commission 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 quarterly. For information, contact Housing and Community Development Director Sara Anne Daines via email at sarad@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7224.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS (two vacancies, at least one from Ward 4): The Board plans and conducts city elections in coordination with the city clerk. www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc/board-of-elections

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION (NEW!): The City Council has established a Commemoration Commission to document, maintain and preserve past, present and future memorials, commemoratives and recognitions in the city; recommend to the City Council procedures and programs to honor and commemorate individuals, organizations and businesses that have made significant contributions to the social, cultural, historical, political, economic or civic life of the city as a whole or to a neighborhood/local area as well as programs for individuals to honor others; implement such programs within its scope and budget; and decide on recognitions after opportunity for public review and comment. The Commission will consist of five to nine members appointed to staggered three-year terms. The Commission will be appointed in January. Residency is required. Deadline for applications: Jan. 16.

COMMISSION ON LANDLORD-TENANT AFFAIRS (three vacancies): The Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) adjudicates and mediates complaints for violations of Chapter 6.16, Landlord-Tenant Relations; rules on petitions for rent increases above the rent stabilization allowance; and decides appeals from the city manager's

decision to deny, suspend or revoke a license under Chapter 6.08, Rental Housing Licenses and Commercial Occupancy Licenses. Residency required except that up to four members may be nonresidents if they own or manage rental housing in Takoma Park. COLTA holds one business meeting per year. Commissioners are assigned to three-member panels for hearings, which are held as needed. www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc/COLTA. Property managers and landlords are particularly invited to apply at this time. For information, contact Moses A. Wilds, Jr. at mosesw@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7215.

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (two vacancies): The Committee advises the City Council on all environmental issues, including, but not limited to, stormwater management, greenhouse gas reduction, air quality, tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning and restoration, energy use, transportation, energy conservation and recycling. Additionally, the committee serves in partnership with the City Council and city staff to work together to achieve sustainability and other environmental certifications that may help the city meet and be recognized for its environmental goals. Residency is required.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE (two vacancies): The Emergency Preparedness Committee provides community input to and assists in the city's planning and preparations for emergency operations and seeks to further the preparedness of the community. The committee generally meets monthly on the fourth Thursday.

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD (one vacancy): The Facade Advisory Board serves as a local advisory body to the City Council and the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission, helping to "ensure that facade designs and their maintenance are harmonious and consistent with the intended quality and character of the commercial areas of Takoma Park." The seven-member

board meets on a bi-monthly basis. Residency is required for at-large members. For information, contact Rosalind Grigsby at rosalindg@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7205.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE (two vacancies – preferably from Wards 2, 4, 5, or 6): The Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee oversees implementation of and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act. The membership is to have collective experience in the areas of science, research, finance, law, peace and ethics. Residency is required. www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc/nuclear-free-takoma-park-committee

RECREATION COMMITTEE (up to five vacancies): The Recreation Committee advises the City Council on matters related to recreation programming and facilities. Residency is required.

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE (up to two vacancies): The Safe Roadways Committee advises the City Council on transportation-related issues including, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and safety, traffic issues, and transit services and encourages Takoma Park residents to use alternatives to driving, including walking, bicycling and transit. Residency is required. www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc/safe-roadways-committee.

TREE COMMISSION (vacancy): The Takoma Park Tree Commission was established to preserve, protect and promote the urban forest of Takoma Park. The Commission's activities include proposing city policies and procedures that benefit the urban forest, providing public education and outreach, and adjudicating appeals of the city arborist's decisions on tree permit applications by conducting evidentiary hearings and applying the criteria of the Tree Ordinance. The Commission is composed of five city residents appointed to three-year terms. The Commission generally meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Record number of volunteers “Sweep the Creek”



One of the largest turnouts in the history of the Friends of Sligo Creek attended the nonprofit organization’s “Sweep the Creek” event, blanketing Sligo Creek Park with eager volunteers of all ages on Sept. 27 and 28.

Buoyed by great weather, no fewer than 436 people joined the annual effort, picking up a total of 262 bags of trash and 33 bags of recycling. A large number of groups participated this year,

including the Chelsea School, the Montgomery County Soccer League, Tallitos Mayas (part of Roots 2 Shoots), Civicus Living and Learning Program (from the University of Maryland), Cub Scout Troops 478 and 249, Boy Scout Troops 439 and 275, and Girl Scout troops 4344, 4677, 5752 and 3816.

As usual, volunteers removed a number of interesting and bizarre items, such as a men’s dress suit (black), a

car bumper with license plate, a Razor scooter, three car batteries, a dead rabbit (which Montgomery Parks took away), an iPhone, a trampoline, an area rug, a tractor attachment and a large quantity of flooring tiles.

The Sweep was coordinated by FOSC member Patton Stephens, and Montgomery Parks provided gloves, trash bags, promotional signage and the prompt removal of hundreds of bags of

trash that no longer litters the park.

FOSC holds Sweep the Creek events twice a year: once in fall, and again in spring. To learn more about the organization, which also offers educational presentations, nature outings, advocacy and all sorts of information about this natural resource in our community, see fosc.org.

Article courtesy of FOSC

Photos by Jan Morales



COUNCIL ACTION

■ From page 2

of both police departments and to reduce crime. The agreement includes an explicit reservation that it will not modify existing tax duplication calculations or be used as a rationale for either party to request modifications.

ORDINANCE 2014-55

Adopted Oct. 13

Authorizing Execution of Takoma Park Mini Grant Program Agreement

The ordinance authorizes the city manager to enter into a program agreement with the Takoma Foundation for administration of the Mini Grant Program.

ORDINANCE 2014-56

Adopted Oct. 13

Authorizing Execution of a Contract for Services for the Exterior Home Repair Program

The ordinance authorizes execution of a contract for services with G&D Construction LLC.

ORDINANCE 2014-57

Adopted Oct. 13

Authorizing Execution of a Contract for Services for the Exterior Home Repair Program

The ordinance authorizes execution of a contract for services with Colossal Contractors, Inc.

ORDINANCE 2014-58

Adopted Oct. 13

Authorizing Execution of a Contract for Services for the Exterior Home Repair Program

The ordinance authorizes execution of a contract for services with D.T.B. Improvements.

ORDINANCE 2014-59

Adopted Oct. 13

Authorizing Award of an Indefinite Quantities

Contract to NZI Construction Corporation

The ordinance awards a contract for indefinite quantities for asphalt, concrete and stormwater structures as part of the city’s street restoration and other infrastructure improvements.

ORDINANCE 2014-60

Adopted Oct. 13

Authorizing Award of an Indefinite Quantities Contract to D & F Construction

The ordinance awards a contract for indefinite quantities for asphalt, concrete and stormwater structures as part of the city’s street restoration and other infrastructure improvements.

ORDINANCE 2014-60

Adopted Oct. 21

Awarding a Contract for Installation of Precast Concrete Walls for the Mulch Storage Area at Public Works

The ordinance awards a contract to Keystone Concrete Products, Inc. in the amount of \$25,001 for installation of precast concrete walls to enclose the mulch storage area.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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Assistant: Sean Gossard
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takomaparkmd.gov 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 or political advertisements.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.





BUILDING COMMUNITY

Preparing for Ebola in Takoma Park

With Ebola making headlines across the nation and the general public trying to find a balance between caution and panic, the City of Takoma Park and the staff of Washington Adventist Hospital have quietly begun training so they can identify potential cases, act quickly and communicate any concerns and potential hazards to the community should they arise.

Most importantly, local health officials note the following:

1. Ebola is not spread through the air or by water or by food;
2. A person infected with Ebola virus is not contagious until symptoms appear (which would happen within 21 days of infection); and
3. The virus is spread only through direct contact (through broken skin or unprotected mucous membranes) with an infected person.

Montgomery County, the State of Maryland and the Centers for Disease Control

(CDC) have all posted information about Ebola and what people can do to protect themselves (see web links at end of this article), and the following area hospitals have been designated to provide special isolation units: Johns Hopkins, University of Maryland, Washington Hospital Center.

