New Year, new mayor, new conversations

By Apryl Motley

Newly elected Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart can't wait to hear what the community has to say about a variety of issues that will impact residents. While email and listservs have their place in City-wide communications, Stewart finds them not as helpful for “having meaningful conversations and dialogue about difficult issues.”

There is no shortage of those as she begins her term. Topping her list of priorities are community policing, development of Takoma Park Junction, and affordable housing. In addition, addressing residents' concerns about Washington Adventist Hospital’s move and developing the FY17 budget are top priorities. So where to begin?

For Stewart, the answer lies in engaging more members of the community to discuss how these issues affect them and the overall culture of Takoma Park. “The way to achieve greater community engagement is for our City staff, City council and residents to all be working together,” she said.

“In particular, we need to shift the framework for how we think about community engagement,” she continued. “The model for how we generally think about it now is that residents need to come to City staff or the City Council. I would like to see more of us getting out into the community more often.”

To that end, plans are already under way to facilitate the types of interactions and conversations Stewart believes will be most valuable to all members of the community. One of them will be Friday morning coffees around the City in which Stewart, the City manager, the City Council person for that area, and other City staff will participate.

“We would pick a central location near metro and bus routes, start at 7:30 a.m. and be available for two hours for people to drop by on their way to work and talk about issues that are impacting that part of the community,” Stewart explained. Location and other details are being worked on for the first Friday coffee of the year, which will be announced soon.

Along similar lines, Stewart envisions holding quarterly community conversations during the year where “we can bring together members of the community, outside experts, City staff, and the City Council to have conversations about issues we need to address as a whole community.” The first community conversation is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 6, and will be announced soon.

For Stewart the coffees and conversations are small, but integral, parts of a larger effort to increase civic engagement. The establishment of the center will ensure that there will be no gap in providing the primary care services the community needs. “Clearly the commissioner recognized the need for these services based on the information the City has presented,” said City Manager Suzanne Ludlow.

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Stewart hopes to build on the community interest generated from just having an election. “People are paying attention to what’s going on in terms of the City Council...”

“With the election being one of the things that kept our year on track,” Stewart said. “Our year is just beginning.”
COMMEMORATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING

Learn about the new programs and comment. The Takoma Park Commemoration Commission will hold a public hearing on Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium regarding the Commission’s proposed five personal recognition programs. The Commission proposes to begin accepting applications for these new programs in February 2016. The proposed personal recognition programs include 1) an existing bench and new commemorative plaque program, 2) an existing tree and new commemorative plaque program, 3) a new bench and commemorative plaque program, 4) a new bench and commemorative plaque program, and 5) an honor gift tree program. The eligibility and cost requirements for each program are posted for review at www.takomaparkmd.gov. The Commemoration Commission was established in November 2014 by the Takoma Park City Council. The legislation established three recognition levels to be administered by the Commission: 1) a City-wide recognition program, 2) a neighborhood/local recognition program, and 3) a personal recognition program. The Jan. 12 hearing will present the Commission’s personal recognition programs proposed by the Commission. Residents who wish to learn more about the new programs and comment on the programs can sign up to testify at the hearing.

NOISE CONTROL BOARD TO BE REESTABLISHED – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The City Council is seeking applicants to serve on the Noise Control Board. The Board assists and advises the City on noise control issues, including administration and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance. The Board adjudicates noise disturbance complaints. Board members serve staggered three-year terms. Vacancies: five to seven. Apply by Jan. 29. Contact Jesse Carpenter, jessic@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7337, for more information.

Vacancies on City Boards, Commissions and Committees

The following groups have vacancies as of Dec. 16:

- The Arts and Humanities Commission advises the City Council on ways in which the City can best serve the public with regard to matters involving the arts; encourages and aids the appreciation and awareness of, and participation in, the arts among all Takoma Park residents; encourages cooperation and coordination among individuals, organizations and institutions concerned with the arts in Takoma Park; and facilitates employment opportunities for artists and the development of self-sustaining arts programs. Vacancies: up to five.
- The Board of Elections plans and conducts regular and special City elections in coordination with the City Clerk; encourages voter registration in the City; conducts voter education programs and prepares and distributes voter outreach materials; recommends to the City amendments to the City’s elections law and regulations; and deems such amendments are necessary and will provide for the improved conduct of elections; and periodically reviews City elections procedures. Apply by Jan. 15. Vacancies: one.
- The City Council. The Commemoration Commission documents, maintains, and preserves past, present, and future memorials, commemoratives, and recognitions in the City; recommends to the City 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 requests for changes or additions for public review and comment. Vacancies: three.
- The Commemoration Commission advises the City Council on all environmental issues, including, stormwater management, greenhouse gas reduction, air quality, tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning and restoration, energy use, transportation, energy conservation, and recycling; serves in partnership with the City Council and Takoma Park 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. Vacancies: two.
- The Emergency Preparedness Commission assists in reviewing the City’s Emergency Operations Plan and other supporting emergency documents and recommending changes; explores the formation of volunteer teams that can assist City in carrying out emergency activities when called upon; coordinates with the City, County and other agencies to educate residents on their individual responsibilities in preparing for emergencies; provides information on what residents can expect from the City and County during an emergency; collects and provides research and data and comments on emergency-related events for the Council; identifies and promotes volunteer opportunities in emergencies; and advises the City on strategies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of City preparedness activities. Vacancies: one.
- The Ethics Commission provides written advisory opinions; investigates, hears, and decides in ethics inquiries and complaints; conducts a public education program; recommends legislative changes and improvements to the Ethics Ordinance; and promulgates regulations to accompany the Ethics Ordinance. Vacancies: two.
- The Grants Review Committee evaluates applications for funding from a variety of programs including the City’s Cultural and S.T.E.M. grants, Program and Operational Support grants, and Capital Project grants, and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Vacancies: one.
- The Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Commission oversees implementation and adherence to the City’s Nuclear Free Zone Act and provides public information and issues related to the Ordinance. Vacancies: one.
- The Recreation Committee advises the City Council on how to best serve the diverse recreation needs of Takoma Park residents, including but not limited to reviewing and recommending policies and programs that concern recreational opportunities within the City, with a special emphasis on youth and seniors and broad and diverse participation. Vacancies: five.
- The Safe Roadways Committee advises the City Council with respect to developing and implementing policies to increase transportation safety and accessibility in Takoma Park, especially for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders. Vacancies: three.

