A Day for MLK

Nicole O’Reily, 8, shows off her drawing at the festivities celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 19. It was a day of service, with crews of residents cleaning up the woods behind Piney Branch Elementary School, then an evening of social connection and fun during a community potluck that included music, dancing and art. Photo by Selena Malott

City wins bid on wooded land at auction

Residents lobbied for conservation, contributed cash

By Virginia Myers

On Jan. 22, City Attorney Linda Perlman stood in a chilly parking lot methodically raising Bidder Card Number 1, as the numbers climbed from $70,000 by $10,000 increments, then $5,000 and $1,000. Surrounded by anxious residents and onlookers, the card went up one last time, indicating her bid for $253,000. The auctioneer declared the wooded parcel of land along Woodland Avenue, “Sold!” and the small gathering cheered. Takoma Park had won the contest to purchase 2.68 acres along lower Woodland Avenue, just behind where the auction took place.

City Council at the request of local residents approved the bidding in order to preserve the natural features and wildlife on the parcel. Some minimal development of the parcel is still possible, though whether or not this will be necessary to recoup costs is not yet determined.

What is clear is that the city would not have won the bidding without the participation of residents committed to preserving the property. In addition to petitioning the city to purchase the land, about 64 people donated a total of $133,000 to bolster the city’s bid, should it be necessary – and it was. Another bidder, Takoma Park resident Joe Edgell, bid $252,500 before he bowed out. Edgell said he was representing the city’s bid, should it be necessary – and it was. Another bidder, Takoma Park resident Joe Edgell, bid $252,500 before he bowed out.

City urges residents to join in

Takoma Park, long known as a bastion of all things environmentally sustainable, has a new chance to prove its reputation is well-deserved. The city has been chosen to compete in the semifinal round of the Georgetown University Energy Prize, a national competition challenging communities across the U.S. to rethink their energy use. One of only 50 communities in the semi-final round, and the only community in Maryland competing, the city hopes to show the largest reduction in municipal and residential energy use, using the most innovative and replicable methods, in order to win the prize.

“For decades in Takoma Park, we’ve thought of ourselves, and others see us, as being at the forefront of environmental sustainability efforts,” says Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams. “We are very proud of our diverse community, and are excited to recoup costs is not yet determined.

What is clear is that the city would not have won the bidding without the participation of residents committed to preserving the property. In addition to petitioning the city to purchase the land, about 64 people donated a total of $133,000 to bolster the city’s bid, should it be necessary – and it was. Another bidder, Takoma Park resident Joe Edgell, bid $252,500 before he bowed out. Edgell said he was representing the city’s bid, should it be necessary – and it was. Another bidder, Takoma Park resident Joe Edgell, bid $252,500 before he bowed out.

City Manager Brian Kenner Resigns

By Virginia Myers

After just a year and a half on the job, Takoma Park city manager Brian Kenner has resigned to join the newly elected mayor of D.C., Muriel Bowser, as her Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development. As of Feb. 1 Kenner, who was hired in June 2013 after a national search, will be temporarily replaced by Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow. She also served as interim manager when Barbara Matthews left and Kenner first came on board.

Takoma Park has been notably active during Kenner’s tenure. It became the first community in the United States to allow 16-year-olds to vote in local elections, restricted...
TAKOMA TOPICS:

Are you physically unable to shovel your snow? Or a volunteer that wants to help those in need? #LifelongTakoma runs a snow shoveling partnership – www.takomaparkmd.gov/lifelongtakoma

— www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD

February 2015

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS – FEB. 2 TO FEB. 28
TPCC, Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL
City Council meeting, Monday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.*
Listening Session II, Tuesday, Feb. 3, meeting to hear comments on Takoma Junction redevelopment, 7 p.m.
City Council meeting, Monday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Special meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 11, City Council-Department Roundtables, 7:30 p.m.
City Council meeting, Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Special meeting, Thursday, Feb. 19, City Council-Department Roundtables, 7:30 p.m.
City Council meeting, Monday, Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m.
City Council meeting, Monday, March 2, 7:30 p.m.
Meetings take place in the TPCC Auditorium, unless noted otherwise.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Monday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION
Tuesday, Feb. 10, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Atrium Room

COMMISSION ON LANDLORD TENANT AFFAIRS HEARING
Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Thursday, Feb. 26, 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/commissions/calendar. 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.

City Council Action

All actions take place in scheduled legislative meetings of the City Council. Only negative votes and abstentions/recusals are noted here. Adopted legislation is available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov. For additional information, contact the city clerk at jessie@takomaparkmd.gov.

ORDINANCE 2015-1
Adopted Jan. 5
Awarding a Contract for Services for Development of a Concept Plan for the Takoma Park Recreation Center Site
The ordinance authorizes the city manager to enter into a contract with Wienczek+Associates Architects+Planners for services related to the development of a concept plan for the Takoma Park Recreation Center site at a cost of $1,885.

ORDINANCE 2015-2
Adopted Jan. 5
Awarding a Contract for a Recreational Needs Study for the Takoma Park Recreation Center
The ordinance authorizes the city manager to enter into a contract with Waldon Studio Architects for the study of Recreational Needs for the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center at a cost of $25,167.

ORDINANCE 2015-4
Adopted Jan. 12
Authorizing Purchase of a Replacement Police Communications Voice Recorder
The ordinance authorizes purchase of an upgrade to the NICE Systems voice recorder for the Police Communications Office from Applied Digital at a cost of $15,992.