Here at home, Takoma Park emergency and health care professionals are experienced in dealing with similar crises and are using the current Ebola situation to conduct drills and practice for emergency action, should it become necessary. At Washington Adventist Hospital staff have been collaborating with other area hospitals, conducting daily drills, practicing effective communication among staff and going over key questions that need to be asked of persons who might be infected, including questions about symptoms, travel history, exposure and fever.

Health officials like to remind concerned residents that Ebola is a virus; WAH is

quite experienced in dealing with viruses, so the training the hospital is conducting is a reinforcement of practice with special attention to Ebola.

In Takoma Park, officers with the police department have also been trained in universal precautions for blood borne and infectious diseases.

The Ebola virus is transmitted through direct contact with the blood or body fluids of an infected person with symptoms or through exposure to objects (such as needles) contaminated by infected body fluids. Transmission can also occur from directly handling bats, rodents or primates in areas where Ebola occurs. Here are some precautions the CDC recommends (for the full list go to www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola):

- Wash hands frequently or use an alcohol-based sanitizer.
- If you have contact with someone who has recently been in the West African Ebola region (particularly Guinea,

Liberia and Sierra Leone) and who is sick (sick meaning a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher plus headache, muscle pain, diarrhea, etc. (see website)), avoid contact!

- If you have had contact with a sick patient from these areas or with a health care worker treating someone, go to a medical professional immediately.
- Do not travel to one of the affected areas in West Africa.

With such precautions, residents can be prepared rather than panicked.

For more useful information on Ebola, go to the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services website, www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS/LeftNav/Ebola.html or the State of Department of Health and Mental Hygiene website, <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/ebola>.

Written by the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee

Rental housing licenses to be renewed

By Code Enforcement Staff

By Nov. 30, information will be sent out to all Takoma Park landlords whose licenses expire Dec. 31, 2014, informing them that they must apply online for the renewal of their rental housing license. All applications must be submitted online as the city no longer accepts paper copies of the license application. The city also now requires an e-mail address to be provided on all applications. All 2015 renewal applications are due by Dec. 31, 2014.

If you own a rental housing property in Takoma Park, you are required to obtain a rental housing license or you could face court actions and fines for operating an illegal rental facility.

There are five requirements that must be satisfied before you can get your rental license renewed. You must 1) complete the online application form, 2) pay the license fee, 3) maintain a valid Landlord Certification, 4) provide the city with a copy of your MDE Lead Certificate, and 5) successfully pass a Property Maintenance Code inspection.

Licenses are issued for the calendar year and only after all five requirements have been met.

If your landlord certification has expired, we offer a class here at the Community Center every other month that introduces and briefly reviews the requirements and laws that apply to rental housing in Takoma Park. The classes are held the third Wednesday of every other month on alternating mornings and evenings. If you plan on attending, please call 301-891-7255 to register for the class.

Beginning this year, the Maryland Department of Environment is requiring that all properties built before 1978 must meet the State's Lead Risk Reduction Requirements. To register or to obtain additional information, you can go online at www.MDE.state.md.us/lead or contact the Maryland Department of the Environment at 800-633-6101 x4199 / 410-537-4199.

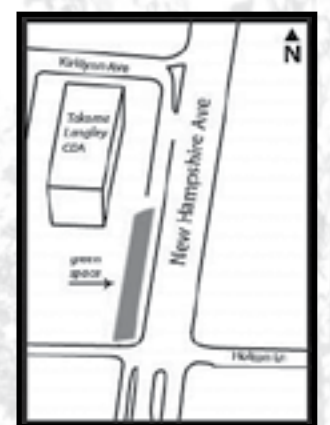
These same requirements apply to new, previously unlicensed rental facilities. The one exception is that new landlords will

be unable to submit their license application online. To obtain the required application form, ask questions, or register for

the Landlord Seminar, please call the Code Enforcement Division at 301-891-7255. We

RENTAL LICENSES □ Page 5

The city wants your input ...



WHAT:

Help City of Takoma Park staff develop goals for improving green space at Takoma/Langley Crossroads.

WHY:

In 2013, the city made pedestrian and stormwater improvements to the southeast corner of the Holton Lane intersection with New Hampshire Avenue. The northwest corner has a long green strip with many native plants but could be improved as a more inviting community asset. Share your ideas!

WHO:

This public meeting is open to all. Help spread the word and invite your neighbors, friends, and local businesses!

Community Open House on the Takoma Junction Proposals

Tuesday, Nov. 18
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Drop in between 6:30 and 9:30 p.m.

Come meet the developers and talk with them about their concept plans for the Takoma Junction lot in an informal setting. There will be no formal presentation or process, just an opportunity to engage directly with the people and the plans for the Junction, as well as a chance to give city staff your feedback and comments.

Thursday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.

Takoma/Langley CDA Boardroom
7676 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 303
Takoma Park, Md.

THE ARTS

Break Dance Workshop with The Lab Saturday, Nov. 15, 3 p.m., Takoma Park Community Center Free

Ever been curious about b-boying? Learn the basics of this funky street dance – also known as break dancing – from The Lab. This Takoma, D.C.-based studio will lead a free workshop at the Takoma Park Community Center.

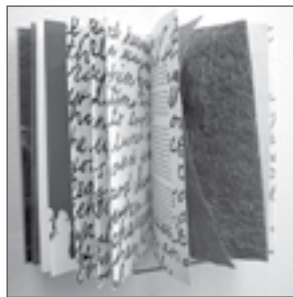
The dancers will introduce a number of moves, including Top Rock, Six Step and Baby Freeze. No experience is necessary, and all ages are welcome.



Pyramid Atlantic, David Montgomery featured in newest exhibit

Further Outside the Margin - Works from Pyramid Atlantic shown through Dec. 12
Work by David Montgomery shown through Jan. 4
Galleries at the TP Community Center

In conjunction with the Pyramid Atlantic 13th Biennial Book Arts Fair and Conference, this exhibit will showcase artist books and contemporary prints that explore outer edges of the medium – from print making to paper making and book arts.



Also exhibiting work is David Montgomery, who will display computer-generated images that incorporate digital photography and illustration and are printed with pigment inks on archival paper. Montgomery examines the concept of “You Are Here,” exploring a physical location in a two-dimensional world, as well as “Where Are We” in a three-dimensional world—figuratively, philosophically, conceptually and imaginatively.

Documentary film festival opens in Takoma Park

Thursday, Nov. 13
Reception, 7 p.m.; showtime, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
Free

Filmmaking workshops, interactive storytelling sessions and two nights of screenings of films about local people and places are among the events featured at

the Community Stories Festival, taking place at a multi-day festival at several venues in the region, including at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Produced by the Silver Spring-based arts nonprofit Docs In Progress, the Community Stories Festival celebrates both the local community and the works of the area's growing cadre of emerging documentary filmmakers. In addition to screenings at the Takoma Park Community Center, programs will take place at the AFI Silver Theatre and the Docs In Progress Documentary House.

The films being screened are produced by adults and youth in Docs In Progress documentary production classes, and they all feature local topics. Following the screenings, there will be a chance to ask questions of many of the filmmakers and film subjects.

“What Docs In Progress does by connecting filmmakers with our local stories is helping to create a model of what can happen when people from all walks of life are intentional about place-making in the same urban square,” says Reemberto

Rodriguez, director of the Silver Spring Regional Center.

For more information visit www.docsinprogress.org.

Hear it on The Grapevine Storytelling shines in Takoma Park

Thursday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
Suggested \$10 donation

Takoma Park is now home to a new monthly storytelling series that is attracting talent from across the country. The art of storytelling has grown in popularity in recent years with successful programs like the Moth in New York and Speak easyDC in Washington, D.C. – and now the Grapevine in Takoma Park!

Held on the first Thursday of each month in the Takoma Park Community Center, the December event will feature both locally and nationally-known tellers – including the husband-wife duo of Mark Novak and Renée Brachfeld, and Granny Sue (Susanna Holstein).