Please note the new day (Wednesday) and consistent 7:30 p.m. start time for City Council Meetings.
Some CHEER for the New Year

TP News: What are the primary goals of CHEER’s ongoing civic engagement program?
Baker: We’ve conducted focus groups with tenants and other residents to learn about their barriers to civic engagement. We want to identify actions we can take to bridge that gap and increase their level of engagement. We want them to be engaged beyond voting on Election Day by volunteering with local nonprofits or participating in PTAs, for example. These activities become part of their lives, so they feel more connected to their community.

TP News: What do you want residents of Takoma Park to know most about CHEER?
Baker: CHEER is a data-driven, results-based, inclusive model of civic engagement. We started from a group of citizens who were charged with determining how to allocate funds to programs in Takoma Park. We didn’t have information about those organizations or know people who were familiar with them. We needed to create a more inclusive process, so more people could be involved. As an organization, we are exploring a way of engaging people and building relationships so that more people get involved and participate in CHEER and in the community in general.

TP News: What was your most significant accomplishment in 2015?
Baker: It would be the establishment of the Takoma Park Youth Collaborative and our overall efforts aimed at helping youth. The program got off the ground last year. In 2014 we had a serious discussion about the needs of youth in the community and what was missing became a list of goals. One of which was to get youth employment ready. We found that many of them did not have opportunities to receive any type of job readiness training. Last year we worked with other organizations, such as MANUP, Gandhi Brigade Identity, to create a work readiness campaign for young people ages 16 to 19, the Who Wants to Work Challenge. From March 4 to April 8, thirty local youth participated in at least one of six sessions. Seven completed the program and earned referrals for employment.

TP News: What are you most looking forward to in the year ahead?
Baker: Continuing to focus on civic engagement for those who are absent from the process and continuing tenant engagement in Takoma Park and Long Branch.
New and improved: City launches new website

The City recently launched its new website. One of the key strategies behind the redesign was to give the site a new foundation, which makes updates easier for staff and offers increased usability for residents.

First, the website design is completely responsive. The layout will adjust to display well on mobile devices like smartphones and tablets. Also, the search function on the site is now powered by Google Custom Search. While search improvement is very much an iterative process, according to City Media Specialist Craig Terrill, site users “should expect to see steady improvements with search as the new site matures.”

In addition to these noticeable enhancements, there are numerous “under-the-hood” features that, while largely invisible to users, will enhance the site’s accessibility and help move it towards ADA compliance. “One of the main reasons for the redesign was the underlying technology of the old website wasn’t really a great fit for us,” Terrill said. “It was too complex, too hard to maintain and too difficult to style into an attractive and modern site.” After choosing a firm to redesign the site through an RFP process, Terrill and other City staff built the new site from the ground up, which will make it easier to add new features in the future. According to Terrill, “the old site just wasn’t that agile, we’re in a much better place now.”

www.takomaparkmd.gov

Notice of Proposed Administrative Regulations


An Administrative Regulation is being proposed to provide specifics to Chapter 6.16.090 of the Takoma Park Code—Fees—General provision, and maximum fees for optional services and amenities in residential rental facilities.

Pursuant to the requirements of the “Administrative Regulations Ordinance” (Authority: Chapter 2.12 “Administrative Regulations,” of the Takoma Park Code), notice of the City’s intention to adopt an administrative regulation must be publicly noted, allowing residents the opportunity to comment on the proposal. The proposed regulation is available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/ck. To obtain further information about the proposed regulation, contact Sara Anne Daines, Housing and Community Development Department, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912, 301-891-7224, sarad@takomaparkmd.gov. Written comments on the proposed regulation may be sent to the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912 or e-mailed to clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The deadline for receipt of public comments is Jan. 31.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

RESOLUTION 2015-67
Adopted Dec. 7, 2015
Council Procedures
Adopts revised City Council rules of procedure

RESOLUTION 2015-68
Adopted Dec. 14, 2015
Council Winter Recess
Sets the City Council’s winter recess to begin Dec. 15 and extend through Jan. 12, 2016

RESOLUTION 2015-69
Adopted Dec. 14, 2015
Committee on the Environment Appointment
Appoints Jamey Gerlaugh to the Committee on the Environment

RESOLUTION 2015-70
Adopted Dec. 14, 2015
Grants Review Committee Appointments
Appoints Nadine Bloch and Jay Keller to the Grants Review Committee

RESOLUTION 2015-71
Adopted Dec. 14, 2015
Nuclear-Free Zone Committee Appointments
Appoints Katherine Tucker and Kevin Martin to the Takoma Park Nuclear-Free Zone Committee

RESOLUTION 2015-72
Adopted Dec. 14, 2015
Commemoration Commission Appointment
Appoints Bruce R. Williams to the Commemoration Commission

RESOLUTION 2015-73
Adopted Dec. 14, 2015
Recreation Committee Appointment
Appoints Rachna Rikhye to the Recreation Committee

RESOLUTION 2015-74
Adopted Dec. 14, 2015
Tree Commission Appointment
Appoints Tina Murray to the Tree Commission

Lifelong Link

This is a new feature that connects City of Takoma residents with resources. It is brought to you by the Lifelong Takoma Program.

Q: What is a resource for dental care for seniors?
A: You can contact the Howard University Dental Clinic. This resource is useful for residents of all ages, including those 55+. The address is Howard University College of Dentistry, 600 W St., NW, 3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20001. They have the CIAP Program, which focuses specifically on providing dental treatments for seniors. The program operates on a walk-in basis on the 3rd floor. The clinic is open Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on Wednesdays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, contact Ms. Rodgers at 240-499-6010 and leave a detailed message. You may also just want to go to the clinic to gain more information and be treated.

You can also contact the University of Maryland School of Dentistry. They also treat people of all ages. The school is located at 650 W. Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md. 21202.

To schedule an appointment for screening, call 410-706-7063. Following screening, you will be referred to the appropriate clinic for treatment. They do provide advanced dentistry, which includes root canals and dentures. Prices are 20 to 50 percent cheaper than at a private practice.

Q: Which groups offer rides to seniors?
A: Village Rides is a volunteer ride program offered through the nonprofit Village of Takoma Park. Rides need to be scheduled a week in advance, and you can get rides to doctor appointments, church, grocery shopping, events, etc. For more information or to schedule a ride, call 301-255-4212.

