

December
2014

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

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WHAT'S NEW?

Christmas and Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24, city offices will be closed at 12:30 p.m.

City offices will be closed on Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25.

New Years Day

City offices will be closed New Years Day, Thursday, Jan 1.

Trash/recycling collection

Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25

Collection will move to Friday

New Year's Day, Thursday, Jan. 1

Collection will move to Friday



Photo by Selena Malott

Customers become friends at Mark's Kitchen; here, a few regulars toast Mark Choe, who recently won an award for his contribution to the community.

Mark Choe inducted into county Hall of Fame

If you live in Takoma Park, chances are pretty good you know Mark Choe. He's at the center of the community, smiling at customers old and new, and dishing out Korean and American food at Mark's Kitchen, a landmark in Old Town.

Now Choe has been recognized outside the immediate community. In October, he was admitted to the Montgomery County Business Hall of Fame. He was one of five honorees recognized for "their consistent and relentless efforts to reach challenging goals for

their businesses and their impact to the Montgomery County business environment as a whole," according to a Hall of Fame release. Choe and the others were honored at a fundraising banquet benefiting scholarship programs at the Universities at Shady Grove, the University System of Maryland's regional educational center.

Choe's life is the quintessential immigrant success story. He arrived from South Korea in 1985, looking for "a

CHOE □ Page 9

Revenue, alcohol, speed limits among legislative priorities

Council discusses local interests, adjusts to post-election legislature

By Suzanne Ludlow, Deputy City Manager

Every year, the City Council identifies its legislative priorities for the next session of the Maryland General Assembly, which runs from January to April. This year, it will focus on protecting revenue. Other possible priorities involve alcoholic beverage licensing and speed limits.

Discussions are continuing as the priorities are further defined.

The revenue issue has surfaced as most important this year. The city regularly receives money from the state to help pay

for park improvements, community and economic development activities, road improvements, and police services. State legislation also allows the city to have a speed camera program as well as a storm-water management program paid for by fees rather than taxes – programs the city wants to keep.

Another possible priority, to be discussed by Council and the public in January, involves alcoholic beverage licenses and sales in Takoma Park. Republic restaurant wants to be able to get license for brewing beer and selling carryout beer and wine. The Takoma Park-Silver Spring

LEGISLATIVE SESSION □ Page 11

City distributes thousands to fund local projects

By Virginia Myers

On Oct. 14, City Council voted to distribute approximately \$91,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for two projects in Takoma Park, and in September it voted to distribute \$122,565 in community grant funding for 11 community-oriented projects in the city.

Youth employment and façade improvement

The CDBG funds will support the Youth Employment Program. Run by the Recreation Department in partnership with the Human Resources Division of the city government, this program gives young people ages 16 to 21 meaningful job training and employment at local businesses. Funded at \$13,500, it will enroll an estimated five income-qualified Takoma Park youth. A pilot program last summer involved four individuals.

CDBG funding also went to the Façade Easement Program, which provides matching funds to local businesses in eligible commercial areas for storefront renovation. Last year the façade program resulted in the renovation of 13 storefronts at five commercial properties. This year \$77,500 will be allocated for the continuation of the program, providing resources to renovate approximately five storefronts.

All CDBG programs must provide direct benefit to low- and moderate-income (LMI) residents, serve an area that is predominantly inhabited by LMI residents, or address conditions of slum and blight. After an announcement in August that grant applications were due Sept. 8, followed by a Sept. 15 public hearing on the general parameters of the CDBG program and the needs of Takoma Park's LMI residents, no applications were received for either capital or public services projects. The projects awarded the funds were forwarded by city staff as areas that would be eligible for CDBG funding.

The program is administered by the city with funding from HUD.

LOCAL PROJECTS □ Page 11

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

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

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

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musicians
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Saving
energy
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report
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The snow is falling, #TakomaPark! One of the best ways to stay in the loop with road closure and other emergency info is to sign up for the new Takoma Park Alert system. Sign up here: <http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/alert>

– www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD



City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS DEC. 5 – JAN. 5

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

The City Council is on recess until Monday, Jan. 5

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Atrium Room

COMMISSION ON LANDLORD-TENANT AFFAIRS HEARING

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMISSION ON LANDLORD-TENANT AFFAIRS ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

RESIDENTIAL STREETSCAPE TASKFORCE MEETING

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Atrium Room

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Dec. 18, 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

ORDINANCE 2014-62

Adopted Nov. 10 (First Reading Oct. 27; Second Reading Nov. 10)

Amending Takoma Park Code, Ch. 8.12, to Add Restrictions on the Commercial Use of Polystyrene Food-Service Ware
The ordinance prohibits the use of polystyrene-composed packaging or food-service ware when any food-service facility is providing foods for on-site or take-away consumption; prohibits city purchase or use of polystyrene-composed packaging or food-service ware at city-sponsored events; and prohibits its use on city premises or facilities pursuant to the city's community use of public facilities program. The ordinance encourages use of durable, reusable, non-polystyrene food-service ware, or recyclable or compostable materials when using disposable packaging or food-service ware. The legislation becomes effective July 1, 2015.

ORDINANCE 2014-63 (FIRST READING OCT. 27; SECOND READING NOV. 10)

Adopted Nov. 10

Establishing a Commemoration Commission
The ordinance amends the City Code, Chapter 2.16 to add Article 4 Commemoration Commission.

ORDINANCE 2014-65

Adopted Nov. 10

Awarding a Contract for Engineering Services to Rummel Klepper & Kahl, LLP
The ordinance awards a contract to RKK for comprehensive engineering services for a variety of infrastructure projects, including but not limited to construction of sidewalks, traffic calming and ADA improvements which require comprehensive design, engineering and construction management services to develop and complete.

ORDINANCE 2014-66

Adopted Nov. 10

Awarding a Contract for Engineering Services to Charles P. Johnson & Associates, Inc.
The ordinance awards a contract to Charles P. Johnson & Associates, Inc. for comprehensive engineering services for a variety of infrastructure projects as noted above.

ORDINANCE 2014-67

Adopted Nov. 10

Awarding a Contract for Architectural Design Services for the Community Center
The ordinance awards a contract to Bignell Watkins Hasser Architects for architectural design services to enhance the functionality of the Community Center and improve office and community space.

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, 2015.

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 public transit. Residency is required. www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc/safe-roadways-committee.

Jazz takes the stage in Takoma Park

By Kevin Adler

It's 7:30 on Wednesday night at El Golfo Restaurant on Flower Avenue, and the audience has settled in for music, margaritas and chips con queso. Four men stand on the small stage in the rear of the restaurant. They range in age from about 40 to 60. Each is wearing a dark suit and tie.

Karen Sheffield, regal in an African head wrap, steps in front and takes the microphone. "It's time for real...live...jazz," she says.

Jazz? This is Takoma Park. We're all about folk music, right? Wrong, say two area residents who are integral to the city's jazz scene.

"Washington is a great city for jazz. You can hear almost every type of jazz," says drummer Art Cobb, co-founder of the Greater U Street Jazz Collective that's been playing at El Golfo every Wednesday night for the last five years.

"Jazz is all over Takoma Park. Not just at El Golfo and Takoma Station, but sometimes Roscoe's and Republic," says clarinet and saxophone player Bruce Krohmer, the producer of the Takoma Park JazzFest for nearly a decade.

The U Street Collective plays "straight-up jazz, hard bop," says Cobb. He and bassist Thomas View set quick and steady rhythms, giving room for keyboard player Peter Frassrand's spare solos and the lengthier explorations by saxophone player Russell Carter.

"The rhythm section creates the bed for the saxophone," Cobb says. "You're not playing for yourself. You are a unit, and you go along for the sake of the music."

"I'm here to provide the punctuation of the music," Cobb continues. "It's about what you're not playing as well as what you are playing."

Cobb began playing drums in fifth grade. "I wanted to play trumpet, but my parents couldn't afford one. Besides there was this girl I had a crush on, and she was going to play drums," he laughs. The adolescent romance never flowered, but Cobb stayed steady with the drums. "In college, I was always around people who played music. Someone would ask me to



The Greater U Street Jazz Collective plays at El Golfo every Wednesday night.



Bruce Krohmer

play drums, and it just became a part of me, it's what I do."

To some degree self-taught, Cobb picked up lessons along the way. But one key opportunity was in the early 1980s



Art Cobb

when he received a grant to study with hard bop drummer Freddie Waits. "I was living in D.C., and I'd go up to New York for lessons. It was great," he says.

The U Street Collective's songs – wheth-

er originals from their CD, "Ballin' the Jack," or those made famous by Art Blakey, John Coltrane, Nina Simone, Duke Ellington and others – have a familiar feel. But in the best tradition of real, live jazz, the Collective makes them uniquely its own.