3rd thursday
POETRY.

Third Thursday Poetry Series Presents A monthly reading of locally-grown poetry

November poets are
Martin FitzPatrick, Marybeth Hatem and Rob Soley

Thursday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m. • TP Community Center auditorium
Free • www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

RENTAL LICENSES

■ From page 4

are located on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Ave.) and encourage you to stop by if you need assistance.

Why be licensed? If your property is not

licensed, neither the tenants nor the landlords are protected by Takoma Park's laws governing rental properties. This is especially important in dealing with health and safety issues, repairs, security deposits, and issues with leases and rents. Please ensure that your rental property is licensed so that the rights of all parties involved are ensured.



2015 Winter Basketball League

Kindergarten – eighth grade

The Winter Basketball League is a non-competitive, developmental, community league. Program goals are to introduce boys and girls to the fundamentals of basketball. Volunteer coaches are needed, training is provided. Practice and game times will vary. The league is more than half full, don't wait to sign up!

Local Schools
Saturdays Jan. 17 – March 14
(times may vary)
TP residents \$70
Non-residents \$80

Nov. 12 – Dec. 13
TP residents \$100
Non-residents \$120
Drop in \$12

Jazzercise

Ages 16 and older

Jazzercise is the art of jazz combined with the science of exercise physiology. The class includes easy-to-follow, fun, aerobic dance routines, weights for muscle strength and stretching exercises all to the beat of great music. The music ranges from oldies to jazz to the newest pop tunes.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium
Ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays, 7 – 8 p.m.
Ongoing Saturdays, 8 – 9 a.m.
\$45 per month Easy Fitness Ticket
\$120/8 week pass
\$15 drop-in

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, crunches and weight training.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.,
Nov. 4 – Dec. 30
\$85/8 weeks

Pilates

Ages 16 and older

This fun and invigorating workout 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 perfect mind and body exercise for anyone who wants to tone, streamline and realign their body.

TP Recreation Center front room
Wednesdays, 6 – 7 p.m., through Nov. 26
\$60/6 weeks

Soca Motion Fitness

Ages 16 and older

Are you ready to party yourself into shape? That's exactly what the Soca Motion Fitness program is all about. It's an exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Caribbean-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness-party that's moving people toward joy and health. This Caribbean style of Zumba fuses hypnotic Caribbean rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program that will blow you away.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium
Ongoing Wednesdays, 6 – 6:55 p.m.
Ongoing Saturdays, 9:15 – 10:10 a.m.
\$40/4 weeks per session
Drop-in \$10

TOTS



DROP-IN

COMMUNITY PLAYTIME

Ages 6 months – 6 years

Enjoy open playtime, read stories, work on craft projects, enjoy the playground and socialize. We provide toys, craft supplies, story time and snack. Community Playtime is not open when Montgomery County Schools are closed. Visit www.TakomaPlaytime.org for more information.

Heffner Park Community Center
English Session: Mondays through June 8, 10 a.m. – noon
Spanish Session: Fridays through June 12, 10 a.m. – noon
Free

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Kindermusik: Village (Zoom Buggy)

Newborn – 17 months

Village classes are designed for lap babies, crawlers and walkers, newborn through 17 months. Through a unique blend of multi-level activities that include creative movement, vocal play, object and instrument exploration, and a colorful literature component, babies' growth and development are stimulated and all senses are engaged. Required \$10 home materials fee included in registration fee. Materials include a home CD, instrument, board book and banner.

Heffner Park Community Center
Option A: Saturdays, Nov. 15 – Dec. 13, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Option B: Tuesdays, Nov. 18 – Dec. 16, 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
TP residents \$55
Non-residents \$75

YOUTH

CAMPS

Winter Break Camp

Ages 5 – 12

Come experience "Winter Break Camp" with

the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Campers will have the opportunity to add some excitement to their holiday break while playing holiday games with group activities and crafts. This winter break is set to be a whole lot of holiday fun. No camp on New Year's Day.

TP Community Center Azalea Room
Monday – Wednesday and Friday,
Dec. 29 – Jan. 2 (4 Days), 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

TP residents \$100
Non-residents \$120
Before Care
7 – 9 a.m.
TP residents \$25
Non-residents \$35

After Care
4 – 6 p.m.
TP residents \$25
Non-residents \$35

DRAMA/THEATER

Dungeons and Dragons

Ages 9 – 18

Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role-playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group "survive."

TP Community Center auditorium
Thursdays, Nov. 13 – Dec. 18, 4 – 6 p.m.
TP residents \$55
Non-residents \$65

DROP IN

Kid's Night Out

Ages 6 – 12

Want a night to yourself while your kids have a blast with their friends? Bring your children to the Takoma Park Recreation Center Kid's Night Out. It will involve activities such as games, art and crafts, movies and theme nights. TP Recreation Center
First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership card

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Basketball Skills Clinic

Ages 5 – 12

Basketball skills program is for boys and girls to have fun and learn the fundamentals of basketball. Skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting and teamwork will be the main focus for this clinic. All skill levels are welcome.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium
Saturdays Nov. 8 – Dec. 20, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
\$60/7 weeks

Step Team

Ages 6 – 12

Stepping is a form of dance in which you use your entire body as an instrument to produce rhythms and beats through footsteps, clapping and words or chanting. Members will learn self-expression, coordination, self-discipline and teamwork. No experience is necessary and we welcome all who are willing to learn.

TP Recreation Center front room
Ongoing Tuesdays and Thursdays,
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Free with a Recreation Center membership card

2015 Futsal League

Ages 7 – 11

Futsal, a sport that is similar to soccer, offers the perfect combination of learning and fun. It is designed to improve fundamental technique and skill development during the winter months. Please note that program registration is first come first serve and space is limited to 60 participants. Parents are encouraged to participate during practice and as coaches.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium
Sundays, Jan. 11 – March 1, 1 – 5 p.m.
\$60

TEENS

DROP IN

Teen Night

Ages 12 – 17

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.

TP Recreation Center
Ongoing second and fourth Fridays,
7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership card

ADULTS

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Boom! Body Boot Camp

Ages 16 and older

This high intensity boot camp is a workout for those who are serious about getting in shape. Our boot camp focuses on all areas of the body, improving stamina and overall health through the use of agility drills, plyometrics, Pilates and strength training.

TP Community Center dance studio
Wednesdays 6 – 7 p.m.; Saturdays 9 – 10 a.m.,

RECREATION

■ From page 6

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Full Body Fusion

Ages 55 and older

Active adults age 55 and older will enjoy this low-impact full body workout to music. Elements of balance, movement, strengthening and yoga blend to create a fun, functional and energetic workout. Bring an exercise mat to class. In-person registration is required. For more information contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager at 301-891-7280 or email paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium
Tuesdays, 1 – 2 p.m., Nov. 18 – Dec. 9
Free

Senior Free Fitness Pass

Ages 55 Plus

This is a pass that is offered at the Takoma Park Recreation Center for seniors 55 and over who would like to use the fitness center. You can register today at the Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue or the Community Center on Maple Avenue.

TP Recreation Center
Ongoing Monday – Friday, 2:30 – 9 p.m.
Ongoing Saturdays, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Free

TRIPS

Museum Shop Around at Strathmore Mansion, Bethesda, Md.

Ages 55 and older

This annual tradition offers museum-quality decorative arts, handcrafted jewelry, apparel, glassware, toys, books, CDs, plants, paper goods and much more for holiday gift-giving, at the historic Strathmore Mansion. Bring spending money to purchase lunch at a local eatery. In-person registration required. For more information contact Paula Lisowski, 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

TP Community Center Recreation office
Thursday, Nov. 13, 8:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.
\$9

RECREATION Special programs

Suto Dance

Suto offers professional, well-organized dance programs and annual dance performances. The importance of technique, musicality and styling is stressed to all students. Students are encouraged to participate for the entire 33-week program and also the two annual dance performances.