Q: Is it too late to sign up for the Snow Angels Snow Removal Program?
A: The Snow Angels Program will be opening up its availability in mid-January to include additional residents who hadn’t contacted the program by Dec. 1. If you have a physical disability that prevents you from removing snow from your residence and sidewalks, you may call (301-891-7232) or email (lifelong@takomaparkmd.gov) the Lifelong Takoma Program to register. Registration for the program requires that you provide your name, phone number, address and brief information that confirms your need. Calls and emails will be returned when the program re-opens in mid-January.

Too many cars

Do your neighbors have one or more cars in their driveways or in their yards that never seem to move? It’s not just an eyesore; it may also be against City code, and your neighbor may be a car hoarder. The City requires that all vehicles and trailers stored on any premises must be tagged and operable. Vehicles are to display license plates with current expiration tags or temporary registration cards. Just covering the vehicle with a tarp or car cover does not make things okay—the vehicle needs to be operable and tagged. Vehicles may not be in a state of major disassembly or disrepair, so those repair jobs need to be done at a shop or elsewhere. Car parts are to be stored in a garage or shed. Vehicles must also be parked on surfaced areas like driveways or parking pads. Lastly, vehicles should never be used for storage of excess possessions. Let’s help keep our neighborhoods looking good.
Personal Panoramas Exhibit Opening
Thursday, Jan. 7, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
The Takoma Park Community Center Atrium Gallery
7500 Maple Avenue

The artists of Personal Panoramas, the forthcoming exhibit at the Takoma Park Community Center, zoom-out to hone in on the beauty in everyday environments.

Havana’s colorful streets and a forest’s layered canopy are muses of two featured artists, which include Allan Akman, Julia Bloom, Kristine DeNinno, Alex Keto, Jacqueline Lee and Marcie Wolf-Hubbard. The exhibit opens with a reception Jan. 7 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. in the center’s Atrium Gallery, 7500 Maple Avenue.

Printmakers Akman and DeNinno share a studio at Pyramid Atlantic Arts Center, but their similarities end there. While Akman, a retired government consultant, makes color-rich prints from photographs, DeNinno emphasizes texture in her abstract monotypes inspired by nature. Akman’s work will show in the Atrium Gallery, and DeNinno’s work will show in the Dempsey Gallery.

Natural elements also inform Julia Bloom’s sculptures, which will show in the Suspended Space. Bloom makes sculptures from sticks, wire, and sometimes, a coat of paint. Although the materials are minimal, the result is strong and complex. “My sculptures’ intersecting lines reflect the complexity of natural systems,” Bloom said in her artist statement, “the fragility and evanescence of light, air and shadow.”

Encaustic artist Wolf-Hubbard and mixed-media artist Lee also manipulate unexpected materials in their respective representations of the human form and landscapes. Wolf-Hubbard will show in the Corridor Space, and Lee will show in Gallery 3.

Photographer Alex Keto will show images from his Cuba Series in the Atrium Gallery. His series ramps up reality with highly saturated colors and stitched-together panoramas. “Obama announced that we could travel to Cuba, and I knew I wanted to go there and capture what it looked like before anything changed,” Keto said. Personal Panoramas shows the natural world, cityscapes and unexpected scenes. The exhibit runs until March 7.

January Events from We Are Takoma

Friends in Deed: American Quakers and Refugees from Nazi Europe, 1938-1941
Thursday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Ron Coleman, a research librarian for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, interprets the American response to those who tried to flee Nazi persecution between Kristallnacht in 1938 and the American entry into World War II in 1941. Coleman shares recently re-discovered stories of refugees and families the Quakers aided during the “refugee crisis” years. $10 donation suggested.

Vintage Classroom Movies
Thursday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.
A screening of short, educational films from the 40s, 50s, and 60s that range in tone from funny and ridiculous, to surprisingly frank and honest, these clips are a window into life in post-WWII America. Free.

Third Thursday Poetry
Thursday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.
The popular “Third Thursday” poetry series features the work of a wide range of poets from across the region. Stop by on any third Thursday of the month and check it out. January includes readings by Dorrit Carroll, Ellen Cole and Susan Okie. Free.

Connect creatively! Tell us about the art events you love.
The Takoma Park Arts & Humanities Commission sponsors dance events, film screenings, lectures, family events, and more through its “We Are Takoma” initiative. Tell us how you like We Are Takoma events and give us suggestions for future programs with a quick survey! Follow the links below to participate.

Survey for individuals: bit.ly/1MNtlsK
Survey for families: bit.ly/1Hxx8Tr
**RECREATION**

**TOTS**

**ART**

- **Clay for Kids**
  
  Ages 4 – 8
  
  In this class, children will receive instruction on how to utilize a variety of techniques (coil, pinch, slab work) to create one-of-a-kind sculptures and vessels out of clay. Caregiver participation required. There is a $15 materials fee due to the instructor on the first day of class.
  
  TP Community Center Art Studio
  
  Wednesdays, Jan. 13 – Feb. 17, 4 – 5 p.m.
  
  TP residents $30
  
  Non-residents $150

**EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT**

- **Kindermusik – Cuddle and Bounce**
  
  Ages newborn – 1 year
  
  With age-appropriate activities for newborns, infants and crawlers, this parent-child music and movement class will help you strengthen those early parent-child bonds, understand your baby’s development, and heavily focus on child development and communication with your baby. You and your baby will enjoy instrument play, dance, exploration time, and together time with others.
  
  Heffner Park Community Center
  
  Tuesdays, Jan. 5 – Feb. 23, 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
  
  TP residents $136
  
  Non-residents $156

- **Kindermusik – Sing and Play**
  
  Ages 1 – 2
  
  Get ready to sing, play, and move with your little one in this high-energy music class designed to be just right for very young children. This new Kindermusik curriculum focuses on your child’s beginning movement, helping to build the muscles your young toddler needs to walk, run, and climb, and on vocal development, helping your child’s speaking and singing voice.
  
  Heffner Park Community Center
  
  Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 24, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
  
  TP residents $126
  
  Non-residents $156

- **Kindermusik – Wiggle and Grow**
  
  Ages 2 – 3
  
  This music-filled class celebrates the unique joys of your growing child. Each week your child will love singing, dancing, and playing instruments and you’ll love helping him/her practice a wide variety of abilities such as gross and fine motor skills, turn-taking, social skills, and active listening. In class, we’ll also share tips and ideas for using music throughout the week.
  