RESOLUTION 2015-1
Adopted Jan. 12
Supporting the Expansion of the Types of Alcoholic Beverage Licenses Available in the City and Regarding Wholesale Purchase of Alcoholic Beverages (Voting no: Councilmember Seemans)
The resolution supports local bill MC18-15, allowing the availability of a Class B-2-BW License in Montgomery County, and supports an amendment to the bill that would allow the availability of the license for businesses and organizations in Takoma Park; requests State legislation to remove restrictions on the types of Montgomery County alcoholic beverage licenses available in Takoma Park while retaining the existing “-P” alcoholic beverage licenses; and supports Montgomery County action to allow business and organizations to purchase alcoholic beverages directly from distributors, breweries, distilleries, wineries, and other producers, and other sources other than Montgomery County government outlets, for on- and off-premises consumption as allowed by establishments’ alcoholic beverage licenses.

RESOLUTION 2015-2
Adopted Jan. 12
Authorizing Execution of an Agreement with Maryland Department of Transportation for Maryland Bikeways Program Funding
In May 2012, HCD staff submitted an application to the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the Fiscal Year 2014 Maryland Bikeways Program grant for the purposes of: supplementing federal and city funding for bike lanes in the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape project ($80,000); improving bike parking at the Takoma

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 Jesse Carpenter, city clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessie@takomaparkmd.gov.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION
(four 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 at sarad@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7224.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS (one vacancy): The Board plans and conducts City Elections in coordination with the City Clerk. www.takomaparkmd.gov/bcc/board-of-elections. Ward 4 residents particularly urged to apply. Additional meetings are regularly scheduled to accommodate nonresidents if they own or manage rental properties within the city limits.

COMMENORATION 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 individual organizations, businesses and citizens 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. Residency is required.

COMMISION 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 mossw@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7215.

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT (one vacancy): 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.

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE
(two vacancies): The Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee oversees implementation of and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act. Interested residents are encouraged to apply. 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.

City Council Action

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Takoma Park News

February 2015

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 Ludtke, at 301-891-7229 or suzanne@takomaparkmd.gov at least 48 hours in advance.
By Bob Guldin

The retail face of Takoma Old Town is going through big changes, with long-time local businesses closing and new stores eager to take their place. Among those departing are Now and Then, Shampoo and the short-lived but well-liked Takoma Bistro.

Now and Then, which sold clothing, jewelry and varied gift items, was a presence in Old Town for over three decades. Its owner, Jude Garrett, was and is a valued community member. “After 32 years in business, dozens of amazing employees, three generations of customers and providing countless gifts for others to enjoy, I have decided to give myself the gift of retirement,” Garrett wrote in a Dec. 24 statement. Her announcement was greeted with a rush of last-minute customers, many of whom expressed their affection for her, some in tears. Elizabeth Brinikama, the store’s manager for the last eight years, and employee Brynna Scherloem will also be missed.

The home, gift and design store Table Top will open in Now and Then’s space at 6927 Laurel Ave, probably in April. This will be the second location for Table Top, which currently has a store in Dupont Circle.

The quick decision to close the Takoma Bistro, also on Laurel Avenue, was a surprise to many residents, since the café appeared to be doing good business. Co-owner Rema Manousakis told the Newsletter that she was sad to close the bistro, which was part of the local Bread and Chocolate chain. “We love the community, we love the people,” she said. But Manousakis said the restaurant was losing money, and Bread and Chocolate was not experienced at doing a full dinner menu. Then “someone came along and bought us out,” she said, making a quick exit economically attractive. The impending arrival of Busboys and Poets in Takoma, D.C., “did not scare us away,” Manousakis said with a laugh.

Moving into the Takoma Bistro location will be a new restaurant, Kin Da. According to Byron Levy, a partner in the business, Kin Da will serve both Thai food and sushi. The partners have a similar eating, Aroi Thai, currently open at First and Westmoreland avenues. Shampoo and owner Sharon Waldvogel expects to be moving into Shampoo’s storefront, and the short-lived but well-liked Takoma Bistro.

COUNCIL ACTION

■ From page 2

Park Community Center and Takoma Park Recreation Center ($20,000); and improving on-street bikeways with shared-lane markings (sharrows) connecting Capital Bikeshare stations in Takoma Park ($17,000). The resolution authorizes the city manager to enter into an agreement with the Maryland Department of Transportation regarding use of the funds.

RESOLUTION 2015-3

Expressing Support for Preserving the Wooded Area of a Portion of the Washington-McLaughlin School Property (Parcel 3)

The resolution identifies the preservation of the urban forest, natural spring and natural topographic features of Parcel 3 of the Washington-McLaughlin School property at 6501 Poplar Avenue as an important public purpose; affirms that the City Council and staff will take action to advance this public purpose; and authorizes the city to submit a bid for the purchase of the property and/or participate in the land use development process in order to preserve the wooded area (Parcel 3) of the Washington-McLaughlin School property in its natural state.

Pediatric Care opens in Takoma/Langley Crossroads

A new doctor has moved into town, and she is all about taking care of kids. Pediatric Care, in the Takoma/Langley Crossroads area at 7505 New Hampshire Ave., Suite 302, is headed up by pediatrician Ndidi Agholor, MD, who chose the Crossroads for her children’s healthcare practice because of its diverse customer base. She provides healthcare for infants, children and adolescents as a Board-Certified Pediatrician, and her extensive menu of services includes online access to medical records, 24-hour access to medical advice, multilingual staff (English, Spanish and Amharic), school and sports physicals, routine immunizations, flu shots, ear piercing, hearing and vision screening, adolescent counseling, ADHD evaluation, behavior assessment and specialist referrals.