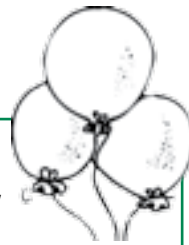
TP Recreation Center
\$176/11 weeks
Ongoing Saturdays
Ages 3 – 4: 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
Ages 5 – 12: 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Ages 12 – 17: 12:45 – 2:15 p.m.
Ages 16 and older: 1:15 – 3:30 p.m.

THERE ARE STILL SPACES LEFT IN AFTER THE BELL FOR THE 2014-2015 SCHOOL YEAR

After the Bell Grades K-5

This afterschool childcare program will provide a safe environment for children in grades K - 5. Participants will engage in daily indoor/outdoor group activities and special events. Each day they will receive a snack, have homework time, enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, free play and more. Transportation will not be provided by the Recreation Center. The "After the Bell" program will not operate on days MCPS is closed.

TP Recreation Center
Through June 12
Monday – Friday, 3:30 p.m. – 6 p.m.
\$1250/yr. or \$125/mo.



Teen Lounge Opening Party

Ages 13-17

Come see what's been going on behind closed doors. We will have a party to celebrate the opening of the renovated Teen Lounge with food, music and fun. Meet up with your old friends and make some new.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Wednesday, Nov. 12,
3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Free

LOOKING FOR TEEN LOUNGE STAFF

The Recreation Department is currently seeking part-time staff to work and program the Teen Room at the Community Center. Hours vary between 3 and 8 p.m., Monday through Friday, with some weekend work required. Must love to have fun and want to be a positive influence on local teens.

For more information, email leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov. Apply online at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Online registration available for 55 plus program in 2015

With the growing demand for automated registration, the Takoma Park Recreation Department is helping customers 55 and older with online registration. Before, all classes, programs and activities that catered specifically to patrons 55 and older required in-person registration. Starting on Monday, Dec. 15, patrons can register for 55+ programming from the comfort of their homes.

If you already have an account set up but don't remember your login information, call or stop by the Recreation Department office and a staff member will give you your login name and reset your password. You will have all the necessary information so that you are prepared to register online at 8:30 a.m. sharp on Dec. 15.

If you are new to online registration: Two registration training days will help



you set up your account, on Dec. 8 or Dec. 10 from 10 – 11 a.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center computer lab. Pre-registration required.

Registration for classes is always required unless otherwise noted. You can register in any of four ways:

1. Online using the "Activenet" registration system: Go to the Recreation Department website, www.tako-

maparkmd.gov/recreation, click on the ActiveNet registration logo on the top left corner. Registration opens online at 8:30 a.m. on Dec. 15 for winter activities.

2. In person at either location during their specific business hours:

Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave.

3. Mail in to the Takoma Park Recreation

Department, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912. Mailed-in forms will be processed on Dec. 15 after all walk-ins have been accommodated. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

4. Fax to 301-270-4094. Faxed-in forms will be processed Dec. 15, after all walk-ins have been accommodated. Incomplete forms will not be accepted.

BLIGHTED PROPERTIES

■ From page 1

"We need more policy tools in the city that are effective in getting those houses and yards maintained and, ideally, occupied by one of the many families that would like to move to the city," said Male.

Why now?

The Council first broached the blighted properties issue during a July work session with City Manager Brian Kenner, shortly after a house on Westmoreland Avenue caught fire, involving 55 firefighters and damaging a nearby home. Since the July meeting another house, located on Kansas Avenue, also caught fire. And while both houses were vacant and no one was injured, the incidents sent an alarm to residents of the Pinecrest community, Stewart (who represents this area of the city) and other government officials.

"Those fires really brought the issue to the forefront, and it's an important—and complicated—issue," said Sara Daines, director of the Takoma Park Housing and

Community Development Department. "It involves maintaining the condition of the community as a whole, property values, lack of affordable housing and safety."

It's also an issue that the city has not explored in full. At the request of the council, Daines and her staff are digging deeper, working to inventory all blighted and vacant houses in the city, examining how other communities have addressed the problem and attempting to define what constitutes an abandoned or blighted property, something the city has never formally done.

The latter task is not as easy as it would seem. For example, "Is a foundation, with no house or structure on it, an abandoned building?" asked Daines. That scenario is not uncommon.

Citations and complications

According to Marjorie Ciccone, the city's code enforcement supervisor, current city code allows code enforcement staff to examine only the exterior of a property and only from a public right-of-way. If they find violations of the existing

code, such as broken doors or windows, lawns that have not been mowed or obvious problems with general upkeep, they can cite the property owner. Usually, the problems are addressed quickly. When they are not, homeowners can be taken to court.

Daines stresses that the goal of these citations is to get the problems rectified as soon as possible and keep the neighborhood tidy, not to get into the courtroom. Both she and Ciccone said the process often works cooperatively, with city staff and others providing guidance on the scope of repair work, and sometimes referrals to social agencies that can help low-income residents pay for repairs.

Unfortunately, other cases are harder to resolve, and the process to repair is long and arduous.

One source of difficulty, Ciccone says, is that properties may be vacant as a result of foreclosure. In many of those cases, the bank controls the property, and it is a challenge for city staff to know who ex-

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

Modern and Contemporary American Poetry Discussion

Sundays through Nov. 16, 12:30 p.m.
Computer Room B
Discussion for those taking the free online class

Shakespeare: On the Page and in Performance

Sundays Oct. 5 through Dec. 21, 2 p.m.
Computer Room B
Discussion for those taking the free online class

LEGO Club

Sunday, Nov. 2, 1:30 – 3 p.m.
Come have fun with LEGO! Best for ages 5-12
Registration required; to register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents

Bedtime Stories

Tuesday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m.
Come in pjs; great for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Friends of the Library "Big Book" Group

Wednesday, Nov. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Discussion of "Don Quixote" by Miquel De Cervantes
Takoma Park Community Center
All welcome

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Saturday, Nov. 8, 10:30 a.m.
Join Madame Marie for another season of songs and rhymes in French in this monthly program for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Rainbow Fairy Party

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2 – 4 p.m.
Fairytales, fairy crafts and fairy snacks. Costumes welcome!
Please register.

Caldecott Club: A Family Book Club

Monday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.
Come read with us as we spotlight some great, newly-published picture books.
Lemonade and cookies served. No registration.

Friends Reading Group

Wednesday, Nov. 12, 7:30
Discussion of "Loitering With Intent" by Muriel Spark
Takoma Park Community Center
All welcome.

International Games Day

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Come play Dungeons and Dragons!
Registration required

Eaglebear and Friends

Monday, Nov. 17, 7 p.m.
Tomas Shash, a.k.a. Eaglebear, presents dances and songs from his tribal heritage.

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 4 p.m.
Join comics guru Dave Burbank at our monthly comics book club.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7:45 p.m.

Friends of the Library "Big Book" Group

Wednesday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Discussion of "Don Quixote" by Miquel De Cervantes
Takoma Park Community Center
All welcome

Quintet of Five Top Kids' Authors

Friday, Nov. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center auditorium
Seating first-come, first-served

Caldecott Medalist Jon Klassen

Sunday, Nov. 23, 1 p.m.
Klassen will present his newest book, "Sam & Dave Dig a Hole"

Bedtime Stories

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m.

Final "Don Quixote" discussion by Friends "Big Book" Group

Wednesday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m.

LEGO Club

Sunday, Dec. 7, 1:30-3 p.m.

Author Adam Brookes

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m. See article.

Friends of the Library Children's and Teen Book Sale

Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m.

LIBRARY



Talks feature six authors

Jon Scieszka kicks off the list

Come and meet six super star kids' authors in November, courtesy of the connection between the Library and Politics and Prose Bookstore.

First up on Friday, Nov. 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium, is a quintet of kids' book stars, led by Jon Scieszka, the first National Ambassador of Young People's Literature. Seating will be on a first-come, first serve basis; Politics and Prose will sell books, but no purchase is required to attend this free event.