Cobb's style is understated. But when it's time for a solo, his virtuosity breaks out. Closing his eyes, he flashes a wry grin and ramps up the pace and volume. His arms blur from one drum to another, his sticks bash the cymbals again and again, and he lifts slightly out of his seat as he hits the foot pedal harder and faster.

"Music is a more of a feel thing for me," the Pittsburgh native says. "I don't have to count the beats; I just feel it."

The Collective has a sophisticated sound and style. Classy is what comes to mind. "We want it to feel like you're in New York – the straight-up sound, the look," says Cobb.

But the band doesn't have a New York attitude. During a break between sets, band members weave among the tables to say hello to visitors. Shows end at 9:30 p.m. so that everyone can be fresh for the rest of their workweek.

In the daytime, Cobb is an entrepreneur who provides video production services for market research firms and other clients. He edits video from his home office just off Flower Avenue, where he and his wife moved about six years ago, and where the Collective practices every Monday night.

As a member of the Long Branch Business Association, Cobb feels music at El Golfo is just part of a larger equation. "I want this to become a new arts district...a destination," he says. To move those ideas forward, he helped inaugurate pop-up concerts last summer in the Flower Avenue Urban Park, and is lobbying Long Branch-area restaurants to jointly present a monthly jazz and salsa night.

Meanwhile, on the other side of town, Bruce Krohmer already has made JazzFest a fixture in Old Town Takoma each June.

"The JazzFest is a blast," says Krohmer, who helped Dave Lorenz launch the event

JAZZ □ Page 5

COUNCIL ACTION

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RESOLUTION 2014-37

Adopted Sept. 22

Recommending Approval of the Site Plan for 6450 New Hampshire Avenue

The resolution recommends that the Planning Board approve with conditions the site plan application for 6450 New Hampshire Ave.

RESOLUTION 2014-38

Adopted Sept. 22

Providing for Reappointments to the Ethics

Commission

The resolution effects the reappointments of Arthur Gary, Patricia Anne Murphy and Michael W. Richards to the Takoma Park Ethics Commission.

RESOLUTION 2014-39

Adopted Sept. 22

Affirming the Council's Support for the Montgomery Chapter of MML in Joining the Coalition for Utility Reform

The resolution formalizes the City Council's support for joining the Coalition with the understanding that there will be no cost to the city. The Coalition for Utility Reform is focused on offering a broad based consensus on the conditions that should be considered and adopted by the Maryland Public Service Commission if the Commission concludes that the merger of Pepco Holdings, Inc. and Exelon is in the public interest.

RESOLUTION 2014-40

Adopted Sept. 22

Providing for an Appointment to the Board of Elections

The resolution effects the appointment of Beatriz York to the Takoma Park Board of Elections.

RESOLUTION 2014-41

Adopted Oct. 13

Endorsing FY 2016 Community Development Block Grant Projects

The resolution authorizes the city manager to forward the following CDBG eligible projects to the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs for further review and funding: Facade Easement Program - \$77,500; Youth Employment Program - \$13,500.

RESOLUTION 2014-42

Adopted Oct. 13

Providing for Appointments to the Tree Commission

The resolution effects the appointment of Gresham Lowe and the reappointment of Colleen Cordes to the Takoma Park Tree Commission.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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Assistant: Sean Gossard
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Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@

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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.





BUILDING COMMUNITY

HOUSING MAILBOX



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

Rent increase regulation

I just received a rent increase notice from my landlord and my rent is about to go up 3 percent. Is that the right amount? I live in a five-unit rental property and he gave me a 30-day notice, but I want to be sure this is all legitimate before I refigure my monthly budget!

While rising expenses are never any fun, the rent increases allowed within Takoma Park's Rent Stabilization Law are designed to balance tenants' pocketbook issues with reasonable increases that help landlords keep their properties safe and well-maintained. That said, whether or not your rent increase is legal depends on several factors, most of which have to do with timing.

The amount and frequency of rent increases for properties is covered by the afore-mentioned Rent Stabilization Law (City Code

HOUSING MAILBOX □ Page 11

Setting up for a celebration: 125 years as a city

In the year 1890, the residents of Takoma Park successfully lobbied the Maryland State Assembly for recognition as an incorporated town. The newly-established suburb was barely six years old, with approximately 70 families divided between the District of the Columbia and Maryland. The Assembly granted the request, but at a steep cost—it excluded the District residents from inclusion in the new town, formalizing a split that the community itself did not recognize.

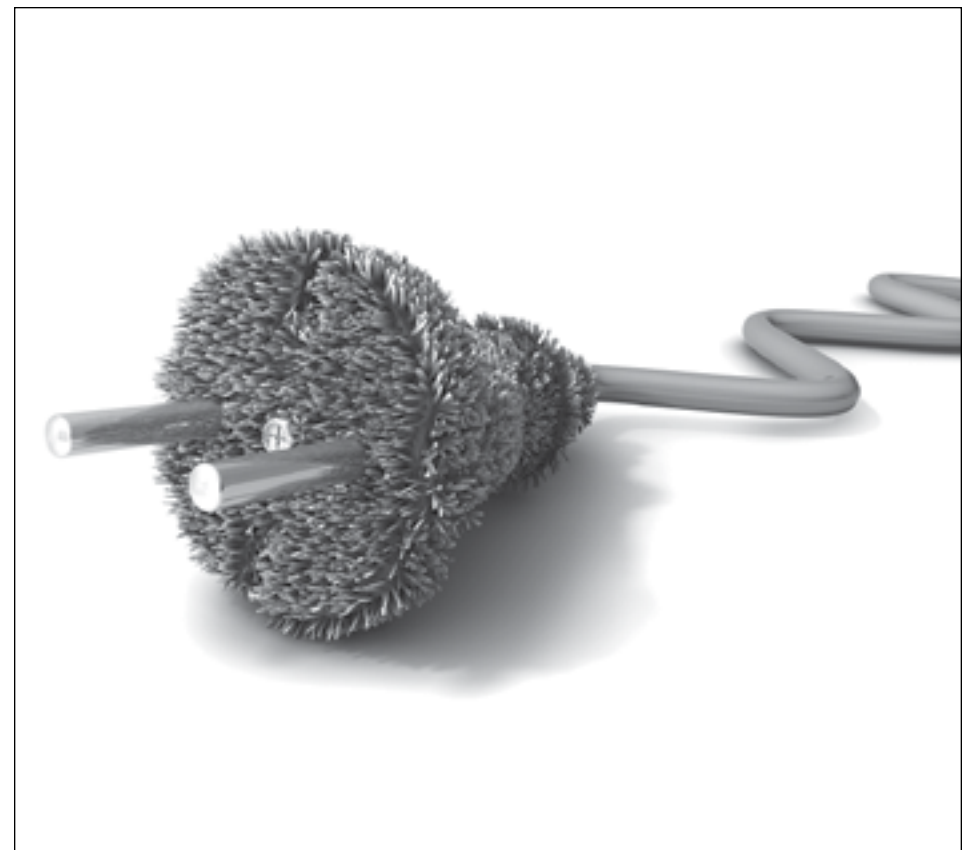
The city will mark the 125th anniversary of incorporation throughout the spring of 2015 with a series of parties, performances and other events that reflect the varied interests of the community. Civic organizations and neighborhoods wishing to add their own events, or volunteers willing to help, can get involved or just get more information at takomapark125th@takomaparkmd.gov.

Energy coaching for residents moves city toward sustainability goals

This month, Takoma Park will find out if it's made the energy cut—by articulating its plans for cutting energy use. Currently a quarterfinalist for the \$5 million Georgetown University Energy Prize, if the city moves on to the semi-finals (announced mid-December), it will have two years to further reduce residential and municipal energy use. The city with the largest reductions, using the most innovative and replicable methods, will win the top prize. It would be huge victory for Takoma Park, and the \$5 million could further boost sustainability for the municipality and more directly, its residents.

All competition aside, Takoma Park has renewed its dedication to reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, and helping residents lower their utility bills. A new energy coaching service for residents will launch in January, and an energy-efficiency neighborhood competition is also being planned for the new year. Details on the neighborhood competition will be announced in early 2015, but Public Works is looking now for residents to serve as neighborhood energy champions (team captains). The program also calls for vol-

Many residents have had Pepco contractors knocking on their doors, and Pepco does offer some excellent rebates and services to help residents save energy. The contractors offering Pepco services use door-to-door soliciting and telemarketing to book appointments. Telemarketers and solicitors should be able to give you the name and phone number of the local contractor for whom they are selling. If they cannot, pass on their offer. Solicitors also must have permits. If they do not you can report them to the non-emergency police line at 301-270-1100.



unteers of all ages.