Same-day appointments and weekend and evening hours are available and most major insurances are accepted at Pediatric Care, along with Medicaid.

Dr. Agholor grew up in the Maryland suburbs and graduated from Howard University, doing her residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore. She has wanted to be a pediatrician since she was a child, and says she enjoys working with children. Prior to opening her own practice, she spent ten years in a private medical practice at Washington Hospital Center.
What’s Next?

Takoma Junction redevelopment process just beginning

The redevelopment of the Takoma Junction parking lot has been a focus of the City Council since the announcement of the four finalists in September: five City Council meetings have been held, presentations were made by the finalists, an open house was held where community residents were given an opportunity to meet with the finalists, and more than 300 public comments have been submitted.

This is just the beginning. If the City Council decides that it wants to proceed with the proposed redevelopment of the site (it could also decide not to pursue development of the site), it will be many months before any final decision is made or plans for the site are finalized.

What happens if the City Council selects one of the four finalists for the development of the site? Will the community be given an opportunity to weigh in on the design or are the plans already final?

The Takoma Junction redevelopment project is a multi-step process and the city and the finalists are still in the early stages of discussion. At this point, the finalists have presented only concept plans – essentially ideas for the site - which will be refined as negotiations progress and the selected proposal moves through the various levels of required approval. The public will have many opportunities to continue to present their suggestions for incorporation in the final design of the selected proposal to the developer, to City Council and to the Montgomery County Planning Board.

What’s next for the Takoma Park City Council?

If the City Council elects to proceed with the development of the site, the city will then negotiate with the selected finalist to clarify how the site would be used and incorporate specific design features into the project. For instance, negotiations could address how the public would continue to access parking provided in the development. The council could also negotiate for the inclusion of desired public amenities identified by the community.

What is the Community Design Process?

Each of the finalists has proposed undertaking a community design process, such as a charrette or a community-based collaboration, which will begin after a developer is selected. In the community design process, the selected developer will host open meetings and invite community input as they redesign and refine their concept plans. This process allows the developer to incorporate specific design features valued by the community, to carefully study conflicting views, and to explore creative alternatives. It is important to remember that the designs that have been presented to date are only concepts, not finalized versions, and may change in many significant ways including siting, materials, scale, etc.

What about the Montgomery County Planning Board?

Once the design plans have been refined, the project will be further reviewed as a part of the Montgomery County development process which includes opportunities for public comment. A multi-phased process, the project will go through the following reviews prior to its finalization:

- The Mandatory Referral Review: Because the property is owned by the city, its sale or development must go through the Planning Board’s Mandatory Referral Review process, which includes a public hearing.
- Development Review: If the city sells or conveys the Takoma Junction Lot, the new owner can proceed with the typical development review process involving a Preliminary Plan and Site Plan. The Planning Board reviews the plans at a public hearing. The city and community groups can attend and provide written or oral testimony.
- Permitting: The Takoma Junction site is included in the Takoma Historic District and, like any other project in the district, it will require a Historic Area Work Permit. The proposal will be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission which must approve the design prior to the issuance of any building permit by the Department of Permitting Services. The city and the public can attend the commission meeting and provide comment on the proposal during this review.

What’s Next?

As the City Council continues its review of the proposals submitted by the four finalists, community members will have the opportunity to present their viewpoints at one of three planned listening sessions hosted by the council. The next session is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 3 and will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center auditorium at 7 p.m. Residents may also submit comments on the project webpage, www.takomaparkmd.gov/takoma-junction-rfp or email comments directly to the city clerk at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov.

**_Save the Date!**

Takoma Park’s 125th Anniversary Celebration Kick-Off Event

April 18, 2015

To volunteer or for more information, call 301-891-7230

Details to Follow!
The Visual Made Verbal - Multi-media presentation and discussion
Thursday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.
$10 suggested donation
TP Community Center auditorium

In this 75-minute, multi-media presentation, Joel Snyder uses video and dialogue to lead the audience in a discovery of how performance, video/film, and visual displays are made accessible for growing audiences of people who are blind or have low vision. Audio Description was first used with the performing arts in Washington, D.C. in 1981. In the intervening years, Snyder has used audio description for nationally broadcast videos (including the broadcasts of both of President Obama’s inaugurations on ABC-TV), for dozens of feature films, museum exhibits throughout the country and hundreds of performing arts events, including theater, dance and opera. In an upbeat, lively and interactive performance, Snyder demonstrates how description can enhance the arts for everyone.

Archival Films of Washington, DC
from the Library of Congress
Thursday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Free
TP Community Center auditorium

C-SPAN’s Richard Hall presents a selection of short films depicting Washington, D.C. as it once was including the slice-of-life “Dawn Strikes the Capitol” (1936) and “Washington in War Time” (1943); clips from a variety of silent films such as a trip on the C&O Canal, “Down the Old Potomac” (1937); “Historic Scenes Along the Mount Vernon Highway” (1933); and silent home movie clips from the 1930s to the 1960s.

This program is inspired by guerilla archivist and “Lost Landscapes” host Rick Prelinger of San Francisco and by “Reel America,” the C-SPAN American History TV program which “shows archival films to help tell the story of the 20th century.”
**TRENDING EVENTS**

**DRAMA/THEATER**

**Dungeons and Dragons**

**Ages 9 - 18**

They creep through the twilight, quiet as shadows muttering a language long forgotten, a language only spoken by ghosts. Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group “survive.”

