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 $122,365 in community grant funding for 11 community-oriented projects in the city.

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 stormwater 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 business district also wants funds to support 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 centers.

Choe’s life is the quintessential immigrant success story. He arrived from South Korea in 1985, looking for “a place to be.”

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 place to be.”

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.
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 Polyurethane Food-Service Ware
The ordinance prohibits the use of polyurethane-composed packaging or food-service ware when any food-service facility is providing for-on-site or off-site consumption; prohibits city purchase or use of polyurethane-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-polyurethane 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 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 Hassler Architects for architectural design services to enhance the functionality of the Community Center and improve office and community space.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

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 programs in the city; recommission 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 6.18, 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 301-891-7219.
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.
FAÇADE 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 rosaliend@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7209.
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 Commission 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 Shefield, 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 Frassard’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 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 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 – 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.

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

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 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 Colleen Cordes to the Takoma Park Tree Commission.
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 volunteers 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 improvements 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 comprehensive audit of the home.

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.

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 AFI’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.

THE ARTS

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 8 film shorts 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.

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.

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 I 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 there.

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 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. Fraser 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!”

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 Koprivshtitsa, 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 Slavic Show, Bulgaria’s most popular late-night television program, and on Bulgarian National Radio.

December 2014  
Takoma Park News  
Page 5
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

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

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

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

TORCH
EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT
Spanish for Tots
TP residents $85
Mondays, Jan. 5 – Feb. 23, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership card

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 $85
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 – 7:15 p.m.
Ongoing Saturdays, 9:15 – 10:15 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
TP residents $129
Non-residents $149

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, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 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

PETs
Dog Manners for Life
Ages 5 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), 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.
TP 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.
TP Heffner Park Community Center
Wednesdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 11, 8:45 – 9:45 p.m.
TP residents $119
Non-residents $139

TRIPS
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 or paula@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.

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 at New Hampshire Avenue or the Community Center on Maple Avenue.
TP Recreation Center
Ongoing, Monday – Friday, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
Ongoing, Saturdays, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Free

TAKOMA PARK NEWS December 2014

Page 6 ▲ Takoma Park News
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 help 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 Recreation Center 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 regular exercise routine during winter breaks can help keep you healthy.

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

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 deborahk@takomaparkmd.gov. The Committees meet monthly in the evenings.

Youth Programs

Online Registration

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.

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 professions. 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 jurrel@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 visit us online www.takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.
FAVORITES LIST [ 

LIBRARY

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 Martha Frazee (ages 4-7).
• “Time for Bed, Fred,” written and illustrated by Yasmeen Ismail (ages 3-6), which 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 Indecence 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 Whaley and illustrated by Mitsumasa Anno (ages 4-7).
• “Dory Fantasmagory,” written by Abby Klein and illustrated by Christian Robinson (ages 3-6).

YOUNG ADULT FICTION (ages 13 up)

• “We Were Liars!,” written by E. Lockhart (ages 14-17).
• “Say What You Will,” by Cammie McGovern (ages 14-17).
• “Threatened,” by Eliot Schrefer (ages 14-17).

MIDDLE-GRADE FICTION (ages 8-12)

• “The Madman of Piney Woods,” by Newbery Medalist Christopher Paul Curtis (ages 8-12).
• “Absolutely Almost,” by Lisa Graff (ages 8-12).
• “Rain Reign,” by Ann Martin (ages 8-12).
• “The Bounded,” by Kenneth Oppel (ages 8-12).
• “Nuts To You,” written and illustrated by Newbery Medalist Lyne Rae Perkins (ages 8-12).
• “Revolution,” written by Deborah Wiles (ages 8-12).

NON-FICTION:

• “Ashley Bryan’s Puppets,” written by Ashley Bryan (ages 7 up).

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 check-out 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. in the Children’s Room.

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.”


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.

SUSTAINABILITY

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) program. 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 Water Sticks 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 Comprehensive Home Energy Audit, which involves a full suite of diagnostic testing and analysis, costs $100 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.”

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

“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 Robinson
“Brown Girl Dreaming,” by Jacqueline Woodson. (This book just won the Na"
“Hi, Koo!: A Year of Seasons,” written and illustrated by Jon Muth

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.

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

POETRY:

“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 Robinson
“Brown Girl Dreaming,” by Jacqueline Woodson. (This book just won the Na"
“Hi, Koo!: A Year of Seasons,” written and illustrated by Jon Muth

“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; Olja Sagi, CEO at e-Mangement; and jettie Fitzgerald, vice president of Fitzgerald Auto Malls.

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 the Takoma Park Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs about landlord-tenant rights.

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

“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 Robinson
“Brown Girl Dreaming,” by Jacqueline Woodson. (This book just won the Na"
“Hi, Koo!: A Year of Seasons,” written and illustrated by Jon Muth

“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; Olja Sagi, CEO at e-Mangement; and jettie Fitzgerald, vice president of Fitzgerald Auto Malls.

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 the Takoma Park Office of Landlord-Tenant Affairs about landlord-tenant rights.
Takoma Park Snow 101: Public Works plans for a cold winter

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 removal must not obstruct free passage 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.

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.

• 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.
• 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.

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

The Firehouse Report

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 months 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 kindles.
• 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.
**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” ($5,633)
- 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 at 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.takomapark.md.gov.

**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 when ever possible. Fewer cars on the street allow city plows to 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 sidewalks 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.

**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 allowance (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 jean@takomaparkmd.gov.
PUBLIC MEETINGS / 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_sil@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.
Traffic, 232 Carroll St., NW
Various food vendors

Amnesty International Write-a-Thon
Saturday, Dec. 13, 3 – 5 p.m.
Capital City Cheesecake, 7031 Carroll Ave.
Celebrate Human Rights Day with this letter writing campaign.
www.amnesty-volunteer.org/usas/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 Jaggi 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 Katly 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.

 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
TP Community Center, 7502 Flower Ave.
www.dcmusiccaviva.org

Expanding 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

Artsy Tulips Art Sale
Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
5700 Maple Avenue
301-891-7129

DC Arts Studios Open House and Holiday Sale
Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
912 Tulip Ave.
Paintings, jewelry, wallets, ornaments and more.

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.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

DC Arts Studios Open House and Holiday Sale, demos, tap lessons and music.
DC Arts Studio Community Fire Show
Thursday, Dec. 11, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Gazebo

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

DC Arts Studios Open House and Holiday Sale
Saturday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
912 Tulip Ave.
Paintings, jewelry, wallets, ornaments and more.

Young Takoma Concert Series
Holiday Brass and Singalong
Saturday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Gazebo on Carroll Avenue

Holiday Cakes and Pies Contest
Sunday, Dec. 14, 2 p.m.
Come watch the fun! (Competition registration is past.
www.tpsps.coop

Winter Solstice Celebration with Foggy Bottom Morris Men
Thursday, Dec. 18, 6 p.m. at the Gazebo
Thursday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Maryland Library
Ringing in the season with old English dancing and music

Cocoa Crawl
Saturday, Dec. 20, 3 – 5 p.m.
Locations around Takoma Park
Get your commemorative Takoma mug and sample your way around Takoma Park
www.mainstreettakoma.org

Ugly Sweater Singalong
Saturday, Dec. 20, 10 p.m.
Republic, 6939 Laurel Ave.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 10 AM - 4PM
TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER
7500 MAPLE AVENUE
301-891-7129