The coaching service, designed to help residents save energy, save money, and help meet the city's goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, offers information and guidance that will help residents better understand the following:

- Ways to lower utility bills
- Causes and solutions for cold rooms, drafts and comfort issues
- Rebates for insulation, air sealing and more (and save up to \$3,800!)
- Tips on how to select an energy auditor, insulation contractor or HVAC technician
- Help with understanding energy audit reports
- Recommendations for energy improve-

ments and proposals

- Help with the paperwork required to apply for energy incentives
- Help understanding the different Pepco programs
- Information about how to double check that a contractor is an approved provider
- Ideas for do-it-yourself fixes

Energy efficiency doesn't have to involve renovations and time-intensive projects; it can be as easy as switching old light bulbs, or putting a smart power strip on the cable box. Bigger commitments include replacing old appliances with new energy star models; or performing a

SUSTAINABILITY □ Page 9

Amnesty International Write-a-Thon in Takoma Park

"Write a letter. You can save a life."

Since 1982, Amnesty International's Takoma Park/Silver Spring Group has delivered this message. As AI's 50th anniversary approaches, the local organization will host a write-a-thon for human rights on Dec. 13. Participants will gather from 3:30 to 5 p.m. at Capital City Cheesecake, at 7071 Carroll Ave. in Takoma Park.

For whom will they be writing? A Brazilian father looking for justice in the

deaths of his seven children; a Chinese prisoner of conscience given a six year sentence for asking for a reduction in corruption; two generations of Indians fighting for justice for the victims of the Bhopal industrial accident; a Nigerian man tortured, forced to confess to robbery, and sentenced to death; a Saudi beaten and sentenced to ten years in jail for "insulting Islam"; and others suffering from human rights abuses.

The Write-a-Thon comes on the heels of Human Rights Day, the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which is Dec. 10.

For more information about the group, please see www.amnesty-volunteer.org/usa/group297, or friend it on Facebook, www.facebook.com/pages/Amnesty-International-USA-Group-297-Takoma-ParkSilver-Spring-Maryland/140896479291496.



THE ARTS

Orfeia performs festive music from the Balkans

Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Suggested \$10 donation

The all-woman vocal ensemble Orfeia will perform a festive concert of Balkan songs this month. Orfeia's repertoire spans the rich and varied musical traditions of Eastern Europe, Bulgaria, Russia, Georgia and the Balkans, from traditional to sacred and from the Middle Ages to modern day. The Balkan harmonies, unusual vocal ornaments, overlapping lines and antiphonal songs with drones are truly unique sound and one not to be missed.

Founded in 2006 by the legendary Bulgarian singer Tatiana Sarbinska, Orfeia made its debut at a concert in Sofia, Bulgaria. Orfeia has performed with the Pirin Ensemble, one of Bulgaria's foremost national folk companies, at the National Festival of Bulgarian Folklore in Koprivshitsa, at national competitions for compositions based on traditional Bulgarian music in Chepelare and Sofia, and in concerts in Sofia and Plovdiv and other cities throughout Bulgaria. Orfeia has been featured on *The Slavi Show*, Bulgaria's most popular late-night television program, and on Bulgarian National Radio.

Expanded Cinema

Thursday, Dec. 11

7:30 p.m.

Suggested donation \$10

At this live experimental cinema and sound event, filmmakers and sound artists collaborate to create a new audiovisual experience. The evening features unedited

Super 8 films shot by Chris H. Lynn and accompanied by a live improvised score from Daniel Barbiero, Gary Rouzer and Chris H. Lynn. The score will include double bass, clarinet, cello, objects and various sound sources. The rhythm of the projector and the internal tempo of the shots will also contribute to the audiovisual experience.

JAZZ

■ From page 3

in 1996 and is now the main producer. "I love presenting music. I like balancing the acts we select, within the theme we select each year."

JazzFest themes in recent years have included a New Orleans-style parade down Carroll Avenue, swing, bebop and the "roots" of jazz.

Selecting JazzFest performers takes Krohmer back to his roots in Louisville, Ky., when an insatiable love began. "My brother joined the Columbia Record club, and he picked some jazz albums. Then I started listening to jazz radio. I just started diggin' it, playing in bands even in high school," he says. "I'd go to the local library after school and listen to everything they had."

Krohmer became a classical clarinetist, earned a music degree from the University of Louisville and played for a year with the Louisville Symphony. As a teen, he began playing jazz, too.

"Jazz has always been my favorite," he says. "There's a basic structure – the chords, the melody – but there's so much freedom. You can embellish, you can change rhythms. It's a genre where you can do anything, as long as people like your sound."

After college, Krohmer added Western swing, bluegrass and other old-time music to his repertoire, joining one band that drew Grammy Award consideration. Also, Krohmer and a friend launched a radio music show called "Louisville Homefront." That led to concert production and, eventually, the Takoma Park JazzFest when he moved here.

Through it all, Krohmer built a record collection that now exceeds more than 6,000 items and takes up a lot of shelves in the home he shares with his wife, Takoma Park Realtor Robbi Kimball. Listening to those records has influenced him as

a performer, Krohmer says. "To get your voice in jazz or in rock, you need to listen a lot to everybody else," he says. "You take a little of this and a little of that, but you mix it so that you find a sound that's your own."

Yet, creating his sound came as much from discipline as from borrowing. "I practice a lot, especially scales. All good jazz musicians do this," he says. "To play jazz, you've got to be strong on a technical level. I know...because I took classical lessons for years."

Krohmer shares that enthusiasm today with music students who come to him on nights and weekends. He works with youth in his full-time job as well; he's an educator at the Bridge School, a special program for adolescents with emotional and/or learning disabilities at Winston Churchill High School in Potomac.

The payoff from listening and practicing is evident when Krohmer is on stage. In a given month, he might play gypsy jazz with the Hot Club of DC, Beatles tunes with Takoma Park-based Downwire, and accompany the choir of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

Or he might sit in with the Greater U Street Jazz Collective at El Golfo for a few songs -- which is just what he did on a cold night in November.

Krohmer's clarinet and Carter's sax started off synchronized on the melody of "A Night in Tunisia." Krohmer got the nod for the first solo, and he quickened his pace to short, crisp notes that weaved around the beat. Then he gave way to Carter, who took a mellower path, before ending with a rapid-fire succession of shrieks and squawks. Frassrand followed with a series of perfectly timed chords, then back to Carter, and Cobb brought it home with a resounding crash that drew shouts of appreciation.

"That's jazz, man," said Krohmer after the set was finished. "You can express yourself."



Shop creatively and support your local artist -

Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale

Saturday, Dec. 13

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center

Searching for a truly one-of-a-kind expression of love and friendship? Takoma Park's annual Holiday Art Sale is back! Now in its eighth year, and with more than 30 jury-selected artists, there is lots to choose from, including painting, photography, ceramics, jewelry, wearable art and more.

About half of the artists are returning favorites from last year, including photographer Julius Kassovic and potter Orion McCarthy.

New artists this year include abstract painter (and playwright) Tom Block, glass/kaleidoscope artist Charles Karadimos and ceramicist Chaya Richman.

"The holiday art sale has so many unusual and original things... While I'm looking for beautiful things to give as gifts, I always have to buy something just for myself," says Sheila Blake, a Takoma Park resident.

There will also be a new "fashion truck" in front of the Community Center, selling handmade items and wearable art.



Kindermusik classes begin early January. Please see the attached City Guide for more information about Kindermusik offerings.

TOTS

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Spanish for Babies

Ages 1½ – 2

This class is composed of a mix of high-energy games, projects, music and movement, treasure hunts and other fun activities. Children will learn the Spanish vocabulary needed to express themselves and their needs through complete language immersion. There will be a \$10 materials fee due to the instructor on the first day of the class. Parent or caregiver participation required.
TP Community Center Lilac Room
Mondays, Jan. 5 – Feb. 23, 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
TP residents \$85
Non-residents \$105

Spanish for Tots

Ages 3 – 5

The same mix of high-energy games, projects, music and movement, treasure hunts and other fun activities as the class described above, but for slightly older children. There will be a \$10 materials fee due to the instructor on the first day of the class.
TP Community Center Lilac Room
Mondays, Jan. 5 – Feb. 23, 10 – 11 a.m.
TP residents \$85
Non-residents \$105

YOUTH

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Kung Fu

Ages 4 – 16

This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise which could help the students defend themselves by

strengthening hand and eye coordination. The students will gain physical, 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

Taekwondo is composed of three parts as shown in the English spelling, though it is one word in Korean. “Tae” means “foot,” “leg,” or “to step on”; “Kwon” means “fist,” or “fight”; and “Do” means the “way” or “discipline.” 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
Mondays, Jan. 5 – March 30, 6 – 7 p.m.
TP residents \$125
Non-residents \$145

TEENS

DROP IN

Teen Lounge

Ages 13 – 17

This newly renovated special room is for teens only. Ages 13 – 17 are welcome to become members to gain access to two 50-inch and one 70-inch LED smart TV. We also have X-Box One and Wii games, workstations, board games and comfy sitting areas for socializing with friends. Come join us after school for fun and laughs and special events.
TP Community Center
Teen Lounge

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 3 – 7 p.m.
Tuesday: 3 – 8 p.m.
Ongoing
Saturday and Sunday: closed

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

Cardio-Intense Groove and Strength Training

Ages 16 and older

Fly into big, fast, easy moves to a consistent beat. Workout includes strength training with resistance tools and Pilates-based core work. Participants should bring their own mats.
TP Community Center dance studio
Fridays, Jan. 9 – Feb. 27, 7 – 8:15 p.m.
TP residents \$65
Non-residents \$75

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. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.
TP Recreation Center
Ongoing Wednesdays, 6 – 6:55 p.m.
Ongoing Saturdays, 9:15 – 10:10 a.m.
\$40/4 weeks per session
Drop-in \$10

Tai Chi Chuan

Ages 18 and older

Tai Chi Chuan is often referred to as moving meditation and offers many health and relaxation benefits to people of all ages. Regular practice can improve posture, balance, coordination, strength, flexibility, cardiovascular fitness and concentration. 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. 8 – March 12
Tai Chi Basics, 6:15 – 7:10 p.m.
The Tai Chi Form, 7:15 – 8:10 p.m.
Continuing with Tai Chi, 8:15 – 9:10 p.m.
TP residents \$75
Non-residents \$85

FOREVER YOUNG: 55 PLUS

DROP IN

Bingo

Ages 55 and older

Try your luck. Win a prize.
TP Community Center senior room
Thursday, Dec. 18, noon – 2 p.m.
Free

Blood Pressure Screening

Adventist Healthcare will be doing a free monthly blood pressure screening.
TP Community Center senior room
Thursday, Dec. 18, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Free

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

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. Registration is open. 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

Holiday Display, U.S. Botanic Garden, Washington, D.C.

Ages 55 and older

Despite the cold outside, the Conservatory has one of the largest decorated trees in Washington, D.C., and a poinsettia showcase. The “fantasy train display” and “Seven Seas” exhibitions fill the East Gallery with the sights, scents and sounds of Season’s Greetings. Bring spending money for lunch at a local eatery. Rain or shine. In-person registration is required. Contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.
TP Community Center Recreation office
Wednesday, Dec. 10, 8:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Free admission. No cost for transportation
Times may be adjusted, check the trip itinerary supplied to registered participants for each trip for details.

Lakeforest Mall Shopping Trip, Gaithersburg, Md.

Ages 55 and older

With more than 150 shopping choices, Lakeforest has a variety of goods plus plenty of dining choices including 10 food court cafes, four quick serve eateries, 10 specialty shops and restaurants. Bring spending money for lunch and shopping. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Rain or shine. In-person registration is required. Contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, 301-891-7280, paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.
TP Community Center Recreation office
Wednesday, Dec. 17, 8:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Free admission. No cost for transportation.
Times may be adjusted, check the trip itinerary supplied to registered participants for each trip for details.

PETS

Dog Manners for Life

Ages 6 months – 6

Whether you have a “teen” emerging from puppyhood, or an adult dog that needs some training, this class is for you. Using positive reinforcement, we will teach your dog foundation behaviors (sit, down, stay, here, leave it), leash manners (not pulling, passing dogs and people), and polite greetings. Dogs should be friendly toward dogs and people. No pinch, prong, choke or electronic collars in the classroom.
Heffner Park Community Center
Wednesdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 11, 8 – 9 p.m.
TP residents \$119
Non-residents \$139

Puppy Kindergarten

Ages 8 weeks – 5 months

Early puppy training and socialization has been shown to help prevent behavior problems later on. Each class will include supervised, off leash play, where you will learn about dog body language and appropriate play. No pinch, prong, choke or electronic collars in the classroom.
Heffner Park Community Center
Wednesdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 11, 6:45 – 7:45 p.m.
TP residents \$119
Non-residents \$139



Few Spaces left in the 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.

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

LOOKING FOR TEEN LOUNGE STAFF AND INSTRUCTORS



The Recreation Department is currently seeking part-time staff to work and program the Teen Lounge at the Community Center. Hours vary between 3 – 7 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. The Recreation Department is also seeking qualified instructors to

teach a variety of dance, arts, fitness and computer classes. For more information, email leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov. Apply online at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Staying Active During the Winter

It's that time of year again...winter! The season when you want to be a bear and prepare to hibernate. Active summer transitions into wanting to stay tucked away indoors until the spring arrives again. The Takoma Park Recreation Department wants to help the community stay motivated to exercise and continue a healthy lifestyle through the cold months ahead.

Don't Stop

Everything that you have worked for to maintain a healthy regimen up to this point doesn't have to end when you see a snowflake fall. People feel great and look great during the summer because exercise and a healthy diet are directly related to a good mood. Keep the momentum going through the winter and get a jump start on your New Year's resolution with the extra energy and positivity that comes from a continuous exercise routine. This will also help you avoid having to work off the "extra holiday pounds" you could have regained if you had stayed stationary. Plenty of indoor classes such as Soca Motion (the Caribbean version of Zumba) can help keep you in shape so you won't miss out on getting your heart pumping like it's the summer.

Try Something New

A regular exercise routine during the warmer months can become unimaginative. People often experience a plateau or hit a "wall" in which there is a halt in their training progress. The best solution is to switch up your exercise schedule. Trying a new class or using different equipment can help

adjust your workout plan to fit your body's new needs. The Takoma Park Recreation Center fitness room has new equipment such as stationary bikes, treadmills, a chest press machine and much more. Maybe switching from an endurance-focused, high-intensity workout like Boom! Body Boot Camp to a Yoga Iyengar class can help your strength and flexibility conditioning.

Prepare Yourself

Not only will suiting up with extra layers helps you get ready for the cold, but educating yourself on alternative exercise and eating habits may get you motivated as well. The best time to learn about new ways to stay healthy would be to attend the Takoma Park Fitness Expo on Jan. 3 at the Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue. Different health vendors will showcase the latest in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Learn about seasonal foods to keep you healthy during the months that are filled with tempting pumpkin pies, and learn how to keep your fitness goals with different class demos.

With all the programs and classes that the Takoma Park Recreation Department offers, the options to stay fit during the winter are limitless. Whether you want to continue your progress for the year or get a head start on 2015, the cold can be beaten! A full listing of classes, programs and fitness center times can be found enclosed in this newsletter, in the Takoma Park City Guide pages 17-35, or online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.

TEENS

Teens on the Move

Winter Edition

Ages 12 – 17

Join us during winter break as we take trips to Dave-n-Busters, roller skating, laser tag, go-karting, movies and museums, just to give you an idea. New ideas are always welcome. Sign up for one day or all three. Advanced registration is required.

TP Community Center

Teen Lounge

Monday – Wednesday, Dec. 29 – Dec. 31,

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

TP resident: \$25/day

Non-resident: \$ 35/day



It's Snowing – Is My Class Canceled?

The City of Takoma Park has several ways to let you know if city facilities are closed and if Takoma Park Recreation programs are canceled. Get notices via Takoma Park Alert (www.takomaparkmd.gov/alert); check the city's webpage; or call the Recreation Department's Inclement Weather Line (301-891-7101 x5606). In general, if the federal government closes or has a delayed opening in the morning, the city does the same. Classes that begin before a delayed opening are usually canceled. Morning and Afternoon Addition and After the Bell programs follow the Montgomery County Public Schools declarations. If there is a two-hour delay in the morning, Morning Addition starts at 9 a.m.

CELEBRATE TAKOMA COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Recreation Department is beginning to plan the Third Annual Celebrate Takoma Festival for Sunday, May 17, 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 would like to volunteer to be a part of the Steering Committee email Debby Huffman at deborahh@takomaparkmd.gov. The Committees meet monthly in the evenings.