  Heffner Park Community Center
  
  Wednesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 24, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.
  
  Thursdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 25, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
  
  Saturdays, Jan. 9 – Feb. 27, 10 – 10:45 a.m.
  
  TP residents $126
  
  Non-residents $156

**Kinderzoom – Family Time**

- **Ages newborn – 6**
  
  Family Time is Kindermusik’s version of the one-room schoolhouse. Bringing children of all ages together provides a dynamic and integrated learning experience for everyone. Families with one child or multiple children are welcome to attend. Sibling discount offered. One $30 home materials kit per family included in registration fee.
  
  Heffner Park Community Center
  
  Tuesdays, Jan. 5 – Feb. 23, 10:30 – 11:15 a.m.
  
  Thursdays, Jan. 7 – Feb. 25, 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
  
  Saturdays, Jan. 9 – Feb. 27, 9 – 9:45 a.m.
  
  TP residents $126
  
  Non-residents $156

**RECREATION**

**YOUTH**

**ART**

- **MAKE/Shift Studio I - Art Inspirations**
  
  **Ages 8 – 11**
  
  Elementary students create exciting 2- and 3-D projects in this afterschool class. Lessons include drawing, painting, collage, assemblage and mixed-media – every 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.
  
  TP Community Center Art Studio
  
  Tuesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 11, 4 – 5:45 p.m.
  
  TP residents $150
  
  Non-residents $170

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

  **Ages 11 – 12**

  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 representational 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, Jan. 12 – Feb. 16, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
  
  TP residents $145
  
  Non-residents $165

- **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 Community Kid’s Night Out. This will be a fun filled night for children. It will involve activities such as games, art, crafts, movies and theme nights.
  
  TP Recreation Center gymnasium
  
  First and third Friday, 7:15 – 9:30 p.m.
  
  Free with membership card

**EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT**

- **Babysitting Class**

  **Ages 18 and older**

  This class is designed for those interested in learning more about babysitting. Topics covered include: CPR, fire safety, First Aid, infant and child care and personal safety. A certificate will be issued upon completion of all five classes and exam. Co-sponsored by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department.
  
  All classes will be held at the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire House.
  
  Takoma Park Volunteer Fire House
  
  7201 Carroll Ave.
  
  Mondays, Feb. 22 – Mar. 21, 7 – 9 p.m.
  
  Free

**EXTENDED CARE**

- **After the Bell**

  **Ages Kindergarten – 5th grade**

  Afterschool Program at the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Transportation is not provided to this program, but you can contact the MCPS Transportation department and have them change your child’s bus route to the New Hampshire Towers behind the Recreation Center and staff will meet them at the bus stop and walk them over each day for after care. Enjoy indoor and outdoor activities after school. Homework and study time will be provided each day.
  
  TP Recreation Center
  
  Monday – Friday, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
  
  (On-going/School Year)
  
  $125 per month for the year

**MARTIAL ARTS**

- **Kung Fu**

  **Ages 4 – 16**

  This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise which could help the students defend themselves by strengthening hand and eye coordination. The students will gain physical fitness, mental and spiritual strength. There is a onetime, non-refundable fee of $50 paid to the instructor at the first class for uniform.
  
  TP Community Center Dance Studio
  
  Saturdays, Jan. 23 – Mar. 26
  
  Beginners 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
  
  Advanced 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
  
  TP residents $129
  
  Non-residents $149
RECREATION
From page 6

Taekwondo
Ages 5 and older
Taekwondo, it is composed of three parts as shown in the English spelling, though it is one word in Korean. "Tae" means "foot", "teu", or "to step on"; "Kwon" means "kick", or "fist"; and "Do" means the "way" or "discipline. There is a one-time, non-refundable, fee paid to the instructor at the first class for uniforms ($40 children, $50 adults).

TP Community Center Dance Studio
Mon, Jan. 4 – April 4, 6 – 7 p.m.
TP residents $145
Non-residents $165

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 Meeting Room
Ongoing, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Free with a Recreation Center Membership

Change in Online Reservation Procedures for Heffner Park Community Center and Park Pavilions
Beginning Jan. 1, the Takoma Park Recreation Department’s online reservation system, ActiveNet, will accept reservation requests only for the Heffner Park Community Center and all pavilions. This new process will temporarily hold the space until the request is approved by Recreation Department staff. Patrons will have 72 hours after a request has been approved to make full payment. If full payment is not made, Heffner Community Center or the requested pavilion will be released for others to reserve. We are looking forward to continuing to provide you with excellent customer service for your next rental request. Feel free to contact Gregory Clark, Takoma Park Recreation Director, at 301-891-7290 for questions.

Local Businesses Wanted
Are you a business looking for summer help? The Recreation Department is looking for businesses to partner with for its Summer Youth Employment Program. For more information, email leicim@takomaparkmd.gov.

E-mowering Youth Through Employment

RECREATION Announcements

Mind your manners

Two years ago the Takoma Park Recreation Department partnered with Charmonne Vogue Inc. to teach Charm School Etiquette classes at the Takoma Park Community Center. This course is designed to provide young people with positive life skills. The course is geared towards teens ages 12-17, who are looking to enhance their personal image.

Professor Cheryl Higgins is the founder and Washington, D.C., training director. She is a native of California and grew up in the Hampton Roads area of Virginia. Having earned her MBA, she held management positions with top-tier fortune 500 firms in Colorado, Michigan and New Jersey. She is a former honorary university queen, debutante commissioner, and mother of two adult children. Prof. Higgins has a keen consulting acumen. An entertainment industry enthusiast, she wrote a freelance script for “The Cosby Show” and has appeared in major movie productions such as Deep Impact, State of Play, and House of Cards. Her fashion performances have led to long-standing partnerships with high-end retailers.

Ten years ago while volunteering in public schools, Prof. Higgins noticed a dire need for proper etiquette for young people as well as adults. She did research in her area and found that there were limited opportunities available and thus came the start of Charmonne Vogue Inc. Charmonne Vogue provides services to help clients (of all ages) define, enhance or maintain their professional and personal image. Charmonne Vogue has expanded beyond just etiquette courses; the company now offers modeling and acting classes.