TP Community Center auditorium

Thursdays, Feb. 5 - Feb. 28, 4 - 6 p.m.

TP residents $55

Non-residents $65

**DROP IN**

**Kid’s Night Out**

**Ages 6 - 12**

Want a night to yourself while your kids have a blast with their friends? Bring your children to the Takoma Park Recreation Center Kid’s Night Out! This will be a fun filled night for children. It will involve activities such as games, art and crafts, movies and theme nights.

TP Recreation Center

First & Third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

Free with Recreation Center membership card

**SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH**

**Step Team**

**Ages 6 - 12**

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

TP Recreation Center front room

Ongoing, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Free with a Recreation Center membership card

**TEENS**

**DROP IN**

**Teen Lounge**

**Ages 13-17**

**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 TVs. 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 on special events for an amazing time.

TP Community Center

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, 3 – 7 p.m.

Tuesday: 3 – 8 p.m.

Ongoing

Sat and Sun: closed

**Teen Night**

**Ages 12-17**

Looking for something exciting to do? The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides high quality, affordable, safe and FUN activities for teens. Nothing to do on Friday night? 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 & Fourth Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

Free with Recreation Center membership card

**TRIPS**

**Teen Ice Skating Trip**

**Ages 12-17**

It’s a half day of school and you have nothing to do. Grab some friends, your coats and gloves and join the TPKR Teen program for a full day of fun and games and activities at the地区滑冰中心.

**SUMMER CAMP EXPO**

**Ages 3 - 17**

Come meet the instructors and discover all of the camps that the Recreation Department will be offering this year for tots, youth, and teens. Take advantage of our Early Bird Special and save 10 percent when you register between Feb. 7 - Feb. 28 for Camp Takoma, Camp Recess, and Rookie Sports Camps or Teens on the Move. You can register for camps on site or online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/ recreation. For more information contact Michael Kurland at 301-891-7285 or michaelk@takomaparkmd.gov.

TP Community Center

Saturday, Feb. 7, 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

**A full listing of our classes and programs is in the 2015 Camp Guide or help us go green and visit us online www. takomaparkmd.gov/ recreation.**

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**YOUTH ART**

**MAKE/Shift Studio I - Art Inspirations**

**Ages 8 - 11**

Elementary students create exciting two and three dimensional projects in this after school class. Projects include drawing, painting, collage, assemblage and mixed media - everyone class a different subject and medium. Children learn to express themselves and engage in visual problem solving while producing beautiful works using color, shape, line, texture and pattern. Contemporary and historical artists provide inspiration for this art program geared for third through eighth graders.

TP Community Center art studio

First & Third Fridays, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

TP residents $155

Non-residents $175

**MAKE/Shift Studio II - Drawing & Watercolor**

**Ages 11 - 14**

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

TP Community Center art studio

Tuesdays, March 10 - April 21, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

TP residents $145

Non-residents $185

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**WINTER ACTIVITIES**

**TOTS**

**DROP IN**

**Community Playtime**

**Ages 6 months - 6**

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

Helfman Park Community Center

English Session: Mondays, Aug. 25 - June 8, 10 a.m. – Noon

Spanish Session: Fridays, Aug. 29 - June 12, 10 a.m. – Noon

Free

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**RECREATION**

**Mid-Winter Play Day**

**TP Community Center**

Sunday, February 8, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Get ready for the annual Mid-Winter Play Day!! Enjoy dress up, mud pies, fun with boxes and lots of great entertainment, let your hair down, do some face painting, play with play-doh, put on your comfy shoes and get ready to PLAY!! This annual event is fun for the whole family! Volunteers needed. For more information, visit takomaplays.org or call 301-891-7290.

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**Save the Date: Annual Egg Hunt**

Get your baskets ready and join the Takoma Park Recreation Department for an “egg” citing time! There are four age categories: 2 and under, 3-4 years old, 5-6 years old, and 7-8 years old. The hunt begins at 11:00 a.m. SHARP! Don’t miss out. Don’t forget to bring your basket to Ed Wilhelm Field (behind Piney Branch Elementary School) for a morning of fun.

Saturday, April 4, 11 a.m.

Ed Wilhelm Field

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**Celebrate Takoma Vendors/Entertainers/Volunteers Needed**

The Recreation Department is beginning to plan the Third Annual Celebrate Takoma Festival for Sunday, May 17th 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 please email Debby Huffman at deborahh@takomaparkmd.gov. The Committees meet monthly in the evenings. Come join the fun!
Gearing up for camp: the whys, whens and hows

Summer may be months away, but residents can get a jump-start on planning activities – and collect all the information they need on the Recreation Department's well-regarded summer camp program – at the Summer Camp Expo, Sundays, Feb. 7 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at the Community Center. Included will be all the details on this year's fun offerings for tots, youth and teens, plus an opportunity to meet camp counselors, learn about the Counselor in Training (CIT) program, ask questions and register for camp on the spot. What will it be? Sports? Science? Art?

For more specifics, go to takomaparkmd.gov/recreation, where you will also find information on spring break camps. Meanwhile, here are some solid reasons to consider these time-honored programs for your family.

Studies have shown that there is a higher percent of knowledge acquired and retained when the educational setting is positive, motivational and filled with peer and staff interactions, and interesting and physically dynamic activities. Can you say summer camp? That’s exactly what we offer – in our programs, kids are having plenty of fun, and they don’t even realize that they are learning!