Other authors who will join Scieszka at the star-studded Nov. 21 event include:

Tom Angleberger, author/illustrator of the "Origami Yoda" books. Angleberger will talk about the sixth and final book in the series, "Emperor Pickletine Rides the Bus."

Cece Bell, author/illustrator of "El Deafo." In this graphic novel memoir for kids, which has won top reviews from critics and kids alike, Bell chronicles—with humor and poignancy—what it was like to grow up with a profound hearing loss.



Jon Scieszka

Mac Barnett and Jory John, authors of the forthcoming kids' novel, "The Terrible Two." Last year, Barnett collaborated with Scieszka on the laugh-out-loud hybrid book, "Battle Bunny." John is a cartoonist and writer.

Two days later, on Sunday, Nov. 23 at 1 p.m. in the Library's Children's Room, Caldecott Medalist Jon Klassen will present his newest children's book – written by Mac Barnett – "Sam & Dave Dig a Hole." Klassen is author/illustrator of the Caldecott Medal-winning, "This Is Not My Hat," as well as such kid favorites as "I Want My Hat Back" and the Caldecott Honor

book, "Extra Yarn," also written by Barnett. Politics & Prose will be selling books at Klassen's program, but the event is free and no purchase is required to attend. The Klassen program and the Nov. 21 event offer young readers a rare chance to meet some of the top authors creating children's books.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Rainbow Fairy fiesta

Calling all "Rainbow Fairy" fans! On Saturday, Nov. 8, from 2 to 4 p.m., Ms. Kati will host a special "Rainbow Fairy Party." She'll read some fairytales, and then lead some fairy crafts. We'll conclude with some fairy snacks. Costumes are welcome! Registration is required; to register, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents or call us at 301-891-7259.

Time for games

Like hundreds of public libraries around the country, we're celebrating International Games Day on Saturday, Nov. 15, from 2:30 to 4:30. Join library staffer and Dungeons and Dragon master Dave Burbank as he and his helpers lead the crowd in a rousing game of D&D. If you don't know much about D&D, a creative storytelling game, this is your chance to find out more! Spaces are limited, so registration is required; to register, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents or call us at 301-891-7259.

Native American tradition

Eaglebear, a.k.a. Tomas Shash, will make his annual visit to the library on Monday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. At the program, Eaglebear, joined by members of his family and some friends, will present songs, dances and traditions from their Xicano & Apache heritage. It's always a fun event and perfect for all ages. No registration required.

Library space planning continues

Following a public meeting on Oct. 8, and meet-

ings with city managers and Library staff, architects from The Lukmire Partnership are developing several design options to carry the City Library into the 21st Century – including significant renovation and possible expansion. Designs will be presented to the public at another meeting in November or early December. Check at the Library for a meeting date. Or, if you have not already done so, contact Library Director Ellen Robbins at ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov to be put on a list for further updates and meeting announcements.

Adam Brookes to be featured speaker

Espionage thriller author Adam Brookes will speak at the Takoma Park Maryland Library on Wednesday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. He will discuss his book, the move from journalism to fiction writing, the process of writing a first novel, the editing and publication process as experienced by a debut author, and the business of writing a sequel.

Brookes' first novel, "Night Heron" has been praised as "a top-notch thriller" with a "suspenseful, persuasive story" (Washington Post), and this Takoma Park author is already at work on its sequel. The novel draws on Brookes' years as a BBC News correspondent, reporting from China, Indonesia and the United States.

Both Booklist magazine and Publishers Weekly gave "Night Heron" starred reviews. Booklist called it "A fascinating portrait of the dangerous complexities of spying in a restricted country, the competing agendas driving international intelligence, and China's startlingly varied social realities." Publisher's Weekly praised it as "outstand-

Book sales abound

Sunny skies, warm temperatures and an abundance of energetic volunteers all contributed to the success of the Friends of the Library semi-annual book sale on Saturday, Oct. 25. The fall sale netted just over \$2,500; all book sale proceeds go the Takoma Park Library in the form of funding for programs and materials.

Most recently, the Friends supported the College Bound Speakers Series, an introductory lecture on "Don Quixote" by an eminent scholar, appearances by Thomas Eaglebear, Halloween storyteller Candace Wolf, circle time performer "Mr. Gabe," year-round Spanish and French Circle time for young children, and the purchase of French language books for adults.

The Library and Friends wish to extend thanks to the volunteers and other helpers, without whom these sales would never be possible: Suzanne Morgan, Sherelyn and Jerry Ernst, Walter Mulbry, Tim Rahn, Nancy and Dan Kunkel, Megan Scribner, Dee and Mel Raff, Pat Hanrahan, Maurice Belanger, Michele Morgan, Dave Burbank, Sam McCollin, Nancy Keith, Pat McMahon, Abby Alcott, Emily Van Loon, Jim Williams, Michael Norris, Wally Malakoff, Noreen Wells, Kimley Mannix of the City Public Works Department, and coordinator Merrill Leffler.

Join the Friends for their special sale of holiday books for children. This year's winter sale will be held in the Community Center, just outside the Computer Center on Saturday, Dec. 13, to coincide with the city-sponsored craft fair. The sale will begin at 10 a.m.



Photo by Maurice Belanger

LIBRARY BRIEFS

■ From page 8

ing...[with] good chase scenes and tense dialogue, coupled with a convincing picture of what actually happens in the corridors of power..." And Allen Cheuse, reviewing for NPR, wrote "...It's got all the freshness of firsthand sense of place — Brookes helps us to feel and smell and taste, and even think through what seems to outsiders as the nearly pure confusion of modern China, from labor camps to the sophisticated realm of defense industry scientists... And it's got a convincing narrative drive that comes from a veteran newsman's long career in creating stories that make sense and matter."

BLIGHTED PROPERTIES

■ From page 7

actly is responsible for it. Other cases involve ownership issues among quarreling family members, or confusing inheritance when a homeowner has died without a will.

More troublesome, and irksome to nearby residents, are those property owners who are responsible for and able to maintain the property, but simply choose not to address the violations.

In either case, code enforcement, and therefore repairs, get tied up in a legal process that can take years. "It [resolution] can be a lengthy process, especially if a person is difficult to contact or is unable or unwilling to make the repairs," said Daines. The house on Philadelphia Avenue, described above, took five or six years to resolve, she said.

Such cases infuriate neighbors and frustrate city officials.

"The goal is to provide the city staff with another tool they can use to address these problems," said Stewart. "They work

really hard, but there is a limit to what they can do and it is frustrating to them, to residents and to me as a council member."

"On two blocks of just one street in Ward 2, there are five houses that have been vacant for a long time—three of them are the source of neighborhood complaints and repeated visits by city staff that takes time away from other important programs," said Male. "If we had new policy that provides incentives for these houses to be turned into homes, and also tools like special property tax rate categories for a limited set of some of the most difficult properties, we would be providing a valuable service to residents."

A helping hand

While the blighted property tax may work well in certain situations, Stewart and others realize it will not address every situation. They are especially aware that many of the blighted-property owners are facing challenging financial circumstances. It was a major topic of discussion at the July 21 work session.

Building owners are still seeking other commercial tenants for the street level.

While Takoma Central will have 150 apartments, it will have just 90 parking spaces. Grigsby points out that apartment houses, especially those right near public transit, have "much lower car ownership than single-family houses." This is true, for example, of The Gables, an apartment complex on Blair Boulevard, a short distance from the Takoma Metro, Grigsby says.

Behind the CVS

Nearby, Douglas Development plans to build "garden-style apartments" on what is now a grass- and asphalt-covered lot behind the CVS on Carroll Street. According to Paul Millstein, vice president of development with the company, the project will consist of two buildings of 50 units each, as well as 75 surface parking spaces. Douglas has owned this property for many years, and will build "by right," as it is not asking for exceptions to the current zoning. The land is in the Takoma D.C. historic district.