Charm School at the Takoma Park Community Center is an eight-week course covering grooming and style, respect and manners, appreciation, dating with dignity, conversation skills, public speaking, workplace dynamics and etiquette for social events. At the end of the eight weeks, participants are invited to dinner at a high-end restaurant to put their lessons into play. The Takoma Park Recreation Center covers the cost of food and transportation as a way to reward them for completing the program.

I’ve been so pleased with the differences I’ve noticed in [my daughter’s] habits since she’s participated in the course – more attention to tailoring her wardrobe to the occasion, self-monitoring and correcting table manners, more engaging in conversation during meals. You’ve put together a remarkable program,” said Pam Williams (mother of a 12-year-old participant).

Charm School Etiquette classes are held each Fall at the Takoma Park Community Center on Wednesday afternoons from 4 – 5 p.m., while Modeling is held in the Spring on Wednesdays from 4 – 5 p.m. To find out more about teen programs and services, visit our website at takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation/classes-and-programs.

Celebrate Takoma Committee Volunteers Needed
The Recreation Department is beginning to plan the third annual Celebrate Takoma Festival for Saturday, May 14, 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 Huber, deh@takomaparkmd.gov. The committees meet monthly in the evenings. Come join the fun.
Earthquake in Nepal

By Larry Silverman

Larry Silverman will be a guest pre-
senter at special program sponsored by the Friends of the Library on Thursday, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Library. All are invited to attend.

Plane tickets to Nepal were my son’s 70th birthday gift to me and my wife Kathleen Fern. This was a trip I had been hankering to make. I own S&GA Beads in Takaoma Park, which sells beads, jewelry and other art-
tifacts from Nepal. I wanted to see Nepali artisans at work and perhaps buy items not easily available from here. I also teach online graduate courses on environmen-
tal policy to Nepalese and American stu-
dents. I became acquainted with a num-
ber of Nepali students and teachers and learned a lot about their environmental issues. I wanted to meet these colleagues in person and learn more about topics we discussed in class.

Of course we also wanted to have fun. It was a birthday celebration after all. Our hopes were realized in spades. Ne-
pal turned out to be an extraordinary art-
ist colony. We had wonderful encounters
with students and teachers. We learned a great deal about Nepal’s environmental challenges. We cemented friendships and shared hundreds of happy memories. We had fun, saw incredible sites, met great people and went to super parties.

But the most memorable part of the entire trip happened two days before we were to fly home. On our last Saturday in Kathmandu, we planned to have lunch at the home of my teaching assistant, Deep-
ika. Her husband Neelesh drove us there, but midway through the trip, we felt a flat tire and stopped. More jolts followed. The always crowded street filled with ped-
estrians. Motor bikes were knocked to the ground. Terrifying tremors persisted, and Neelesh called Deepika on his cell phone. “I can’t talk now,” she said. “We are having an earthquake.”

The quake was extraordinarily se-
vere — magnitude 7.9 — and accompa-
nied by hundreds of aftershocks, some of
them very large. Eventually we arrived at Deepika’s home. There was no question about going indoors. Kathleen and I had left luggage and passports at our hotel, but
given the intensity of the quake and af-
tershocks, we had no choice but to accept Deepika’s invitation to spend the night in her garden.

As special guests we were given a pup-
tent, which their children used to play at camping. Sleeping was not easy. Animals can sense earthquakes before people, and so before every aftershock that night, all the dogs, roosters and monkeys in Kath-
mandu let out great howls, which con-
tinued for five minutes after the shock ceased.

The next day, we walked to the nearby
business district. Many ancient buildings that we had toured the week before were in ruins. We were some of the last to see structures which, until then, had stood more than a thousand years. Later we drove through areas of the city that were still passable. Thousands of families were living in the streets. Kathmandu does not have much open space, but every park, field, sidewalk and traffic island was teem-
ing with people. That night we slept out-
side again until the rain began. My heart went out to the thousands on the streets, many without blankets or tarp. On Mon-
day, we went to the airport and waited for

Mock Caldecott winners

It’s become a passion among chil-
dren’s literature lovers to hold “Mock” Caldecott events at the end of the year to see how close they can get to choos-
ing the actual winner of the Caldecott Medal. The medal, one of the most prestigious children’s lit awards, is awarded annually by the American Li-

This year our Library held six Mock Caldecott events in December, as a way of providing valuable feedback to Kar-
en MacPherson, children’s and teen co-
ordinator, who is a member of the 2016 Caldecott Committee. Karen and the other members of the “real” committee will meet in early this month, and the actual winner will be announced with great fanfare on the morning of Jan. 11. During Mock Caldecott’s, it’s always interesting to see the somewhat differ-
ent choices made by kids and adults.

All of the students at Piney Branch El-
ementary School (two classes of third grades and seven classes of fourth graders) chose I Yam a Donkey writ-
en and illustrated by Cece Bell as their
winner. Other favorite books of these students included The Bear Ate Your Sandwich written and illustrated by Ju-
lia Sarcone-Roach, The Chunk written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Pat-
rick McDonnell, and Wolfie the Bunny written by Anne Dykman and illustrat-
ed by Zachariah OHora.

The grown-up participants in our Mock Caldecott for Adults, meanwhile, chose The Bear Ate Your Sandwich as their winner. Honors went to Flutter & Hum written and illustrated by Julie Pasckis, My Pen written and illustrated by Christopher Myers, Waiting writ-
ten and illustrated by Kevin Henkes, and Water Is Water written by Miranda Paul and illustrated by Jason Chin.

In our Caldecott Club, which is com-
piled of both kids and adults, the win-
ning book was The Bear Ate Your Sand-
wich written and illustrated by Julia Sarcone-Roach.

Overall, the Mock Caldecott pro-
grams have been a fun way for kids and adults to learn more about children’s book art while reading some wonder-
ful, newly-published books. And one of our young Mock Caldecott participants even came up with a Caldecott-related joke: “I want to see a movie about animals?” A: The Cow-da-
cott Award.

Now that mock season is over, ev-
everyone must wait to see what the “real” Caldecott Committee decides. Their work is done in secret, the discussions behind locked doors remain confiden-
tial forever. Their choice of a winner and any honor books will, of course, be big news in the children’s literature world. If you’re a children’s book fan and up early on the morning of Jan. 11, you can watch a live webcast of the Youth Media Awards at ala.unikron.