Not only is it “no more pencils, no more books,” summer orientation allows children to leave behind overly-strutured, overly-scheduled routines of the school year. At camp, they are supervised, but in a way that allows them to be carefree and silly. And since lots of programming takes place outdoors, they get to be active and reconnect with nature, enriching their perceptions of the world. Research has proven that the physical activity that camp provides promotes healthy patterns that can last a lifetime.

Camps give kids a chance to socialize, cooperate and learn to agree and even to respectfully disagree with each other. They share tasks, learn to resolve disagreements and see the importance of communication to reach a common goal. The relaxed setting lets them build friendships easily without the pressures and concealed social expectations they face during the school year.

They also get the freedom to make decisions for themselves, without parent and teachers guiding every move. That builds self-esteem and character, responsibility, resourcefulness and resilience. Some camps even include the opportunity for community service as an activity that’s been shown to develop self-efficacy and optimism.

Clearly, spring and summer camps are not just about recreation; they offer children the opportunity to learn positive life skills while they are having fun! They focus on physical fitness but they also nurture social skills development, help develop self-respect and character building, and teach community service skills – all values that are very important and have a lasting impact.

Now, for those camp choices, from cheerleading and dance, to basketball, drama and art. Check it all out at the Camp Expo.

ADULTS

ART

Collage

Ages 16 and older

Have fun working with found, purchased and altered papers, while learning how collage methodologies can enhance your art making process, whatever medium you use. This class explores ways of combining collage materials and art media. You will be introduced to a variety of collage techniques, work with elements and principals of design, and explore creative two and three dimensional assessment. Each session will be given in surface preparation, adhesives, color theory and composition and is suitable for levels.

TP Community Center art studio

Tuesdays, March 3 – April 14, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
TP residents $215
Non-residents $245

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Boom! Body Boot Camp

Ages 16 and older

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

TP Community Center dance studio

Wednesdays, 6 – 7 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 – 10 a.m.
TP residents $100
Non-residents $120
Drop in $15

Jazzercise

Ages 16 and older

Jazzercise is the art of Jazz combined with aerobic dance routines, weights for muscle strength and stretching exercises all to the beat of great music. The music ranges from oldies to jazz to the newest pop tunes.

TP Recreation Center

Ongoing, Mondays and Wednesdays, 7 – 8 p.m.
Ongoing, Saturdays, 8 a.m. – 9 a.m.
$45 PER MONTH ET (Easy Fitness Ticket) $120/8 week pass
$15 drop-in

FOREVER YOUNG: 55 PLUS

DROP IN

Bingo

Ages 55 and older

Try your luck. Win a prize.

TP Community Center senior room

Thursday, Feb. 26, Noon – 2 p.m.
Free

Blood Pressure Screening

Ages 55 and older

Adventist Healthcare will be doing a free monthly blood pressure screening.

TP Community Center senior room

Thursday, Feb. 26, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Free

Table Tennis

Ages 55 and older

Come play this fun, energetic game. A great way to improve eye-hand coordination: helps keep the body healthy and the mind sharp.

Drop-in

TP Community Center game room

Ongoing, Mondays – Saturdays, 10 a.m. – noon
Free

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Computer Class

Ages 55 and older

Learn to use the internet, a word processing program and email. You can register at the Takoma Park Library card* to access the computers, and take this course. Limit six. Instructors: Phil Shapiro, Jim Mueller. Six weeks.

TP Community Center

April 15 – May 20, 10 a.m. – 12 noon
TP residents $10
Non-residents $15
Drop in $3

Zumba Gold - Saturdays

Thursdays, until Mar 5, 12 - 1 p.m.
Email: paulal@takomaparkmd.gov

Free

Fitness Room Equipment Orientation

Ages 55 and older

Join Rochelle Coleman, certified fitness instructor, for a one-time orientation for use on using the fitness equipment. For more information, call Paula Lisowski at 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

TP Recreation Center Fitness Room

Thursdays, Feb. 5 and Feb. 19, Noon - 1 p.m.
Free

Sidewalk Walking Group

Ages 55 and older

Don’t worry about the weather. Join your neighbors and friends for indoor laps. For more information contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager at 301-891-7280 or email: paulal@takomaparkmd.gov.

TP Recreation Center gymnasiun

March 5 – 28, 10 a.m. – 12 noon
TP residents $75
Non-residents $95

Tennis Fun and Fitness

Ages 55 and older

Rediscover your love of tennis or help find it.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium

Punzio, 10 a.m. – 12 noon
TP residents $80
Non-residents $99

TP Community Center auditorium

Tuesdays, Feb. 24 – Mar. 24, 1-3:30 p.m.
Tuition waiver applies
Ages 60 and older: $60
Ages 55-59: $127
Registration includes tuition and can be prepaid, but you can bring your own request. Instructor Coach SJ, Moving Forward Tennis.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium

Wednesdays, Feb. 25 – Apr. 1, 10 a.m. – Noon
TP residents $115
Non-residents $126

FYE - Financial Years Ending

Ages 55 and older

Echoing the feeling that there is a near end to the current fiscal year, the financial information session is positive, motivational and filled with peer and staff interactions, and interesting and physically dynamic activities. Can you say summer camp? That’s exactly what we offer – in our programs, kids are having plenty of fun, and they don’t even realize that they are learning!

Not only is it “no more pencils, no more books,” summer orientation allows children to leave behind overly-strutured, overly-scheduled routines of the school year. At camp, they are supervised, but in a way that allows them to be carefree and silly. And since lots of programming takes place outdoors, they get to be active and reconnect with nature, enriching their perceptions of the world. Research has proven that the physical activity that camp provides promotes healthy patterns that can last a lifetime.