55+ Online Registration Training

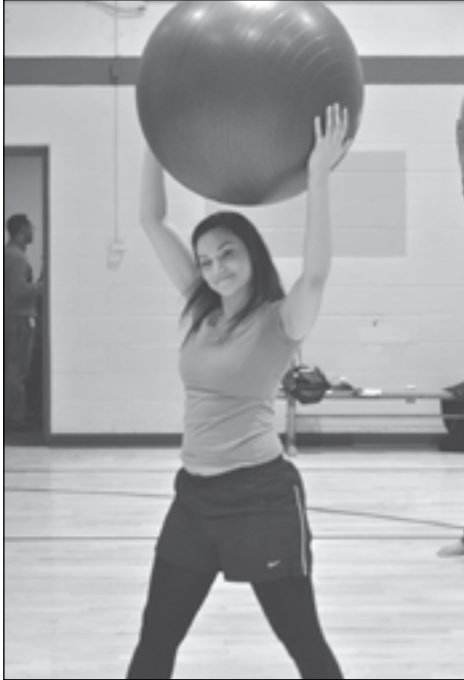
Winter Registration Begins Monday, Dec. 15, at 8:30 a.m.

Learn how to use our online registration system from home. Stop by and visit the Recreation Department to register for one of the training days: Dec. 8 or Dec. 10. Trainings will be held from 10 – 11 a.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center computer lab at 7500 Maple Ave. Come in to set up your free registration account, and learn the procedure to register for classes from home. Registration for classes is required unless otherwise noted.

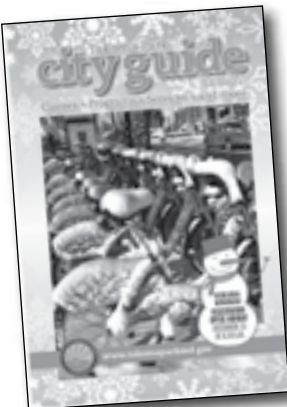
Fitness Expo Saturday, Jan. 3 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

With the New Year right around the corner the Takoma Park Recreation Department staff is preparing for its Third Annual Fitness Expo at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Come join us for an exciting day that will include demonstrations from our fitness classes, programs and local community organizations. Also, we will have seminars and discussions with community groups involved in the health profession. The expo will kick off at 8 a.m. with our first 20 minute demonstration. For additional information or if you would like to volunteer for this event, contact Jurrel Cottman at jurrelc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7289.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Ave.
All ages
Free



WINTER REGISTRATION BEGINS DEC. 15 AT 8:30 A.M. Online or in person at the Community Center



In this issue:

You can find a full listing of our classes and programs in the 2015 Winter City Guide or help us go green and visit us online www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.



Favorites list comes together for the holiday

By Karen MacPherson

Each December, I'm asked by kids and parents for a list of my favorite books published in that year. Putting together such a list is both fun and challenging. I read so many good books for kids and teens that it can be hard to keep the list a manageable size!

So here's this year's list. Please keep in mind that these books are just some of my favorites. And don't forget that I'm always happy to try to match a book with a reader – it's definitely one of the best parts of my job. Just ask for help!

BOARD BOOKS:

Leslie Patricelli is the go-to author/illustrator these days when it comes to the youngest readers. This year, she published two more gems: "Tickle" and "Toot."

PICTURE BOOKS:

"Sam & Dave Dig a Hole," illustrated by 2013 Caldecott Medalist Jon Klassen and written by Mac Barnett, who wrote Klassen's 2013 Caldecott Honor book, "Extra Yarn" (ages 3-7)

"The Baby Tree," written and illustrated by Sophie Blackall (ages 3-6)

"My Teacher Is a Monster," written and illustrated by Peter Brown (ages 4-7)

"Where's Mommy?," written by Beverly Donofrio and illustrated by Barbara McClintock (ages 3-6)

"The Farmer and the Clown," written and illustrated by Marla Frazee (ages 4-7)

"Time for Bed, Fred," written and illustrated by Yasmeen Ismail (ages 3-6); it was selected as one of the New York Times Best Illustrated books this year.

"Once Upon the Alphabet," written and illustrated by Oliver Jeffers (ages 4-8)

"The Iridesence of Birds," a book about artist Henri Matisse written by Newbery Medalist Patricia MacLachlan and illustrated by Hadley Hooper (ages 4-7)

"Mix It Up!," written and illustrated by Herve Tullet, of "Press Here" fame (ages 3-7)

"Bad Bye, Good Bye," written by Deborah Underwood and illustrated by Jonathan Bean (ages 4-7)

"Gaston," written by Kelly DiPucchio

and illustrated by Christian Robinson

EARLY CHAPTER BOOKS:

"LeRoy Ninker Saddles Up," written by Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo and illustrated by Chris Van Dusen

"Digby O'Day in the Fast Lane," written and illustrated by Shirley Hughes and Clara Vuillamy

"Dory Fantasmagory," written by Abby Hanlon

MIDDLE-GRADE FICTION (ages 8-12)

"The Madman of Piney Woods," by Newbery Medalist Christopher Paul Curtis

"Absolutely Almost," by Lisa Graff

"Rain Reign," by Ann Martin

"The Boundless," by Kenneth Oppel

"Nuts To You," written and illustrated by Newbery Medalist Lynne Rae Perkins

"Revolution," written by Deborah Wiles

YOUNG ADULT FICTION (ages 13 up)

"We Were Liars," by E. Lockhart

"Say What You Will," by Cammie McGovern

"Threatened," by Eliot Schrefer

"Noggin," by Printz Award winner John Cory Whaley

GRAPHIC NOVELS/MEMOIRS:

"El Deafo," written and illustrated by Cece Bell (ages 8-12)

"The Dumbest Idea Ever," written and illustrated by Jimmy Gownley (ages 8-12)

"The Return of Zita the Space Girl," written and illustrated by Ben Hatke (ages 7-12)

"Benny and Penny in Lost and Found," written and illustrated by Geoffrey Hayes (comics-style beginning reader, ages 4-7)

"Aphrodite," written and illustrated by George O'Connor (ages 8 up)

"This One Summer," written by Mariko Tamaki and illustrated by Jillian Tamaki (ages 12 up)

"Sisters," written and illustrated by Raina Telgemeier (ages 8-12)

NON-FICTION:

"Ashley Bryan's Puppets," written by Ashley Bryan (ages 7 up)

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

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, Dec. 7, 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

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Saturday, Dec. 6, 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.

Caldecott Club: A Family Book Club

Monday, Dec. 8, 7 p.m.

Come read with us as we spotlight some great, newly-published picture books.

Lemonade and cookies served. No registration.

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 4 p.m.

Join comics guru Dave Burbank at our monthly comics book club.

Public Meeting Library redesign

Meet the architects

Tuesday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.

All invited!

Author Adam Brookes

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

Brookes will discuss the process of getting his first novel, "Night Heron," published, and the transition to his second novel.

Holiday Book Sale

Saturday, Dec. 13, 10-3 p.m.

Computer Center Atrium

Featuring new children's and teen books at bargain prices.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Thursday, Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m.

Featuring drummer Bill Jenkins and the Foggy Bottom Morris Men

Perfect for all ages!

Holiday Sing-a-Long

Saturday Dec. 20, 3 p.m.

Led by local musician Wendy Lanxner

Join us in songs of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa

Winter Crafts and Cards

Sunday, Dec. 21, 2-4 p.m.

All ages welcome

Bedtime Stories, Jan. 6, 7 p.m.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Mock Caldecott

Attention, adult fans of children's literature! For the first time ever, we're holding a Mock Caldecott on Saturday, Jan. 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. If you love picture books and other illustrated children's books and are interested in helping us choose our Mock 2014 Caldecott Medal winner, please join us. It's sure to be a fun and intellectually stimulating event as we discuss some wonderful books, using the actual Caldecott criteria.

We've developed our own list of mock finalists, and if you plan to join us for the Mock Caldecott discussion, please read as many of those before we discuss and vote on them. Copies of the list are available at the library or you can check out our blog post online at the Children's Room blog. All of the books are available for checkout at the library. It will be interesting to see how close we come to the actual winner of the 2014 Caldecott Medal, which will be announced on Monday, Feb. 2. Note: this event is for adults; for kids interested in discussing Caldecott possibilities, please join us for our monthly Caldecott Club event. In December, we'll be holding our Caldecott Club, for kids and adults, on Monday, Dec. 8, at 7 p.m.

Sleeping bedtime

There is no Bedtime Stories and a Craft program in December. Bedtime Stories and a Craft, led by Ms. Kati, will return on Tuesday, Jan. 6 at 7 p.m. Please join us then!

Three holiday events

We've got three great holiday events for families in December. First up, on Thursday, Dec. 18, is our annual Winter Solstice Celebration. At 6:30 p.m., drummer and music educator Bill Jenkins will lead everyone in a percussion program (he provides the percussion instruments for everyone), and then at 7:30 p.m., the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will swoop in with songs, stories and dances. It's always a gala occasion and a great way for all ages to welcome the new season. Then, on Saturday, Dec. 20, at 3 p.m., local musician Wendy Lanxner will join us for our annual Holiday Sing-a-Long. We'll be accompanied by Wendy's guitar students as we sing songs of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. Finally, on Sunday, Dec. 21, kids of all ages are invited to join Ms. Kati from 2-4 p.m. to create some winter crafts and cards. Hope to see you at some or all of these events!

Notice of Public meeting on Library Redesign

All are invited to attend a public meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, where architects from The Lukmire Partnership will present options for a renovated and redesigned city library.

These design options are based on service priorities expressed through public input in focus groups and surveys during the January 2014 Needs Assessment, and

a public meeting with the architects on Oct. 8.

Please attend this important meeting, which will help determine how the Takoma Park Library will continue to thrive as a progressive public institution into the 21st century.

For more information contact Ellen Robbins at the Library ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7258.

Friends to discuss first book in a knock-out trilogy on Jan. 14

“My Brilliant Friend” by Elena Ferrante was critically acclaimed when it was published in 2012. It tells the story of two girls, opposite in temperament and inclination, through their childhood and adolescence in an impoverished and violent neighborhood outside of Naples in the 1950s.

The author, who has never allowed interviews, uses a vibrant and visceral style throughout her novel. There is an immediacy to her writing that is at times harrowing.

James Woods wrote in The New York Times, “Ferrante’s novels are intensely, violently personal, and because of this they seem to dangle bristling key chains of confession before the unsuspecting reader.” Pulitzer Prize winning author Jhumpa Lahiri wrote, “The Neapolitan novel cycle

is an unconditional masterpiece...I read all the books in a state of immersion; I was totally enthralled. There was nothing else I wanted to do except follow the lives of Lila and Lenu to the end.”

“My Brilliant Friend” is the first book of the Neapolitan Novels. It was followed by “The Story of a New Name” (2013) and “Those Who Love and Those Who Stay” (2014). The fourth and final Neapolitan novel is planned for publication in September of 2015.

The Friends of the Library Reading Group will discuss “My Brilliant Friend” on Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Azalea Room. Copies are available in the Library.

All are welcome to attend the Friends book discussions.

CHOE

■ From page 1

more open and relaxed society,” according to Hall of Fame profile. He worked for his cousin at a carryout on Florida Avenue, and discovered his friendly nature was perfect for the food service industry. From there, he opened a small grocery store in Takoma Park, and realized there was a hole in the market for a casual, full-service family restaurant.

Choe opened Mark’s Kitchen in 1990 with an eclectic menu of vegetarian, Korean and American food. Since he didn’t have much experience in the kitchen, he read up on cooking in books and magazines, watched cooking shows on TV and consulted with friends and Takoma Park neighbors to develop new recipes. The result is a fusion of his Korean heritage and his Takoma Park community. Mark’s Kitchen ranges from diner fare to Korean specialties; all meals are made from scratch.

Just as important, the place has become a local institution and community meeting place. Mark’s Kitchen has a loyal following among its customers and its long-time staff. As one of the oldest restaurants in town, it competes with what the Hall of Fame calls Choe’s “commitment to excellence, his genuine friendliness and his generosity to the many nonprofits in the neighborhood.”



Mark Choe

In fact, over the past ten years Choe has donated approximately \$40,000 to local charities with close ties to Takoma Park.

Choe lives in Chevy Chase with his wife, Helen, and 13-year-old son, Peter.

Other Hall of Fame winners were David Reznick, co-founder of CohnReznick LLP; Annie Totah, founder and president at AST Partnership for Brighter Tomorrows; Ola Sage, CEO at e-Management; and Dottie Fitzgerald, vice president of Fitzgerald Auto Malls.

Friends holiday book sale

This year the Friends of the Library will hold their special holiday book sale in the Computer Center rotunda outside the Library, Dec. 13 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., or as long as supplies last!

The sale will feature new and used books for children, youth and teens, and some quality books of interest to adults, all at bargain prices. All book sale proceeds are used by the Friends to support Library programs.

FAVORITES LIST

■ From page 8

“The Right Word: Roget and His Thesaurus,” written by Jen Bryant and illustrated by Melissa Sweet (ages 7-10)

“Eyes Wide Open: Going Behind the Environmental Headlines,” by Newbery Medalist Paul Fleischman (ages 10 up)

“The Family Romanov,” written by Candace Fleming (ages 10 up)

“Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out,” by Susan Kuklin (ages 12 up)

“Chasing Cheetahs,” written by Sibert Medalist Sy Montgomery, with photographs by Nic Bishop

“Port Chicago 50,” by Steve Sheinkin (ages 10 up)

“Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family’s Fight for Desegregation,” written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh (ages 7-10)

“Josephine: The Dazzling Life of Josephine Baker,” written by Patricia Hruby Powell and illustrated by Christian Robnsokn

“Brown Girl Dreaming,” by Jacqueline Woodson. (This book just won the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature).

POETRY:

“Firefly July: A Year of Very Short Poems,” selected by Paul Janeczko and illustrated by Melissa Sweet

“Hi, Koo!: A Year of Seasons,” written and illustrated by Jon Muth

SUSTAINABILITY

■ From page 4

full retrofit with new insulation, air sealing, and more. The wide range of energy-saving actions makes them accessible for every resident, and energy coaching is designed to help individuals prioritize their lists. For those who think they’ve already done everything they can, city staff challenges them to prove it to the energy coach – and suggests there may be some new improvement you missed.

One easily accessible program for residents is Pepco’s Quick Home Energy Check-up (QHEC). The program is free, because Pepco customers have already paid for it through an EmPOWER Maryland surcharge on their electric bills. Pepco customers are entitled to the service at no additional charge.

During a Quick Home Energy Check-up residents can have installed for free:

- Up to 16 new compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs)
- High efficiency showerheads
- Faucet Aerators
- Smart Power Strips for entertainment centers
- Water heater pipe insulation
- A water heater insulating jacket (for old electric models)

Plus, participants get:

- A visual inspection of the home’s insulation
- A report with recommendations
- An hour with a certified expert in energy efficiency

Apartments and condos are also eligible for a QHEC.

Pepco’s Comprehensive Home Energy Audit, which involves a full suite of diagnostic testing and analysis, costs \$100

(more if your home is very large). It’s the first step towards getting huge rebates on new insulation and air sealing. During a comprehensive home energy audit participants get a blower door test, combustion safety test, infrared camera scan, detailed inspection of the attic and basement for insulation and air leakage, assessment of drafty areas and much more. The appointments take four hours, and participants receive excellent advice and a full report with pictures and detailed recommendations. If participants use an approved contractor, they may qualify for Pepco’s 50-percent-up-to-\$2,000 rebate on new insulation and air sealing.

To participate in energy coaching, or to volunteer with the future neighborhood competition and energy prize effort, email Gina Mathias, Takoma Park’s sustainability coordinator, at ginam@takomaparkmd.gov.

Photo by Sara Daines

Takoma Park staff said good bye to Robert Allen last month, as he retired from his job as vehicle maintenance supervisor in the Department of Public Works after 41 years with the city. Known as a detail-oriented person, his parts room was a perfect example of “a place for everything, and everything in its place.”

Takoma Park tenant meeting

The Takoma Park-based nonprofit Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research (CHEER) is sponsoring an informational meeting about how tenant associations can work to protect tenant rights, on Dec. 10 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center Azalea Room. Using their collective voice to solve issues in rental buildings, communicate with neighbors and get to know one another, tenants have found tenant associations to be a powerful tool. CHEER will present local elected officials who will discuss their stance on renters’ issues; renters’ rights advocate Matt Losak from Renters Alliance, and Linda Walker from Takoma Park Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs about landlord-tenant rights.

Takoma Park Snow 101:

Public Works plans for a cold winter

Remember Snowmageddon? When you were stuck in your house for days, and the mayor and other city officials went out to deliver food to overworked city snow plow crews?

Well, it might not be as bad as that 2010 event, but forecasts are calling for cold air and high amounts of snow this winter. Public Works staffers are preparing to work hard to clear whatever snow falls on Takoma Park's 34 miles of city-maintained roads, as well as walkways and sidewalks around city parks and public buildings.

City staff track potential storms as they occur, and prepare to respond as soon as the snow starts to fall. Plow crews start plowing operations when one inch of snow is on the ground and are prepared to work 12-hour shifts. The city uses Public Works Right of Way staff as primary plow drivers, and sanitation drivers fill in the second shift. When significant snowfall occurs, city trash and recycling collection may be canceled to allow sanitation drivers to pitch in with road clearing. The city's Garden Division staff clears public sidewalks during daylight hours, with assistance as needed from temporary laborers.