The Caldecott Medal winner will be announced towards the end of the program, just before the final award, the Newbery Medal winner, is announced.

Author/Illustrator Ryan Higgins

Ryan Higgins, author/illustrator of Mother Bruce, will talk about his book and his artistic process on Wednesday, Jan. 27 at 7 p.m. in Mother Bruce, a picture book for ages 3-6, Higgins tells the tale of a grumpy bear named Bruce, the reluc-
tant parent of four goslings, who mis-
takenly believe he is their mother. Even after they’ve grown and could fly away,
they refuse to leave their human “Mother Goose.”

Kirsh gave Mother Bruce a starred review, noting, “Higgins’ softly fasci-
nating textures, delt lines, savvy use of scale, and luminous landscapes (which evoke traditional romantic landscape painting, atmospheric in air and light) make for gorgeous art. Visually beauti-
ful, clever, edgy, and very funny.”

Politics & Prose Bookstore will be selling copies of Mother Bruce at the event, but our program is free, and no purchase is required to attend.
Medical cannabis dispensary could open

By Bob Guldin

Medical marijuana may come to Takoma Park this year, but right now that’s far from certain. The Maryland state legislature passed a law in 2013 permitting a limited number of license-holders to grow, process and sell marijuana in the state for medical uses only. However, the state encountered problems and delays putting the law into effect. Now that the application period has closed for dispensaries, growers and processors, the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission recently announced that work has begun to develop a timeline for their review of applications, which will determine the final timetable for implementing Maryland’s medical cannabis program.

On Oct. 19, the Takoma Park City Council held a work session to discuss what the new law will mean for the City. This is not new, looking into how two parties have said they are interested in opening cannabis dispensaries in Takoma Park, and there may well be more. The Maryland law states that cities and counties may not prohibit cannabis businesses from setting up, but they can regulate zoning for such businesses.

According to Mayor Kate Stewart, “we can have a cannabis dispensary somewhere in the City. It would benefit the residents of Takoma Park, but we need much clearer guidelines on where the dispensary should be.” Stewart said she was disappointed that Montgomery County, which has primary zoning responsibility for the City, has decided to take a “wait-and-see approach” toward cannabis facilities. She suggested that a 1,000-foot buffer zone between a dispensary and any school or pre-school might be a good approach.

The Council has asked City staff to look into how other jurisdictions regulate cannabis businesses. The City could, for example, ask the County to make a zoning change or could require a public hearing. Jeff Kahn, in testimony before the Council, described the operation of the Takoma Wellness Center, a medical marijuana dispensary he owns. It has been operating for two-and-a-half years in D.C. at 6925 Blair Road, N.W., a short distance from the Takoma Metro. Kahn pointed out, though, that Maryland residents may not use the DC facility and DC residents will be prohibited from using a Maryland dispensary. Kahn is a rabbi (not leading a congregation now), his wife, son and daughter-in-law work at the Wellness Center too.

Kahn told the Council that he has a good relationship with DC police, and there have been no law enforcement problems at the dispensary. Business started out very slow, according to Kahn, but has been growing. “Demand has far outstripped supply,” he said, even though “there are no insurance benefits for marijuana, so it’s expensive.” Kahn is one of two parties who have publicly expressed interest in opening a dispensary in Takoma Park.

The other is a couple – Tara and Chad Blair, who are homeowners in Takoma Old Town and whose children attend nearby public schools. Tara Blaise said, “Our approach is to keep it small and local.”

Blaise said she and her husband have been looking at possible locations in the Takoma Junction and Old Town business districts. The Blaises have lived in this area for nine years. Chad has been a programmer for Microsoft for 16 years. Tara has worked as a yoga instructor as well as in real estate and in catering. Tara volunteered that she and her husband are not recreational users.

But no business owners are likely to sign a lease until they know that they have a state license to operate a dispensary, and those decisions have not been made yet. The Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission has received 811 applications for dispensary licenses. (Applications closed Nov. 6.) But the law states that Maryland may issue at most 94 dispensary licenses – two in each of the state’s 47 Senate districts. That means the weeding out process must be selective. However, some would-be sellers have applied in many Senate districts to improve their chances. The commission also received 146 applications for growers and 124 applications for processors. The commission will award a maximum of 15 licenses for marijuana growers, the number of processors is not limited.

On Nov. 24, the commission released data indicating how many dispensary applications had been received per Senate district. Takoma Park is at the southern end of Senate District 20, for which 30 dispensary applications were received. This district also includes a considerable chunk of Silver Spring and extends past Colesville in the north, so it’s possible that if District 20 receives two licenses, one or both of the licensees may set up shop elsewhere in the district.

Seth Grimes, who served as Councilmember for Ward I for the past four years, took an informal email poll of his constituents on a possible cannabis dispensary. He said five were against having a dispensary nearby, and 23 were in favor or indifferent.

The medical cannabis law allows certified doctors to recommend cannabis for patients with debilitating, chronic and severe illnesses. The law requires that the recipient have an ongoing doctor-patient relationship with the doctor — a stricter requirement than some medical marijuana states. Interestingly, the law does not permit production or sales of edible cannabis products, just those that are inhaled.

While the financial stakes in the cannabis business may seem small right now, that may change. The current trend across the country seems to be legalizing medical marijuana and then legalizing recreational use as well. Former Councilmember Grimes offered this prediction: “I predict Maryland will legalize recreational use by 2019.” That could be big business — and those who get into Maryland early through medical marijuana may reap rewards later on.

For more information about the law, visit the website of the Maryland Medical Cannabis Commission at mmcc.maryland.gov.

Friends book club embark on new reading adventures

By Tim Rahn and Phil Schewe

The Friends Fortnightly Book Group will discuss The Story of My Teeth by Valeria Luiselli on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 7:30 in the Hydrangea Room of the Community Center.

A work a juice company originally commissioned to be read aloud to its workers, The Story of My Teeth, is known as the story, which tells us of the experiences workers after each installment informs the professor (to speak about the chosen book at the first leg of our flight to Dulles. The environmental impact of the earth-quake has been severe, but it gives Nepal a chance to recreate structures and systems that are environmentally sound. The epicenter of the quake was under the most landslide prone part of the country. Many who survived the quake died in avalanches and mudslides. Entire villages were wiped out. Terraced farming was damaged if not entirely altered in some parts of the country. Fortunately, no dams broke, but some hydropower stations were destroyed.