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PETS

Dog Manners for Life

Ages 6 months – 6 years

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, please.

Heffner Park Community Center

Wednesdays, Feb. 25 – Apr. 1, 8 – 9 p.m.
TP residents $119
Non-residents $139

Puppy Kindergarten

Ages 8 weeks – 5 months

If you have puppy, you need Puppy Kindergarten! 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. Most of all, we’ve had fun! No pinch, prong, choke, or electronic collars in the classroom.

Heffner Park Community Center

Wednesdays, Feb. 25 – Apr. 1, 8:45 – 7:45 p.m.
TP residents $119
Non-residents $139
Graphic novels and kids’ favorite authors featured in February

We’ve got three authors talking about their newest books at the library this month. Politics and Prose Bookstore will be selling books at all three events, but no purchase is required to attend these free events. First up, on Wed., Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. is best-selling kids’ novelist Gordon Korman, who will present his newest book, “Masterminds.” Korman, who published his first book at the age of 14, has written more than 85 books that have sold 17 million copies. Among his books are such kid favorites as the “Swindle” series, “Schooled,” “Un mogul,” and several books in “The 39 Clues” series. Korman’s newest book, “Masterminds,” is the first in a new series and tells the story of several kids who discover that their seemingly perfect town holds some disturbing secrets.

The following evening, Thursday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m., graphic novelist George O’Connor talked about “Ares,” the newest book in his critically-acclaimed “Olympians” series of graphic novels about the Greek gods. O’Connor, who drew a large crowd of young fans last year at the library, also will be doing a drawing demonstration. Our final February author is graphic novelist (and Takoma Park resident) Gareth Hinds, who will spotlight his newest book, “Macbeth.” It’s the latest in Hinds’ award-winning series of graphic novel adaptations of classic works such as “The Odyssey,” “Beowulf,” and “Romeo and Juliet.” Hinds will talk about how he creates his adaptations, and demonstrate some of his drawing techniques.

Please join us for one or all of these great author events!
Friends Reading Group celebrates authors from Japan and Russia

Kenzaburo Oe was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1994. Today he remains a major figure in contemporary Japanese literature. On Wednesday, March 4, the Friends of the Library will meet in the Community Center at 7:30 p.m. to discuss a collection of four of his published novels, entitled “Teach Us To Outgrow Our Madness,” which also includes “The Day He Himself Shall Wipe My Tears Away,” “Prize Stock,” and “Agh- wee the Sky Monster.”

Oe’s works deal with political, social and philosophical issues including nuclear weapons, nuclear power, social non-conformism and existentialism. He believes that he is a very Japanese writer, once telling the New York Times, “I have always wanted to write about our country, our society and feelings about the contemporary scene. But there is a big difference between us and classic Japanese literature.”

Oe’s latest works tend “toward bolder experiments with the technique of ‘de-familiarization’ by negotiating his narratives across several imaginary landscapes pertaining to painting, film, drama, music and architecture,” according to Leo Ou-fan, who wrote in Muse. “Gone are the days when it was enough simply to write a novel or story.”

On the following Wednesday, March 11, the Friends Big Book Club returns to examine Tolstoy with the first in a series of discussions on his masterpiece, “Anna Karenina.” Dr. Cynthia Martin, associate professor of Russian School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures at the University of Maryland will give an introductory lecture at the Historic Takoma facility at 7328 Carroll Ave. at 7:30 pm. Author Jilly Cooper says of “Anna Karenina,” “Very few men write very well about women, but Tolstoy understood women just as well as men…Anna is a wonderful character. She comes across as so gorgeous and adorable, and her sex appeal radiates down the centuries.” Francine Prose observes in The Guardian, “More than any other book, it persuades me that there is such a thing as human nature, and that some part of that nature remains fundamentally unaffected by history and culture.”

All are welcome to join the Friends’ book discussions. The talk at Historic Takoma will include spirited refreshments.
Winter, almost over: Safe passage outdoors, fun indoors

By the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee

January presented us with some winter experiences we don’t like: snow and late notices of delays, which meant we had to shovel before walking or riding, power outages due to freezing rain and searching for the flashlight which we’d put in a closet somewhere. This month we present a few questions, answers and suggestions from community members about safely walking (or biking) in a winter wonderland, teaching low-tech prevention (go to text), and turning safety education into fun and games indoors.

Q: I don’t have a car, so I walk to the metro, to the co-op, the cleaning store, you name it. Any tips on getting around safely this winter weather?

Thanks for reminding us that there are non-auto options for getting around! To remain warm and safe, here are a few suggestions: wear layered clothing (waterproof outer shell, gloves (mittens are warmest, although not as adaptable as using fingers)); warm socks and closed shoes that hug the feet. For hands and feet you might consider buying hand warmers and toe warmers, little inserts that heat up within five minutes when exposed to air and stay warm for hours (available at many drugstores and outdoors activity shops). Wear a hat which covers the ears, or add ear muffs. A head cover that allows for covering part of the face, or a scarf that does the same, is also important. Carry a portable flashlight – and make sure it works before putting it in your pocket! If it’s a long walk, have a small water bottle handy—yes you can get overheated in freezing weather. For walking in darkness, consider a reflective vest.

For those determined to ride a bike, the same recommendations apply, plus make sure you have a tire pump and changing kit. A helmet is also important. By choosing the least pollutants, the “swift completion of your appointments”

Q: I’m bored and tired of having others tell me what to do. Are there any free computer games about emergencies I can play while I’m in charge?