Two single-family homes currently on the property will be moved near the CVS and will be refurbished, Millstein said.



Celebrating Eid al-Adha

On Saturday, Oct. 11, Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington in partnership with Montgomery County Muslim Foundation distributed free meat to economically vulnerable Takoma Park residents. The meat was donated by the Foundation as part of their celebration of Eid al-Adha. The occasion, also called the Feast of the Sacrifice, is the second of two religious holidays celebrated by Muslims each year. It honors the willingness of Abraham (Ibrahim) to sacrifice his promised son, Ishmael (Ismail), as an act of submission to God's command, before God then intervened to provide a lamb for sacrifice instead. The story is documented in both the Muslim Quran and the Christian Bible. From left, Tadele Woled, Abdulla Ghyas, Amjad Humayun, Dr. Anwar Masood, Terry and Joyce Seamens, Jacqueline Frazier and Doris Duarte, with Norman Ridgeway in the background.

Ciccone, who has worked in the city's code enforcement office for 11 years, says many blighted houses which are occupied are in violation because their owners are no longer able to maintain them due to physical, mental or financial limitations. Stewart says the blighted property tax she has in mind would not apply to these properties and instead would be limited only to vacant ones.

Karen Maricheau is the program manager for Lifelong Takoma, a new city initiative that advocates for residents aged 55 and older, and disabled residents of all ages. Its mission is to connect residents with resources, including those that address home maintenance, that will help them remain in the community. The blighted house issue is one of Lifelong Takoma's main areas of focus. Maricheau has been working with Daines and other city staffers to connect residents who need assistance with home repair with advocacy organizations and even neighbors who are able and willing to help.

"This issue is very reflective of people as they age. People are living a lot longer with

less resources. They have limited incomes and physical and mental abilities to deal with home repair issues," Maricheau said. "The question is 'How can we best support the people in these circumstances?'"

Drawing upon the experience of other communities, Stewart and other proponents of the new tax propose funneling the increased revenue it would generate to those who need assistance maintaining their properties. "I believe we have to be smart about this," Stewart said. "We are not looking to tax people who have difficulty maintaining their homes. We are looking to get resources and assistance to them."

Stewart said that the council is focused on the issue, but may not formally address it until 2015 because of other pressing items on the docket. In the interim, Ciccone and Maricheau see a more human-centered approach to at least part of the problem—help for Takoma Park residents unable to address the upkeep of their homes.

"I hope more people will go out and help their neighbors," Ciccone said.

GROWING UP

■ From page 1

be low- and moderate-income housing. For a closer look, see takomacentral.com.

Jon Kardon, an executive with Level2 Development, the major owner of the building, told the Newsletter it will have an attractive resident "e-lounge" and fitness center, and will be LEED-certified for meeting environmental standards.

At street level, Takoma Central has space for three retail businesses. One much-anticipated arrival will be Busboys and Poets, a café with a reputation for social consciousness, which is expected to open by the end of the year. Designed as a 250-seat restaurant (with approximately 50 additional seats outside), a coffeehouse and a performance space, the eatery will also include a satellite bookstore element through a partnership with Politics and Prose. And there will be computers and a self-service area for ordering drinks to create a coworking environment. The bookstore and coworking concept have replaced the original idea to have a farmer's market on the site, which will be the fifth Busboys and Poets café in the Washington area.

Metro and more

Meanwhile, the plan to build an apartment house and parking structure at the Takoma Metro on land owned by the Washington Area Metropolitan Transit Authority is moving slowly through a complicated planning process. Faith Wheeler, a member of the D.C. advisory neighborhood commission (ANC) that has a strong role in planning for the site, told the Newsletter that the current proposal is "completely unacceptable."

"The ANC has basically stated that it's too big, and it needs to conform to the character of the community," Wheeler said. An important sticking point is that the proposal from WMATA and the housing developer EYA leaves only one acre of green space on the 6.8-acre site. "One acre is way too small," Wheeler said.

In October 2013, the Takoma Park City Council passed a resolution stating many concerns about the planned development, including neighborhood compatibility, traffic and transit use impact, parking availability, building height and mass, and adequate buffers from the surrounding neighborhood. The Council requested that WMATA "consider the comments of

the City at all stages" before taking action on the project.

The proposal "looks like a couple of huge cinderblocks. It's just horrible," Wheeler said. "It's way above the D.C. zoning limits." According to current zoning, that building should be no more than 40 feet high, Wheeler said, but some parts of the proposed apartment house will be 77 feet high.

Wheeler recalls that in 2006 a community proposal called for green space to be built over underground parking. "That design looks like Takoma — it fits in. My question is, why not build it?"

For more information, check these web sites: neighbors opposed to over-development are at www.takomametro.com; the EYA developer's view is at www.takoma-connected.com.

In addition to these projects, the Metro-Village apartment complex is now under construction on Spring Place, between Blair Road and the railroad tracks, directly behind The Gables. It will include 150 rental units, and is expected to open in 2015. While it is separated from Maryland by rail lines, residents will certainly be part of Takoma's transportation and shopping community.

LETTER to the Editor

Thank You

I recently parked in the Takoma Metro parking lot, leaving on the backseat a book called "Ndebele," photos of the houses Ndebele women lovingly paint in geometric patterns.

I didn't realize I'd left a back side window open nor that rain had been forecast. On our return, walking toward the car, we saw a plastic bag stuck over the window. Had someone smashed it? Broken into the car? Tried to steal it? No. A stranger had carefully attached the bag with bobby pins, and left a note that read, "Love you even though I don't know you. Hope your beautiful book stays dry. Have a blessed day! Kim."

How can I thank you, Kim, for your goodness? You inspire me and everyone I've told.

Priscilla Labovitz
Takoma Park



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Sept. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 501 fire-related incidents in 2014. The department addressed or assisted with 2,138 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 2,639. To-

tals for 2013 were 469 and 2,090, representing an increase of 80 incidents.

During the month of September 2014, the Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 1,437 hours of standby time in the station, compared to 1,078 in September 2013. Grand totals as of September 2014 are 12,538.5 hours, compared to 10,628 hours in 2013, an increase of 1,900.5 hours.

Maryland fire deaths update

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as October 27, 2014, 44 people have died in fires this year, as compared to 51 in 2013. That's an 11 percent drop from last year.

TPVFD will be selling Christmas trees

The tree lot will be opening tentatively Sunday, Nov. 30, with hours Monday through Friday from noon to 9 p.m.,

and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Santa will be making his rounds through the neighborhoods with members of the fire department and ladies auxiliary. Dates and times to be announced on www.tpvfd.org or our facebook pages (Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department or the Ladies Auxiliary to the TPVFD), or call 240-773-8954 in December to request the information.

Watch that stove!

Unattended cooking is still the number one cause of home fires. Smoking materials are the number one cause for fatal fires in the home. Working smoke alarms and a family escape plan is your best defense.

Babysitting class celebrates 50 years

Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jim Jarboe knows a thing or two about babysitting: This year, the veteran firefighter marked 50 years of teaching and coordinating the community's babysitting class as a service of the fire department. The class, which focuses on child safety and includes first aid and CPR training, has prepared generations of young people to help care for their neighbors' children in the time-honored tradition of babysitting. In the 50 years he's coordinated the class, Jarboe has helped more than 2,500 girls and boys complete the requirements for the certificate he awards them at the end.

Jarboe, who has been with the fire department for 58 years, began teaching the class in 1964, three years after the class was created. His current assistant, Tina Willey, took the class 45 years ago herself.

"I like doing public education," says Jarboe, noting that he is comfortable in front of people, presenting information to groups. "When it comes to talking I can always keep talking," he laughs.