EARTHQUAKE

For discussion dates.

14 hours for the first leg of our flight to

The most popular peaks for climbing are no longer drivable, culturally important sites have vanished, and small businesses, including the artisans I rely on, turned their creativity to daily survival rather than the production of beautiful objects. The current informal blockade by India and China of medicine and other resources traveling to Nepal is yet another blow to a country struggling to survive. All will return to normal, but it will take much time and the good will and support of economically more fortunate countries, including and perhaps especially its neighbors.

The memory of the quake that we will carry forever is the kindness of people who, despite their personal tragedies and tears, showed us nothing but generosity and affection. Our talk and accompanying photographs will focus on the highlights of the unique trip we hope to share with you.
More Snow Angels Needed

The Snow Angels Program is in progress. There are 66 residents on the snow removal list, and 45 volunteers have signed up to provide intermittent help. The program is preparing to help other residents later in January as we continue to recruit volunteers. Our goal is to register another 20 volunteers to serve a total of 80+ homes this year. Does it warm your heart to help others? Do you enjoy snow? We’d love to have you join our team of Snow Angels. Families and individuals are welcome to volunteer. Please contact lifelong@takmaparkmd.gov and register now for the winter season.

Emergency Preparedness team makes “house calls”

By the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee

Questions: How do you handle emergency if you live in a large apartment or condominium complex? Do you remember what to do in case of fire, a massive storm or power outage? What about your pets?

Answers: Help in the form of “house calls” is part of the support offered to Takoma Park residents living in these complexes. In August and September of last year, a team of specialists made house calls to 16 large buildings on Maple, New Hampshire, Houston, Flower, Carroll and Lee Avenues. The team set up tables in entry areas, at some exits, inside and outside, and even near dumpsters or recycling areas to talk with residents about safety in case of emergencies and to distribute information packets. The team involved experts from several City departments: Ron Hardy, Emergency Preparedness Manager; Jean Kerr and Moses Wilds from Housings, Gina Mathias and Alexandra Young from Public Works; and Jessie Carpenier, our City Clerk.

The team presented information on fire safety, crime prevention, home safety and supplies to have in the apartment, using a communication plan checklist, dealing with pets in case of emergency, having back-up contacts, and making plans for people with disabilities or the elderly as well as preparedness related to weather and larger natural disasters. The team distributed information on tenants’ rights, a landlord tenant handbook, how the City deals with power outages and what to do in case a resident cannot get out of the high rise: Call 911 and hang a (white) sheet outside the window, so rescuers know there’s a person stuck inside.

Providing dinners at Thanksgiving

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary, in partnership with the Takoma Park Lions Club and Cessil Saxon American Legion Auxiliary, provided funds to purchase 25 dinners. Dinners consisted of all the trimmings, including the turkey and pie. This year marked 21 years of providing dinners because we care about the ones in need. A list of cooking safety tips was included with each dinner. Pictured here are (left to right) Takoma Park VFD members Dave Hooker, Adam Bearne and Jim Jarboe along with Michael Bigler, District Governor (22C), Lions Club.

Problem in your neighborhood?

Who do you contact before it becomes an emergency?

- Utilities emergency PEPCO 202-872-3432
- Street lights: 202-833-7300 Pepco (www.pepco.com)
- Gas service: 703-750-1400
- Water, sewer, or fire hydrant problems/WSSC: 301-206-4002
- Trees (dying or hazardous), sidewalk problems, storm drain overflow or mess, City parks problems: Takoma Park Public Works (TPPW), 301-891-7633
- Trash or debris mess: Code Enforcement, 301-891-7235

Passport processing program grows

In the City’s 2014 resident survey, the passport acceptance program ranked in the top ten of more than 60 City services for resident satisfaction. And judging from the program’s growth, residents definitely rely on it.

When the City started the program in 2009, 898 passports were processed. Since then, almost triple that amount has been processed. In 2014 more than 2,500 passports were processed. Last year, on average, 284 passports were processed per month. Sofia Visurraga is the City’s passport agent, and the State Department’s inspection office noted that Ms. Visurraga “displayed top-notch passport acceptance expertise and phenomenal customer service skills.”

Passport services are available on first come, first served basis Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Takoma Park staff encourage calling the City’s main phone number at 301-891-7100 and checking if the office is open before departing for the Community Center for passport services.

4 Fire Safety Tips for 2016

1. Make sure you have working smoke alarms on all levels of your home. Test them monthly.
2. Have a family fire escape plan and review it on a regular basis.
4. When you are finished with your Christmas tree, make sure you get it out of your house as soon as possible.

A special note from your Takoma Park VFD: We wish you and your families a happy and safe New Year.

14,582: 5 hours, compared to 15,413 hours in 2014, a decrease of 830.5 hours.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of Dec. 14, 59 people have died in fires, compared to 59 in December 2014.

The team talked with building managers in advance to schedule the dates/times and to identify special issues in each building, such as pointing out a back staircase or which exit doors lead to the outside.

Additional house calls can be set up for neighboring communities by having your neighborhood association or tenants’ association contact Ron Hardy, Emergency Preparedness Manager, at 301-891-7126 or ronh@takmaparkmd.gov.
Takoma Park identified as 8th most liberal city

Where do most liberals live in America? Well, a good number of them reside in Takoma Park. According to a recent analysis by Crowdpac, an independent, nonpartisan, for-profit aggregator of political data, the City of Takoma Park is the eighth most liberal city in the U.S.

Crowdpac analyzed all political donations to candidates on the federal and state level since 2002 and calculated a political ideology score for every town in America with a population greater than 6,000. The rankings of the most liberal and conservative cities are based on the “political donations of the people who live there.”

To learn more, check out Crowdpac’s interactive map at www.crowdpac.com/blog/the-most-liberal-and-conservative-cities-in-america.

In Memory: Former Takoma Park Mayor, Stephen Joseph Del Giudice

The City of Takoma Park was saddened to learn of the death of former Mayor Stephen Joseph Del Giudice. Mr. Del Giudice was Mayor of the City of Takoma Park from November 1985 to November 1990 when he resigned to be sworn in as a Prince George’s County Councilmember, where he served for eight years.