Public Works encourages businesses and residents to do their part to clear snow and ice from the sidewalks adjoining their property (see accompanying article).

Takoma Park's winter weather response plan divides the city into five snow removal zones, each with an assigned response vehicle. Within each zone, "primary streets" are those with the most traffic, and those that connect neighborhoods. "Secondary streets" are shorter, with fewer homes, and include courts, alleys and dead ends. City crews first clear primary streets, then proceed to secondary streets.

The city's goal is to create 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 expectation is to have one travelable lane over a 12-hour period. Snow removal equipment remains in service around the clock until all the roads are cleared. To see a map of snow removal routes, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov/snow.

Often, when severe weather is on the way, the city begins anti-icing procedures by applying a sand salt mixture or liquid de-icing chemicals to the

street surface. Plowing begins once snowfall has accumulated to one inch on the street. If the storm produces only sleet and ice, the city treats roadways with sand and salt.

Snow and ice response service on some streets is performed by outside agencies. The State Highway Administration is responsible for clearing Carroll Avenue, Ethan Allen Avenue, New Hampshire Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue and Piney Branch Road. Sligo Creek Parkway is a Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission roadway and snow and ice response is performed by Montgomery County. However, city plows will assist with snow removal on these streets in the course of their work to clear city streets.

The Public Works Department has developed a few helpful tips for residents to follow during a snow event. They are:

Stay Connected

Conditions leading to a declared snow emergency include the expectation of a significant quantity of snow or an ice event. The city manager may

SNOW 101 □ Page 11

It's your job: keep walkways clear of snow

During this time of year, it is important to note that Takoma Park has regulations regarding snow and ice removal from public sidewalks. These regulations are in place to ensure the safety of all pedestrians in our community, whether they are mail carriers or school children.

In the event of snow, all residents are required to clear any public sidewalk adjoining their property of snow for the full paved width of the sidewalk. The sidewalk must be cleared by 7 p.m. on the day of the snowfall, or by the end of

four hours of daylight after the snowfall, whichever is later.

Commercial properties must keep public sidewalks in front of their properties free of ice and snow between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Snow or ice removed must not obstruct free passageway of any street.

In the event that the sidewalk is frozen so hard that ice cannot be removed without damaging the sidewalk, the sidewalk must be strewn with sand, sawdust or another appropriate material by the required time so that it is

safe to walk on. The sidewalk should be cleared of ice and strewn material as soon as practicable.

Failure to abide by these rules is a Class C offense and could result in a \$200 fine. If the snow and ice are not removed, the city may remove it and the owner of the property will be billed.

It's your job to keep your sidewalk safe during the winter. In Takoma Park, you can be a good neighbor by making sure the sidewalks adjacent to your home and business properties are free of ice and snow.



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

The Firehouse Report

As of Oct. 31, 2014, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 563 fire-related incidents in 2014. The department addressed or assisted with 2,378 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 2,941. Totals for 2013 were 529 and 2,334, representing an increase of 78 incidents.

During the month of October 2014, the Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 1,645.5 hours of standby time in the station, compared to 1,362.5 in October 2013. Grand totals as of October 2014 are 14,174 hours, compared to 11,990.5 hours in 2013, an increase of 2,183.5 hours.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of Nov. 20, 2014, 44 people have died in fires this year, as compared to 60 in 2013. That's a 27 percent drop from last year.

Safety Tips for a safe Christmas

- Choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut 1 to 2 inches from the base of the tree.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like fireplaces, radiators, lit candles, heat vents or lights.
- Add water to the tree stand. Be sure to add water daily.
- Use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, not both.
- Discard lights with bare wires, frays or kinks.
- When the tree starts losing the needles or drying out, it's time to take it down and move it outside away from the house until pick up time.

If you looking for a nice gift... what about a SMOKE ALARM!

TPVFD needs toys

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department has started its 34th annual Toys For Needy Children Program. We will be collecting toys until Dec. 22. If you have new or like-new toys, you may drop them off at the fire station or tree lot. Families needing assistance with toys, please contact the fire station at 240-773-8954.

TPVFD sells Christmas trees

Once again, the Christmas tree lot next to the fire station will be active. Hours will be noon to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, noon to 10 p.m. on Fridays; and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. The lot is located between the fire station and the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op, at Carroll and Ethan Allen avenues.

Girding for winter in Takoma Park

While our winters are not like those in Buffalo—nor our snowstorms—we do need to prepare for Takoma Park's realities: frozen roads and sidewalks, power outages, cars that won't start, and more.

Here's how to 'let it snow' and relax.

Part I: how to winterize you home and vehicle and protect yourself and your family:

- Set up and test a family communications plan.
- Purchase and have easily available:

rock salt or more environmentally safe products to melt ice on walkways; and sand to improve traction.

- Make sure your snow shovels and other snow removal equipment still work.
- Select adequate clothing and blankets to keep you warm and put them where easily reachable.
- Have canned and dried food available.
- Make sure you have batteries that work and flashlights close at hand

(putting these on another floor will not help when it's dark).

- Store a good supply of dry, seasoned wood for your fireplace or wood-burning stove.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature high enough to keep the pipes from freezing.

To be continued, next month.

LOCAL PROJECTS

■ From page 1

Community grant recipients: food, arts and more

In September City Council also selected several projects for a total of \$122,565 in community grants, which are distributed annually from the city budget. Grant applications have been reviewed by a Grants Review Committee of residents, which recommends grant recipients to the City Council; City Council then votes to finalize those choices. City Council recently voted to have mini-grants, those under \$2,500, administered by the Takoma Foundation, instead of committee, city staff and City Council, so the next cycle of grants, applications for which are due next June, will be administered in that way.

Community grants are made in three categories: cultural and S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), program and operational support, and capital projects. Nineteen applications were made for the grants.

The FY2014 community grants go to 11 different organizations, as follows:

- Old Takoma Business Association, for a placemaking installation (\$8,000)
- Old Takoma Business Association

Festival Fund (\$15,000)

- Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research (CHEER) for general operating support (\$15,000)
- A school liaison internship for the Chesapeake Institute for Local Sustainable Food and Agriculture's program "Real Food for Kids" (\$5,635)
- Crossroads Community Food Network general operating expenses (\$18,000)
- EduCare Support Services for food assistance (\$18,000)
- Takoma Plays, for general operating support to advocate for play (\$2,500)
- African Immigrant and Refugee Foundation for an after-school arts program (\$12,500)
- Docs in Progress documentary film-making support organization for community stories project (\$4,000)
- Moveius Ballet for a contemporary ballet series (\$8,930)
- Takoma Ensemble for a classical music concert series (\$15,000)

To learn more about the city's grant programs, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

■ From page 1

Co-op also wants to be able to get licensed to sell beer and wine for carry out.

Several council members have suggested that Takoma Park's current restrictions on most carryout beer and wine sales should be lifted and that all licenses available in other parts of Montgomery County be available in Takoma Park. Council resolutions on alcoholic beverage proposals will be considered in early January.

In Maryland, all laws regarding alcoholic beverages are state laws, even if they only apply to a specific jurisdiction. Changes to the alcoholic beverage provisions that apply to Takoma Park must be made by the General Assembly.

Another priority discussed by Council is legislation to allow the base speed limit in areas like Takoma Park to be lower than the default 30 miles per hour set in state law. Currently, setting a speed limit lower than 30 miles per hour on a certain street must be justified by a traffic study.

New representatives, new governor

With the recent elections, all senators and delegates in the General Assembly, and the new Republican governor, are beginning four-year terms. A third of the legislators are new to their positions.

Takoma Park is represented by returning Senator Jamie Raskin and Delegate Sheila Hixson, Chair of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, which helps determine how budgetary funds are spent. Two new delegates, David Moon and Will Smith, are taking the seats formerly held by Heather Mizeur, who stepped down to run for governor, and Tom Hucker, Takoma Park's new representative on the Montgomery County Council.

At the council discussion on legislative priorities, Takoma Park's legislative advocate, Michele Douglas, made a presentation on the changes in the General Assembly and their possible impact on issues important to the city.

Douglas noted that Governor-elect Larry Hogan will be bringing with him an entirely new cabinet that will reflect policy direction changes in the new administration. Within the executive branch, there will be a large number of appointments of leadership and at-will positions. Governor-elect Hogan was not specific about many policy areas during the election, so there is uncertainty about what direction his team will take.

One of the biggest issues the incoming governor will face, and one expected to loom large during the 2015 legislative session, is the budget. Maryland's budget has a \$300 million deficit for the current year that must be closed quickly, and a deficit of \$600-\$700 million in the upcoming

"Several council members have suggested that Takoma Park's current restrictions on most carryout beer and wine sales should be lifted."

fiscal year that must be balanced when introduced in January.

The large turnover in the legislature means that heavy emphasis will be placed on educating legislators about the legislative process and the issues they will be discussing.

There are a total of 68 new members in the Senate and House. Of the 11 new state senators, seven of the 11 were delegates who have moved over to the Senate. Republicans gained two seats, giving them a total of 14, while Democrats will number 33.

In the House of Delegates, there will be 57 new delegates from all over the state. This is a 40 percent turnover. Republicans picked up a net of seven new seats, bringing their total to 50, while Democrats number 91.

The large turnover requires shuffling committee and leadership assignments. Even returning legislators face a steep learning curve as they adjust to new committees and committee leadership.

Douglas expects aggressive moves by the new legislators to repeal or alter the stormwater management and speed camera programs. She notes that a new legislature and administration also provides the opportunity to educate members on the benefits of these programs, about Takoma Park, and about the need for continued highway user revenue to fix city roads and sidewalks and for continued funding for economic development, park improvements and police services.

A City Council work session on legislative matters is scheduled for Jan. 5, the Council's first meeting after its December recess. Voting on resolutions related to alcoholic beverage licenses and other matters on which the council has not yet taken a position will occur on Jan. 12 and as needed through the session.

For more information, please contact Suzanne Ludlow at suzannel@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7229.

SNOW 101

■ From page 10

declare a snow emergency and will announce the status through Takoma Park Alert, local media, and on the city's website, Facebook and Twitter. The following restrictions go into effect during declared snow emergencies:

- Cars should not park on the east side of Maple Avenue, as it is a Snow Emergency Route
- Residents are strongly encouraged to park vehicles in their driveways whenever possible. Fewer cars on the street allow city plows to move more quickly and safely clear the roads.
- If you must park on the street, make sure to park your car as close to the curb as possible, and maintain a distance of at least 25 feet from an intersection.

Clearing Sidewalks

Residents are responsible for clearing the public sidewalks adjacent to their property. When possible, keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice by regularly shoveling accumulated snow during and after a

snow event. Please DO NOT shovel large amounts of snow into the street when clearing your driveway, lead walk or sidewalk. The best place to pile snow is on the lawn or grassy areas. Piles of snow shoveled out into the street can cause problems for passing vehicles.

Help a Neighbor in Need

Reach out and ask neighbors if they need assistance with keeping their sidewalk clear. Many residents are physically unable to shovel snow and ice and are hesitant to request help from neighbors or friends. Your thoughtfulness can make a big difference to someone who might otherwise be unable to cope.

If you have any questions before or during a winter event, please contact the Public Works Department at 301-891-7633.

Questions?
Call 301-891-7633

HOUSING MAILBOX

■ From page 4

Chapter 6.20). Most all multi-family rental properties and all rented condominium units are under Rent Stabilization and rent increases may occur once in a 12-month period. The city's rent stabilization al-

lowance (the rent increase percentage) is calculated each year and is based on the Department of Labor's Consumer Price Index. The 2014-15 Rent Stabilization Allowance is 1.6 percent, which covers increases from July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

A two-month written notice from the

landlord is required, not a one-month notice like the one you received. All landlords subject to rent stabilization are required to submit a Rent Stabilization Report each year which shows changes in the rent for a 12-month period. It is submitted online to the city's housing department in September of each year.

We review all rent reports for accuracy and also investigate any illegal increase in the rent.

For more information regarding the city's Rent Stabilization Law, please contact Jean Kerr at 301.891.7216. or jeank@takomaparkmd.gov.

DECEMBER '14

Do you have an item for the city calendar?

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 January issue is Dec. 17, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Jan. 2. 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

The Takoma Park City Council is currently in recess.

Christmas and Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, Wednesday, Dec. 24, city offices will be closed at 12:30 p.m.

City offices will be closed on Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25.

New Years Day

City offices will be closed New Years Day, Thursday, Jan 1.

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.educaresupportservices.org

Takoma Park Tenant Meeting

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 7 – 9 p.m.

TP Community Center Azalea Room

Elected officials, renters' advocates, city staff with advice on tenant rights, and how to form a tenant association

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

Food Truck Fridays

Fridays, 5 – 8 p.m.

Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.

Trohv, 232 Carroll St., NW

Various food vendors

Amnesty International Write-a-Thon

Saturday, 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

Takoma Park's Splash and Play Pool Party

Saturday, Jan. 3, 2 – 4 p.m.

Piney Branch Pool

Start the New Year with a splash

Free

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 Street 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 Street, NW

House Art Exhibition

Dec. 1 – 31

506 Tulip Ave.

Featuring the artwork of John Guernsey

Free

By appointment: 301-891-2222 or

LarryRavitz@aol.com

Expanded Cinema

Thursday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m.

In this live experimental cinema and sound event, filmmaker Chris Lynn presents unedited Super 8 films accompanied by a live improvised score featuring double bass, clarinet and cello.

Free

TP Community Center auditorium

Calico Jenny

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

The trio of sultry sirens will be adding a little spice to the salty side of sea music.

\$14 advance, \$18 door; Students and children: \$11 advance, \$15 door



Seekers Church

<http://imtfolk.org>

Flower Avenue House Concert at BannerArts

Saturday Dec. 13, 8 p.m.

Music of Beethoven and Delius performed by Sonya Hayes, violin, and Carl Banner, piano. Admission is \$15 plus contribution of snack food and/or drink.

7502 Flower Ave.

www.dcmusicaviva.org

Tango and Argentine Rhythms

Saturday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Takoma Park Craftwomen's 33rd Annual Holiday Show

Saturday, Dec. 6, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 7, noon – 4 p.m.

7208 Maple Ave.

Hand-crafted gifts on show from local artists

Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair

Saturday, Dec. 6, noon – 4 p.m.

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, 310 Tulip Ave.

Fun, festivity and holiday shopping the generous way – buy alternative gifts that honor family and friends while helping those in need

Cedar Ave Artists' Holiday Show

Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

7209 Cedar Ave.

Annual event hosted by Jim Colwell and Alison Baker

A Visit With Santa

Saturday, Dec. 6, 2 – 5 p.m.

The NatureLab, 7003 Carroll Ave.

Santa Claus himself tapped Mayor Bruce Williams as his stand-in this year in Takoma Park.

Pet Photos with Santa

Sunday, Dec. 7, 7 – 10 a.m.

The Big Bad Woof, 117 Carroll Street NW

Pajamarama

Sunday, Dec. 7, 7 – 10 a.m.

Shops in Old Town

Shop in your pajamas for discounts

www.mainstreettakoma.org

DC Arts Studios Open House and Holiday Sale

Sunday, Dec. 7, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

6925 Willow Street NW



The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department is selling Christmas trees again this year. For details, see page 10.

DC Arts Studios Open House and Holiday Sale
Art, demos, tap lessons and music.

Dance Afire Community Fire Show

Thursday, Dec. 11, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Gazebo

Holiday Art Sale

Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Shop creatively and support local artist. Featuring 30+ local artists and artisans. TP Community Center auditorium

Artsy Tulips Art Sale

Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

512 Tulip Ave.

Paintings, jewelry, wallets, ornaments and more.

Young Takoma Concert Series

Holiday Brass and Singalong

Sunday, Dec. 14, 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

Takoma Park Gazebo on Carroll Avenue

Featuring music from Ramón Tasat and Emmanuel Trifilio, plus Cristian Perez

\$16 in advance; \$20 at the door

Carroll Café at Seekers Church,

276 Carroll Street NW

www.carrollcafe.org

Orfeia

Saturday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.

The Orfeia Vocal Ensemble, directed by Tatiana Sarbinska, will present an interactive performance of traditional Bulgarian, Balkan and Sephardic music.

Suggested \$10 donation.

TP Community Center auditorium

Third Thursday Poetry

Thursday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m.

Featuring poets Brian Gilmore and Liz Rees, followed by an open mic

Free

TP Community Center auditorium

SENIORS

Holiday Display, U.S. Botanic Garden, Washington, D.C.

Ages 55 and older

Wednesday, Dec. 10, 8:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Decorated trees, poinsettias and holiday magic
Details, page 6

Lakeforest Mall Shopping Trip, Gaithersburg, Md.

Ages 55 and older

Wednesday, Dec. 17, 8:45 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Shopping and lunch

Details, page 6

Upcoming Events

125th anniversary celebrations

Takoma Park will mark the 125th anniversary of incorporation throughout the spring of 2015 with a series of parties, performances and other events that reflect the varied interests of the community. Civic organizations and neighborhoods wishing to add their own events, or volunteers willing to help, can get more information by emailing takomapark125th@takomaparkmd.gov.