Jarboe also staffs the TPVFD's information booth at street



On Oct. 6, the following girls and boys completed the TPVFD Babysitter's Training Program: from left, front, Benjamin Zamarron, Elijah Kodjak, Nikita Kodjak and Emily Harris; second row, Sydney Hastings-Wilkins, Seren Sarkozy-Banoczy, Trevor Brooks; standing, Abby Ehrenstein, Merete Oakes, Emily Washburn and Chief Jim Jarboe. Not pictured: student Caleb Williams, and class assistants TPVFD members Tina, Ashlee and Rusty Willey and Sgt. Tina Smith, and the Takoma Park Police Department.

in the babysitting class.

The class continues to be offered two to four times each year, with about a dozen participants in each session. Jarboe teaches the first session about fire safety, then coordinates with other instructors for other sections, including infant and child care, first aid, CPR and general safety – a session taught by Takoma Park police officers.

festivals and fairs, leading participants through a question-and-answer game about fire safety, and handing out plastic fire hats to children. A native of Takoma Park, he knows many of the folks in the community as well as those who run the city, from the mayor and city manager to the custodians in the Community Center and the people who drive the trash trucks – who, he says, frequently toot their horns and call out to him when they pass. At age 76, he says he's "an old fixture" around town. "I grew up there and I just know the people," he says. "I'm a people person. I like to say hi to and get along with everybody."

Chances are, many of the people he greets are people he taught

Three new police officers to join the force

Three new officers began training for their new jobs with the Takoma Park's Police Department on Oct. 6. Training, which takes place at the Montgomery County Police Academy, should be completed on April 16, 2015. The new officers will bring the department up to full staffing, at 41 officers, when they begin work here in the city. Nearly all students at the academy complete their training, which involves classroom work on laws and procedures, lessons in how to handle evidence, hands-on training with pistols, driving practice and defensive tactics.

The new officers include: Christopher Barth, who grew up in Kentucky and is a member of the Army National Guard. Barth previously worked for the Ocean City Maryland Police Department as a public safety aide. Takoma Park Police recruited him in Ocean City, when they traveled there to conduct interviews and field testing. Barth was a seasonal worker there. Kyle Hanlin, who grew up in Pennsylvania and holds a BS degree in political science from California University of Pennsylvania, was also previously employed in Ocean City, as a seasonal police officer.

Sada Merriman, who grew up in Montgomery County, Md., holds an AA degree in criminal justice. She was previously employed at the Veterans Affairs Administration as a security officer. Shortly after their graduation from the Academy on April 16, 2015, all three officers will be sworn in by the city mayor. Then they will begin their field training in the Takoma Park Police Department.

Passport Services Available

Did you know Takoma Park residents can apply for a U.S. Passport at the Community Center?

Monday through Thursday,
9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center,
7500 Maple Ave.

Call 301-891-7204 first, to verify
availability

Remember, you'll need:

- Form DS-11, available to fill out at the Community Center or at www.travel.state.gov.
- Original evidence of U.S. Citizenship.
- One, 2" x 2" color passport photo.
- Payment by check or money order for the U.S. Department of State. Cash, credit card or money order for payment of the execution fee to the city.
- Valid photo identification. Acceptable formats:
 - Naturalization Certificate
 - Driver's License
 - Current Government ID (City, State, or Federal)
 - Current Military ID (Military and Dependents)
- Photocopy submission of the identification document(s) presented. Details:
 - Photocopy must be on plain white 8 1/2" x 11" standard paper stock showing the front and back of your ID.
 - Photocopy must contain images on only one-side of each paper submitted

For more specific information, including fee amounts, expedited processing and details about passport books vs. passport cards, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports

For U.S. passport policies, go to passport policies, go to <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english.html>.

Sorting trash: Street Festival adopts composting system

This year, for the first time, the Takoma Park Street Festival included an option for composting. The City of Takoma Park provided three-part receptacles to separate trash, recycling and composting in an effort to promote environmental sustainability.

The festival is an integral part of the local economy, supporting local businesses and vendors. To keep it from being an environmental burden, the city introduced composting, so that the economic benefit could extend and include the benefits of composting: reducing waste sent to landfills, returning nutrients to the land, controlling runoff and naturally fertilizing soil.

As student volunteers, we stood at the trash stations to inform attendees about how to sort their garbage. We were also responsible for speaking to attendees about their opinions on composting at the festival and composting in general.

Many people did not realize that napkins, food-soiled paper plates, wax, wooden sticks and coffee cups with the biocompostable symbol were compostable. Some were surprised to hear that they could even compost bones, meat and dairy products. Since Takoma Park does not recycle Number 6 plastic, the only items we encourage people to trash at our



stations were Number 6 plastic utensils and contaminated aluminum foil used to wrap food.

When asked what would help with the composting process, festival attendees suggested the placement of signs near the bins with pictures describing what went where. Some people just walked past and disposed of their containers in the landfill receptacle, without pausing to examine the options. Most people noticed the options but hesitated, unsure of whether they were using the system correctly. Even though some attendees claimed that the presence of volunteers was unnecessary, we observed that one stand without a volunteer had more waste in the trash

receptacle, including items that could have been recycled or composted.

Overall, festival participants supported the initiative and were willing to listen to directions about how to dispose of their trash. Many attendees already knew what composting was since they were composting at home, or were participating in the curbside compost pickup system available to some Takoma Park residents; however, those who were not knowledgeable were more than willing to participate, and some were even eager to learn more about composting and how it could be made available to them outside of the festival.

Contamination in compost makes the composting process less efficient; thus, by helping to ensure the purity of the compost, we were able to make the process as cost effective and eco-friendly as possible. Overall, many agreed that the best way to help the environment is to promote education about proper waste disposal, especially from a young age, and to spread awareness of the option to compost in general.

This article was contributed by University of Maryland students Kimia Abtahi, Irene Chern, Radina Mutskova and Mitchell Rock

Alternative Gift Fair is a tradition in generosity

Takoma Park's twist on holiday gift-giving is returning, allowing shoppers to reach beyond the usual gift-wrapped presents and give gifts that make a difference. At the 16th Annual Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair on Saturday, Dec. 6 at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (310 Tulip Ave.), participants can "shop" among 16 charitable organizations, then donate in the name of friends and family.

Among the "gift" choices will be one week of fresh, local veggies for a low-income family; two visits to a mom or baby from a nurse-midwife in Malawi; and a violence prevention outreach session at a local school.

Gift prices start at \$5; gifts are tax-deductible and include a certificate to drop into a holiday card. Checks, cash and credit cards are accepted; 100 percent of the money goes to the charities at the fair.

The fair also features a supervised children's corner, cookie-decorating for area residents who are home-bound, a bake sale, live music and free seated shoulder/back massage.

For more information contact Mimi Iklé-Khalsa, aggw_inc@yahoo.com.

New co-op reduces cost of going solar

Solar panels are becoming a common sight in the area, and now there is a new group that can help residents explore whether solar makes sense for their homes—and give them a significant discount if they decide to buy in.

The Takoma Park Silver Spring Solar Co-op is being organized by the City of Takoma Park, Community Power Network (CPN), and CPN's project MD SUN.

Any homeowner or small business located in Takoma Park, Silver Spring or a surrounding neighborhood in Maryland is welcome to join. Based on the same principal as buying in bulk, co-op members will go through the process of

purchasing solar systems together. The group will select a single contractor to install systems on all of the homes and businesses, but each participant will sign his or her own contract with the chosen installer.

By going solar as a group, members will save 30 percent off the cost of a solar system. They'll also have the support of the co-op and experts at CPN instead of having to go it alone.

To learn more and sign up go to <http://mdsun.org/solar-bulk-purchases/takoma-park-solar-coop>. The next Solar Co-op meeting will be at the Community Center on Dec. 10, at 7 p.m.



Clean it up!

Takoma Park's Anti-Litter Initiative is in full effect at the Takoma/Langley Crossroads. The self-named "Flaming Marshmallows," a group of students from Takoma Academy, cleaned up The New Ave on Oct. 21 for their Fall Service Day, with help from city staffer Lucy Neher, far right. More than 50 bags of trash were collected at three sites around the city.