So you want to be the boss? Try this one and see how well you score; www.stopsdisastersgame.org/en/home.html. Developed by the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, this simulation focuses on managing a variety of natural disasters. You choose the type of disaster – tsunami, hurricane, wildfire, earthquake, flood – then click the type of disaster – tsunami, hurricane, flood – and see what happens. You can also design your own emergency response and see how well it works. You can design your own emergency response and see how well it works. You can design your own emergency response and see how well it works.

Q: My friend told me to teach my not-so-tech-savvy parents how to text in case of accident. Why?

This could be fun, and it’s important! Yes—give your parents or other critical contacts the lessons (if they don’t already know). Text messages can often get around the network disruptions that crop up during area-wide emergencies, even if a call cannot get through. And while you’re setting this up, make sure your phone and theirs have a listing for ICE (In Case of Emergency) so emergency personnel can easily find the contacts if you are in an accident, if a school is shut down, or if there is an evacuation or other serious event.

Q: I just heard about ‘Designing for Disaster’: is this a play, a video game, or a fashion show?

None of the above! It’s the title of an interactive exhibit at the National Building Museum that deals with disaster situations. It features multimedia and huge video screens showing massive wind or rain storms in action, separate rooms that focus on earthquakes, fire, water, wind and air disasters (such as hurricanes, buildings falling from earthquakes, tornados). There are computer games and a room with samples of an emergency prep kit, solar-powered lights, a “go bag” and more. The exhibit continues through Aug. 2, and offers tours Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m., and sometimes on Wednesdays at noon. Learn more at www.nbm.org/exhibitions-collections/exhibitions/designing-for-disaster.html.

Toys! Toys! Toys! A super thanks to the students at the Sligo Elementary School in Takoma Park for donating a large number of toys to the Takoma Park VFD Toy Drive. Pictured with the children, from left, Jim Jarboe, teacher Kelly Ballard and FF/EMT Adam Bearne.

What Fire Hazards Affect Older People?

Cooking Accidents are the leading cause of fire-related injuries for older Americans. The kitchen is one of the most active and potentially dangerous rooms in the home.

Unsafe Use of Smoking Materials is the leading cause of fire deaths among older Americans.

Faulty Wiring is another major cause of fires affecting the elderly. Older homes can have serious wiring problems, ranging from old appliances with bad wiring to overloaded sockets.

If you have family members who are older, it may be a good idea to check on them at least once a month.

TPFV – 24 years providing toys for children in need

The TPVFD is proud to announce that the volunteers put in a grand total of 16,542 hours of standby duty at the station during 2014, an increase of 6,113 hours over 2013.

Maryland Fire Deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported that the grand total for 2014 of fire-related deaths was 62, compared to 69 in 2013. As of Jan. 16, 2015, two people have died in fires compared to 3 in 2014.

By Jim Jarboe
City purchase, said Carol Hutton, a long-time member of the tree commision, would ‘help protect urban tree canopy at a time when that canopy is in severe stress,’ and could preserve wild-life habitat as well as maintain carbon sequestration provided by mature trees. Lorraine Pearsall, vice president/secretary of Historic Takoma, urged the city to move quickly and seize the ‘unusual’ oppor-tunity to purchase open space in the city. ‘I don’t see how we can afford not to do it.’

Several speakers linked the other parcel, which includes the school building, to the purchase of the woods. It is not for sale at this time, but if it does become available several speakers suggested it could serve the entire community. ‘Taka-ma Park needs housing, and the lower part of the tract would be excellent for housing,’ said Steve Nadel, who lives in the neighborhood. ‘Building in the woods I don’t think makes much sense.’

**Plan B**

Council was swayed to at least bid the minimum. Meanwhile, a group of residents calling itself Plan B met several times to explore the possibility of pool-ing their money to purchase the land themselves, or find a conservation group to protect it, should the city fail to do so. It was a whirlwind process of copi-ous emails and listserve messages, a se ries of weekend and weekend meetings, hours of discussion both on and off mic, tromps through the woods to survey the state of the land, posting of signs to urge neighbors to ‘Save Our Woods,’ and, fi-nally, checks delivered to ‘neighborhood captains’ who collected donations for the cause. Finally, Plan B collected $50,000 to present to City Council as it worked to de-termine a bid ceiling. Two days later, the sum had grown to $113,000.

‘Takoma Park City Council and staff deeply appreciate the initiative and gen-erosity of the residents that raised over $100,000 to assist in securing the prop-erty,’ city staff wrote in a release. Fred Schultz, councilmember from Ward 6, attended the auction and says that while many residents want the city to spend municipal money on their pet projects, when Plan B came forward with dona-tions he knew this time things were dif-ferent. Their commitment convinced him to bid on the land.

‘It shows a great willingness on the part of Takoma Park residents to stand up for what they believe in and put their money where their mouth is,’ said Mayor Bruce Williams, who also attended the auction.

**Children painted the banner, “We Love Our Trees,” and a picture of a hawk like the ones that nest near their homes, to encourage the city’s bid to buy the beloved woods in their neighbor-hood. After the auction, they were all giggles and play.**

EDMUNDS

handed to be chosen as semifinalists in the Georgetown University Energy Prize competition. We’ve recognized that the reduction of energy use through efficiency is the cheapest and easiest way to reduce our energy footprint.’

The key, says Williams, is to get resi-dents involved. ‘We need to encourage participation,’ he says. ‘The Georgetown University Energy Prize Competition will help mobilize residents around the com-mon goal of proving just how green Ta-koma Park can be.’