From his obituary:

Stephen Joseph Del Giudice, former local official, lost his year-long battle to leukemia. Mr. Del Giudice originally from Providence, RI, current resident of Washington, DC, passed in his home surrounded by his family in the early morning hours of Dec. 17, 2015. Mr. Del Giudice is survived by his wife Sheila Driscoll, his children Cara Lingle and Nicholas Del Giudice, his son-in-law Bryan Lingle, his grandchildren Colton and Grayson Lingle and his brothers, Peter, Dante, Michael and Joseph Del Giudice.

A celebration of life ceremony will take place on Sunday, Jan. 10 at Maggiano’s in Chevy Chase located at 5333 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20015 from 12 to 3 p.m.

NEW MAYOR

Mayor Stewart presents a resolution for retiring Mayor Williams. Photo by Greg Land, Greg Land Photography.
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 February issue is Jan. 15, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Jan. 29. 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.

PUBLIC MEETINGS OF NOTE

City Council
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry
First Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 701 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families
240-450-2002 or educare_ss@yahoo.com
www.educaresupportservices.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Kid’s Night Out
First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Fun and games for kids

Teen Night
Second and fourth Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Games and activities just for teens

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

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

Social and Wellness Event for Takoma Park Elders
Tuesday, January 26, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
There will be a social event for residents 55+ and caregivers. There will be food and music, and residents are encouraged to bring their favorite music CD.

There will be a sign when you enter the building listing the room location. This event is brought to you through a collaboration between the Village of Takoma Park and the City’s Lifelong Takoma Program.

TP Community Center

Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSDA)
Thursday, January 28, 6:30 p.m.
A group of concerned parents and others in Takoma Park who love an adult(s) with special needs, such as autism, Down’s Syndrome and other developmental challenges as well as psychiatric disorders, meets monthly to provide support for one another. For more information, contact Mary Jane Muchul at muchul@tal.com.

Village of Takoma Park Volunteer Training
Village Rides
Thursday, Jan. 21, 7 – 9 p.m.
Volunteer to give the gift of a lift to residents needing transportation.

Friendly Visitor Program
Thursday, Jan. 28, 1 – 3 p.m.
Volunteer to call or visit a homebound resident one hour per week.
Both trainings sessions will be held at the TP Community Center.
Call 301-646-2109 to register and for more information.

ARTS AND LITERATURE

People’s Open Mic
Sundays, 9 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Drum for Joy! with Jaqui MacMillan
Mondays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St.
Learn hand drumming
Blues Mondays
Mondays, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Open Mic Night
Tuesdays, 9 – 11 p.m.
Busboys and Poets, 235 Carroll St. NW

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

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

Personal Panorama Exhibit Opening Reception
Thursday, Jan. 7, 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.
Art by Allan Akman, Julia Bloom, Kristine DelNinno, Alex Keto, Jacqueline Lee and Marcie Wolf-Hubbard.
Free
TP Community Center Auditorium
www.TakomaParkMd.gov/arts

Friends in Deed: American Quakers and Refugees from Nazi Europe, 1938-1941
Thursday, Jan. 7, 7:30 p.m.
A lecture on refugees from Nazi Europe
Suggested $10 donation
takoma park community center auditorium
www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts

Bumper Jacksons
Friday, Jan. 8
Jazz and pre-war country music.
$18 – $20
Carroll Cafe, Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW

Vintage Classroom Movies
Thursday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.
A screening of short, educational films from the ‘40s, ‘50s, and ‘60s.
Free
TP Community Center Auditorium
www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts

Third Thursday Poetry
Thursday, Jan. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Featuring poets Dorritt Carroll, Ellen Cole and Susan Ove.
Free
TP Center Auditorium

Writing a Village
Monday, Jan. 25, 7 p.m.
This monthly poetry workshop is for those who love words, led by Anne Becker, poet laureate emerita of Takoma Park.
Free
TP Community Center Rose Room

Photo Salon
Monday, Jan. 27, 7 p.m.
A monthly salon for photographers to show and critique work. Professional, fine art, and amateur photographers are welcome.
Free
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room

PB and Jam Session
Saturday, Jan. 30, 4 – 6 p.m.
The Takoma Ensemble presents a kindermusik concert for ages 2 – 7.
Suggested $10 donation
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts

UPCOMING EVENTS

he Early Bird Captures the Worm! Summer Camp Expo
Saturday, Jan. 30, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Come out and discover all of the camps that the Recreation Department will be offering this year for tots, youth and teens. Meet the instructors and learn what your child(ren) will be participating in. You will receive a 20 percent discount if you register in person during the expo.
All other forms of registration will begin Monday, Feb. 1 at 8:30 a.m. Registrants throughout the Early Bird Special registration period (Feb. 1-29) will receive a 10 percent discount.
TP Community Center at 7500 Maple Ave.

Takoma Park’s 6th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day
Sunday, Feb. 14, 1-4 p.m.
Co-sponsored by Let’s Play America and Takoma Park Recreation Department
Special Attractions: Bach2Rock will be back with several fun bands, Leveling the Playing Field will be collecting equipment, and activities for people of all ages.
FREE
TP Community Center 7500 Maple Ave.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

Throughout the New Year, Mayor Kate Stewart and the City Council plan to host a series of Community Conversations about various topics of importance to the community. These ‘conversations’ will be designed to promote thoughtful, engaged dialogue among Councilmembers, members of the community, staff and other subject matter experts. While the details and a full schedule of meetings and topics are still to-be-determined, the Council has decided on the morning of Saturday, Feb 6 for the first Community Conversation.

The topic of this inaugural session will be housing affordability in Takoma Park.

First Community Conversation
Topic: Housing Affordability
Feb. 6
TP Community Center

Takoma Park Residents are invited to the 2016 Annual Safe Grow Event!
Come & join local lawn care expert, Zack Kline from A.I.R. Landscaping & get tips on transitioning from traditional lawn care to organic methods.

Date: Thursday, January 28, 2016
Time: 7 pm to 9 pm
Location: Auditorium Hall
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, 2012

All Homeowners attending the event will receive a free soil test & an opportunity to receive a free lawn care consultation from A.I.R. LANDSCAPING.
Learn about the event and sign up for free lawn care consultation at http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/safegrow

2016 SAFE GROW LAWN CARE EVENT
“Switching to Organic Lawn Care Methods”

January 2016