Residents will have a chance to participate in a clean-up on Saturday, Nov. 15 from 10 to 11:30 a.m., starting at 6900 New Hampshire Ave. and stretching north on New Hamp-

shire Avenue to University Boulevard. Gloves, vests and bags will be provided, with refreshments afterwards at Starbucks. This cleanup is led by the Takoma Langley Development Authority. To volunteer, contact Melanie Isis, misis@takomalangley.org.

Meanwhile, the city has targeted the site near 7676 New Hampshire Ave. between the bus shelter and Holton Lane for landscape improvements and wants to hear from neighbors and businesses at a community workshop on Nov. 20 at 7676 New Hampshire Ave. (see notice on page 4).



NOVEMBER '14

Do you have an item for the city calendar?

Let us know if you have a nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the December issue is Nov. 20, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Dec. 5. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@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 Council

Monday, Nov. 3, 7:30 p.m.*
Monday, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 24, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Auditorium

*When public hearings or presentations are scheduled, meetings may begin at 7 p.m. Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Veterans Day

Tuesday, Nov. 11
Trash and recycling collection will be moved to Wednesday, Nov. 12.

City Offices Closed for Thanksgiving

City offices will be closed Thursday, Nov. 27, and Friday, Nov. 28, for the Thanksgiving holiday. They will reopen Monday, Dec. 1.

Thanksgiving trash collection

Thursday trash and recycling routes will be collected on Wednesday. Friday trash and recycling routes will be collected on Saturday.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

First Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families
240-450-2092 or educare_ss@yahoo.com
www.educare-supportservices.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Kid's Night Out

First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Fun and games for kids
See page 6 for details

Teen Night

Second and fourth Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Games and activities just for teens
See page 6 for details

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Year-round
Laurel and Carroll avenues in Old Town
Locally grown produce, baked goods, meats, cheeses

Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. through Nov. 19
Behind Expo Emart at 1021 University Blvd.
Locally grown fresh fruits, vegetables and herbs plus pupusas and other prepared food

The Essex House Saturday Farmers Market

Saturdays, noon – 3 p.m. through Nov. 22
7777 Maple Ave.
Locally and sustainably grown fruits and veggies

Food Truck Fridays

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

Boy Scout Troop 33 Pancake Supper 2014

Saturday, Nov. 8, 4 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, 310 Tulip Ave.
\$5 in advance
\$7 at the door
pancakes@takomaparkscouts.org

Takoma/Langley Crossroads Cleanup

Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Starting at 6900 New Hampshire Ave.
Details, page 11

Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School Open House

Saturday, Nov. 15, noon – 2 p.m.
1010 Larch Ave.
Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School is accepting

applications for 2015-2016 for grades 9-11.
301-891-4750
www.dbcr.org

Community Open House on the Takoma Junction Proposals

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Come meet the developers and talk with them about their proposals for Takoma Junction
Details, page 4

Public Meeting on Takoma/Langley Green Space

Thursday, Nov. 20, 7 p.m.
7676 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 303
Help Takoma Park develop goals for this green space project
Details, page 4

Alternative Gift Fair

Saturday, Dec. 6, noon – 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, 310 Tulip Ave.
Give to local nonprofits in the name of a friend: a gift to make the world a better place
Children's activities, food, raffle and more
www.aggw.org

Amnesty International Write-a-Thon

Dec. 13, 3:30 – 5 p.m.
Capital City Cheesecake, 7071 Carroll Ave.
Celebrate Human Rights Day with this letter writing campaign.
www.amnesty-volunteer.org/usa/group297

ARTS AND LITERATURE

People's Open Mic

Sundays, 9 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Drum for Joy! with Jaqui MacMillan

Mondays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St.
Learn hand drumming

Blues Mondays

Mondays 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Jazz Jam

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

Wednesday Night Drum Jams

Hosted by Katy Gaughan and friends

Wednesdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m.
The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St., NW

Flower Avenue House Concert

Saturday Nov. 8, 8 p.m.
7502 Flower Ave., Takoma Park
Joseph Scheer, violin, and Carl Banner, piano, perform Beethoven's Sonata #8 in G major, Op. 30#3, and Brahms' Sonata #2 in A, Op. 100.
\$15 (advance only, non-refundable) plus contribution of snack food and/or drink
www.dcmusicaviva.org

Bill and Owen Danoff: Father and Son Together

Monday, Nov. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Singer-songwriter Bill Danoff and his son combine for a powerful night of acoustic music.
\$15 advance; students with ID: \$12 advance (Plus \$2 per ticket box office fee)
Carroll Cafe at Seekers Church
<http://imtfolk.org>

Community Stories Film Festival

Thursday, Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Films by emerging documentary filmmakers produced in partnership with Docs In Progress.
Free
TP Community Center auditorium
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

Karen Ashbrook and Paul Oorts CD Release

Friday, Nov. 14, doors 7 p.m.; show 7:30 p.m.
New and old traditional music from Belgium, Ireland and beyond
\$15
Carroll Cafe at Seekers Church
<http://carrollcafe.org>

The Lab Breakdancing Workshop

Saturday, Nov. 15, 3 p.m.
Learn the basics of break dancing and b-boying from this Takoma DC based studio. Ages 6 and up.
Free
TP Community Center dance studio
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

Sixth Annual Takoma Park Book Fair

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2 – 5 p.m.
Trove, 232 Carroll Street NW
Browse books, meet authors, read local

Third Thursday Poetry

Thursday, Nov. 20, 7:30 p.m.
Featuring Martin Fitzpatrick, Marybeth Hatem and Rob Soley
TP Community Center auditorium
Free
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

We Are All Indigenous - Healing Art and Earth

Saturday, Nov. 22, noon – 5 p.m.
The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St. NW
Dried herbs, healing plants, herbal products, earthen jewelry, herbal soap, intuitive readings, shamanic art, henna tattoos, seated massage, live music, poetry readings and more.
www.sacredrootsdc.org

Chocolate Tasting of Double Premium Confections

Sunday, Nov. 23, 3 – 5 p.m.
Now and Then, 6927 Laurel Ave.
With Bailey and Saif Kasten Kahn of Double Premium Confections

Fall Leaf Collection

Loose leaf collection will be provided by the city from Nov. 17 through Dec. 19. Residents can rake leaves to the curb at their convenience during the five-week period. Most streets do not have an assigned collection day. The goal of the program is to collect leaf piles within two weeks of their appearance at the curb. Leaf collection is dependent on the weather and rain or freezing conditions can slow collection.

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

Collection for Carroll Avenue (from 7000 to 7800), Ethan Allen Avenue and Philadelphia Avenue will take place Sat-

urday, Nov. 22 and Monday, December 15. Collection for Piney Branch Road and Flower Avenue (from 7900 to 8600) will take place Monday, Nov. 24 and Saturday, Dec. 13.

There will be no collection on the Thanksgiving holiday which is observed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28. Also, on the dates of collection for the posted streets, no other streets will receive collection (Nov. 22 and 24 and Dec. 13 and 15).

During the first three weeks of collection, the crews will concentrate on picking up large piles of leaves. During the last two weeks the crews will thoroughly collect all remaining loose leaves from the gutter and grassy strip along the curb.

The Public Works Department wel-

comes your comments and suggestions about the service we are providing. You can also call the leaf collection hotline at 301-891-7626 to notify us when your leaves have been raked out. Our goal is to collect leaf piles reported on the hotline within 10 days of the call.

Please follow these guidelines:

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

collection.

4. **Do not** pile leaves near storm drain inlets. Leaves can block the drains and cause flooding problems.

The city also provides weekly Monday collection for bagged grass, leaves, branches and brush all year long. The Monday collection requires leaves and loose yard materials to be in paper bags, trash cans or stiff-sided containers. Plastic bags cannot be used for yard material because these items are composted and the plastic interferes with the composting process. Branches must be less than 4 feet long and less than 3 inches in diameter and tied into small bundles or stacked in a trash can. The Monday yard waste collection is cancelled when a holiday is observed on Monday.