‘Residents of Takoma Park, myself included, take pride in environmental stewardship and community participation,’ adds Gina Mathias, who last year was hired as the city’s first sustainability manager. ‘This competition is something everyone can rally together to support… Our resi-dents are passionate, and they do not want to be outdone.’

“Takoma Park leaders, as well as may-or and executives across the county, have told us that this prize gives them the momentum to accelerate their energy efficiency efforts,” says Dr. Francis Slakey, founder and executive director of the Georgetown University Energy Prize. “These semifinalists communities are leading the way for other small- and medium-

size cities and counties to secure their energy-efficient future.”

Over the past few years Takoma Park has taken bold environmental action on a number of fronts. The city scored the most points of any newly certified community when it gained its ‘Sustainable Maryland Certified’ status in 2014. In 2013 the City Council passed the Safe Grow Act, which restricts the use of cosmetic lawn pesti-cides on both private and public property throughout the city. This landmark legis-lation marked the first time that a local jurisdiction of this size used its author-ity to restrict pesticide use on private and public property.

More recently, in November 2014, the city’s Young Activist Act Of 2014 began restrictions on the commercial use of polystyrene food-service ware in Takoma Park, one of the first cities to ban not just ‘Styrofoam’ food service ware, but also non-expanded polystyrene.


**Energy Prize**

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**Nuts and bolts of participation**

Takoma Park does not yet have a de-tailed plan of what to do with the $5 mil-lion prize if the city should win, but one thing is sure: It would be used to directly benefit the community and to continue innovation and progress for environmen-tal sustainabilty. “In a small city of barely 17,000 residents, $5 million would cer-tainly go a long way,” says Mathias.

Mathias is excited about the “new and innovative programs” the city will un-dertake over the next two years of the competition. These include updating city buildings with new energy efficiency equipment, coordinating new solar instal-lations, converting streetlights to energy-saving LEDs, and creating a sustainability grant fund to help residents make energy-efficient upgrades.

The first step residents can take to help Takoma Park win the $5 million prize is to reduce energy use at home. To start, the city is now offering a free energy coaching service. Energy coaching can help renters and home owners find ways to reduce energy use and save money at home. Some of the benefits include:

- Lowering utility bills
- Qualifying for rebates of up to $3,800 on insulation, air sealing and more
- Understanding energy audit reports
- Finding “next level” energy savings
- Ideas for do-it-yourself fixes
- Engaging kids in saving energy
- Organizing a green team in your building or neighborhood
- Keeping an eye out this winter for a new Neighborhood Energy Challenge, a friendly local competition to encourage neighbors to work together to save energy.

There will be prizes for the city’s biggest energy champions, and a grand prize for the neighborhood with the biggest ener-gy reduction. Don’t worry if you live in a multi-family building, you will still be able to compete.

Want to get involved? Be a neighborhood energy champion and get a head start on the neighborhood energy chal-lenge. Host an energy party at your home and, as sustainability manager, Mathias says she can make a presentation, give recommendations, and even coordinate local experts to attend.

To learn more about the Georgetown University Energy Prize and to track the competition’s progress, visit www.guep.org, or follow the Prize on Twitter (@GUEnergyPrize) or Facebook (www.facebook.com/geoenergyprize).

For more information about Takoma Park’s efforts and ways you can get in-inolved, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov or contact Gina Mathias, sustainability man-ager, gmathias@takomaparkmd.gov.
PUBLIC MEETINGS / OF NOTE

City Council
Monday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.*
Tuesday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m., special meeting to hear comments on Takoma Junction redevelopment.
Monday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.*
Monday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7 p.m., special meeting to hear comments on Takoma Junction redevelopment.
Wednesday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m., City Council-Department Roundtables
Tuesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m., City Council-Department Roundtables
Monday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.
Meetings take place in the TPCC auditorium, unless noted otherwise.

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

Washington’s Birthday
City offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 16, in honor of George Washington’s birthday.

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

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Mid-Winter Play Day
TP Community Center
Sunday, Feb. 8, 1 – 4 p.m.
Dress up, mud pies, fun with boxes, face painting, play-doh, and great entertainment.
www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts

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.
Troyh, 232 Carroll Street NW
Various food vendors.

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 March issue is Feb. 16, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Feb. 27.

To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

“TP Community Center” is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7600 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park or Takoma, D.C., unless otherwise noted.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Takoma Park Middle School Used Book Sale
Friday, Feb. 20, 6 – 9 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 21, 9 a.m. – noon
More than 4,000 books on all subjects and for all ages, priced at $1-$2.
Free
Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/takomaparks

Balloon Plays
Saturday, Feb. 21, 11 a.m.
Three clowns find themselves in a world of balloons, before an audience of both children and children at heart. Each tells a story within the magical landscape.
$10 suggested donation
TP Community Center auditorium
www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts

El Barrio tambien Canta
Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Live Latin American music including bachata, ranchera, baladas, cumbia, and reggaeton.
Free
TP Community Center auditorium

Casino de Lata
Friday, Feb. 27, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Casino de Lata features Spanish language theatrical performances by actors from across the Washington Metropolitan area. Storytelling, one act plays, poetry and more.
Free
TP Community Center auditorium

Azalea City CD Release Concert
Sunday, March 1, 7 p.m.
Hear some of the finest local musicians from Azalea City Recordings, a local record label cooperative.
$10 suggested donation
TP Community Center auditorium
www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts