



## WHAT'S NEW?

Check out the City's blog:  
[takomaparkmd.gov/news/city-blog](http://takomaparkmd.gov/news/city-blog)

### City facilities closed

Sunday, Feb. 14 - Monday, Feb. 15  
President's Day holiday

### Trash/recycling collection

No trash or yard waste collection  
Monday, Feb. 15

### Snow Snapshots

Digging out from Jonas  
Page 2

### Natural Takoma

Caring for tree roots  
Page 11



Photo: Selena Malott

Greg Czech, marketing director and beer and wine manager, The Co-op

## Beer and wine sales increase local choices

By Kevin Adler

Looking for something to do on a Thursday evening? Maybe it's time to check out the Co-op's weekly wine tastings.

Wine tastings at the Co-op? You read that right. In December, the TPSS Co-op, located at 201 Ethan Allen Ave., began to test a series of tastings after a fall rollout of its new beer and wine section.

The Co-op and PhotoPressArt have been the first two businesses in the city to take advantage of a change in city and state law to allow takeout beer and wine sales. They represent Takoma Park throw-

ing off one of the last vestiges of its non-alcohol Adventist past.

These new options have been rapidly embraced. "People come in, and they pick up a bottle or two; they're excited. Boomers, Millennials, they like having wine with dinner," said Greg Czech, who runs the alcohol operation for the Co-op. "We've got a lot of really good wines at reasonable prices."

For the 200 or more selections available at any given time, Czech focuses on

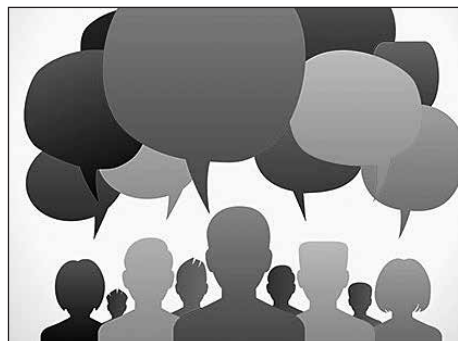
BEER AND WINE □ Page 3

## Community Conversations

YOU ARE INVITED to join the City Council for a Community Conversation on Affordable Housing on Saturday, Feb. 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

The meeting, the first in a series of Community Conversations on various topics, will provide an opportunity to learn and engage in a discussion about the City's approach to housing, current trends at the local and state level and some new ideas for addressing the issue of affordable housing in Takoma Park.

In addition to City Council, subject matter experts from City staff and national and community organizations will be present to share information, respond to questions and participate in the conversation. The meeting will take place at the Takoma Park Community Center/Sam Abbott Citizens' Center located at 7500 Maple Ave.



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

## Library Renovation Update

By Ellen Robbins

This year we are observing the 80th anniversary of the City Library – not only with cake and special birthday cards – but with steps toward what we hope will be a significant renovation, which will also give us additional space.

A new concept design was presented to the City Council on Oct. 29, which incorporated their own recommendations, as well as those of Library and other City staff.

Architect Greg Lukmire presented this concept design at public meetings on Dec. 12 and Jan. 7 – eliciting some spirited discussion and suggestions for the next phase, which involves schematic design and detailed design development.

Approximately 25 people of varying ages attended both meetings. A group of about five elementary age kids attended the Dec. 16 meeting. Here are some of the topics that came up at both meetings.

**Light was a big concern.** Though people were not opposed to the larger windows shown in the character sketches, which allow more natural light to enter the Library, there were concerns that the effect remain substantially different from the new Silver Spring Library, which was described as having "an excess of glass," making it "blinding" and "too open." One person asked, "Could an excess of light damage library materials?" Would it be distracting or too bright? The architect discussed the attributes of the newer glass, which is thermally broken, with two or even three panes, allowing for considerable specificity. One person commented there might be insufficient light in the central part of the library, away from the windows. Might a skylight be an option?

**Adequate space for different functions** came up repeatedly – as this has been a continuing concern. Will there be enough space for books, periodicals, comfortable seating, quiet space, and storage space as well as enough work space for staff? Will the program room be

LIBRARY RENOVATION □ Page 3

## Inside



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Fitness  
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Rhizome  
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# DOCKET

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

## City Council & Committee Calendar

### OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

### CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, Mar. 2, 7:30 p.m.

Meetings take place in the TPCC Auditorium, unless noted otherwise. Detailed agendas are always available for review online: [takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas).

### ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 7:00 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Monday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Council Conference Room

### COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, Feb. 1, 7:15 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Feb. 25, 7:00 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### POLICE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT PLAN COMMITTEE

Thursday, Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE

Monday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.  
TPCC Hydrangea Room

### TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 6:30 p.m.  
TPCC Rose Room

\*All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. Schedule changes can occur after the *Takoma Park Newsletter* deadline. For the most up to date information, visit [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov) and click on "Events and Meetings." Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue (TPCC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail can sign up at: [takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/sign-up-council-agendas](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/sign-up-council-agendas).

### 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 Emily Cohen, at 301-891-7266 or [emilyc@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:emilyc@takomaparkmd.gov) at least 48 hours in advance.

## City Council Action

All actions take place in scheduled legislative meetings of the City Council. Only negative votes and abstentions/recusals are noted. Adopted legislation is available for review online at [www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov).

### ORDINANCE 2016-01

Adopted Jan. 13, 2016

Public Art Project

*Awards a contract for a wall mural (public art project) on the retaining wall located at the intersection of Conway and Prince George's*

*Avenues. The mural will be created by Michael Kirby (d.b.a. Murals of Baltimore) for an amount not to exceed \$20,000.*

### ORDINANCE 2016-02

Adopted Jan. 13, 2016

Grant Agreement with M.A.N.U.P. (Making a New United People)

*Authorizes a grant agreement with M.A.N.U.P. and disbursement of an amount not to exceed \$35,000 for a mentoring program for City youth ages 12-24.*

## 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: 5 to 7.



Yardstick in the snow

## Snow Snapshots

For the most part, the City weathered the storm well. And it was a real team effort. City Public Works staff, who worked

SNOW SNAPSHOTS □ Page 4

## VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

*Interested in serving? A great first step is to review information at: [www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/). Then, attend a meeting to see if it is a good fit for you. If you have questions, contact the committee, or talk to your City Councilmember or the City Clerk. Appointments are made by the City Council. Apply by completing the online application and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications.*

The following groups have vacancies as of Jan. 15:

The **Arts and Humanities Commission** advises the City Council on ways in which the City might 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 Council amendments to the City's elections law and regulations when it deems such amendments are necessary and will provide for the improved conduct of elections; and periodically reviews City elections procedures. Vacancies: 1.

The **Commemoration Commission** documents, maintains, and preserves past, present, and future memorials, commemoratives, and recognitions in the City; recommends to the City Council procedures and programs to honor and commemorate individuals, organizations

and businesses that have made significant contributions to the social, cultural, historical, political, economic, or civic life of the City as a whole or to a neighborhood/ local area as well as programs for individuals to honor others; implement such programs within its scope and budget; and decide on recognitions after opportunity for public review and comment. Vacancies: 3.

The **Committee on the Environment** 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: 2.

The **Emergency Preparedness Committee** 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: 1.

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: 2.

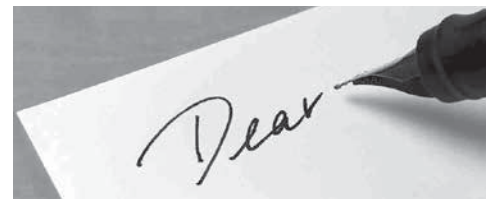
The **Grants Review Committee** evaluates applications for funding from a variety of programs including the City's Cultural and S.T.E.M. grants, Program and Operational Support grants, and Capital Project grants, and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. Vacancies: 1.

The **Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee** oversees implementation and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act and provides public information and issues related to the Ordinance. Vacancies: 1.

The **Recreation Committee** advises the City Council on how best to 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: 5.



# LETTERS



## Correct on cannabis

I just saw the medical cannabis article in the January issue. Besides writing an easily read article, Bob Guldin did an excellent job of presenting the facts. [This is the] first article I've read on medical cannabis that didn't get something major wrong. By the way, I always enjoy the newsletter and learn from it.

—Rabbi Jeffrey Kahn,  
Takoma Wellness Center, Washington DC

## Hospital's move a long time coming

I have watched with interest and bemusement over the last 15 years the consequences of Takoma Park's vaunted politics of obstruction in regard to Washington Adventist Hospital. Beginning in 2000-2001 when the WAH sought to expand onsite in Takoma Park and culminating in 2005 when the hospital board voted to leave Takoma Park, the City and the community organizations in the city were vocal, hostile and sometimes nasty opponents of the business needs of the hospital. As soon as the Hospital announced in 2005 its intent to leave, these same people began expressing shock and dismay.

What did any reasonable person expect? The hospital's business needs and business case was clear and sound from the very beginning. Obstruct with nastiness for four years and there might be a consequence. Now, ten years later they are finally leaving, and we are still singing the blues. Four years of intransigence on the part of the City and neighborhood organizations created this situation.

Nearly everyone, or perhaps everyone, who was part of the City management and governance at the time is gone. I'm sure there is a lesson to be learned. Despite conciliatory murmurings coming from the hospital, we have next to no leverage with the hospital now. We burned those bridges long ago. It is time to stop singing the blues and other songs of oppression and accept the reality of the consequences of our own behavior.

—Elliot Rosen, Takoma Park

## Primary care vs. urgent care

In your recent article "Maryland Health Care Commission Approves Hospital's Move," you state that the establishment of a 24/7 urgent care center will "ensure that there will be no gap in providing the primary care services

the community needs."

Primary Care services and urgent care services are extremely different. Primary care provides on going medical care, including prevention (such as immunizations and checkups) and management of primary care diseases (such as diabetes and hypertension). Urgent Care does not provide the broad spectrum of prevention and care coordination that primary care offers, but rather is there for urgent needs—sutures, a virus or a minor infection.

The two services can be complimentary, but at their essence, are very different. You would not say a 24/7 gas station and convenience store offers full-scope grocery shopping. In that same light, a 24/7 urgent care does not offer full-scope primary care.

—Lois Wessel, Family Nurse Practitioner, Takoma Park

*Letters can be submitted to [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov). Please include your name, address and phone number. The newsletter reserves the right to edit all submissions for space and clarity.*

## LIBRARY RENOVATION

■ From page 1

large enough? Greg Lukmire addressed all these concerns. Several group study spaces are enclosed (with exterior glass) and can be used as collaborative or quiet study space. The program room is intended as a flexible, multi-purpose space with very light-weight modular tables and chairs that can be easily moved. There will be comfortable seating and designated space for periodicals and other collections. A petition was submitted, signed by 14 kids, asking for a designated "read-aloud section" in the children's room.

**Space outside the library**, which was not part of the design process, also generated a lot of comments. People wanted to know how the flood wall and the area around the flag pole might be dealt with. Though there was general agreement that it is cumbersome to leap over the wall or walk around it, several people also voiced concern that there be a gathering place somewhere on the grounds – for kids, care-givers, and parents picking up kids. A wish for personal bike-space was also



expressed as a way to preserve the attractive bike racks now in front of the library. One person voiced concern about the flat roof and the load it carries in winter; another suggested that the mosaic might be sacrificed to allow expansion toward Maple Ave. However, the transformer and the police parking area would seriously limit that expansion. There was a general wish for a future design for the outdoor space that included seating and other attractive components.

The planned new entrance facing the parking lot was viewed favorably, but there was insistence on a walkway from Philadelphia Ave. up to the new Community Center Entrance. There was an associated concern about some loss of parking spaces, which are already at a premium. The architect mentioned the possibility of narrowing the spaces along-side of the buildings, which are unusually wide.

Other suggestions for the interior were a place for permanent art and a des-

ignated space to highlight new books. Another observation was that the access from the library to the senior room was round-about and might be problematical for people with mobility issues.

All in all, both meetings prompted lots of constructive discussion – and pointed the way forward to the next, more detailed phase of Library renovation. Your comments and questions are welcome. Please direct them to me at [ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:ellenr@takomaparkmd.gov).



## THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley  
Assistant: Sean Gossard  
[www.takomaparkmd.gov](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov)  
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Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov)

[takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov) or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified or political advertisements.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled-content paper.



## BEER AND WINE

■ From page 1

wines for \$20 or less, and he has scoured the "best of" lists and wine ratings guides. "I come from a family in the restaurant and liquor store business," he said. "I like doing the research, and I try to find selections that might not be at other stores in the county."

Reflecting his audience, Czech stocks organic wines, as well as wines made from sustainably grown grapes. For beer, Czech goes local and regional, taking advantage of a strong craft-brewing scene in

the Metro DC area with choices from DC Brau, Heavy Seas (Baltimore) and Bold Rock Hard Cider (Nellysford, Va.). "Craft beers are very popular, and they've been a good business for us," Czech said.

According to him sales have far exceeded expectations, and he's had to put in unexpected hours to keep up with demand. "Some wines that I thought we'd sell two or three bottles in a week have been selling at two or three cases per week. We've had to build extra storage facilities. That's a nice problem to have," he said.





# BUILDING COMMUNITY



A fallen retaining wall blocking the public sidewalk.

## Fences and retaining walls

Robert Frost once wrote a poem questioning if good fences make good neighbors. Whether or not this is true is up for debate, but having your fence or retaining wall in good condition will certainly keep neighbors happy and the neighborhood looking good. The City requires that fences should not be missing slats or falling, and wooden fences should not have any rotten wood.

If there is a chain link fence, all posts or rails should be attached at connections, and mesh should be attached to posts and rails or they can be dangerous to pedestrians. If the fence or retaining wall is painted, the paint should not be peeling. Retaining walls and fences should also be free of vines or other overgrowth as they can damage walls and fences.

Overgrowth on fences and walls can also grow onto the sidewalk and hinder

pedestrians. No tarps should be hung on walls or fences. Lastly, retaining walls should not be falling into yards or onto sidewalks.

If you decide to build a fence or a retaining wall, be aware that a building permit is required. Contact the City Planning Division to obtain a permit letter and then Montgomery County to obtain the permit itself. If your property is within a designated historic area, you will also need a Historic Area Work Permit.

When building, be sure the fence or retaining wall is within the property lines. If the structure is near an intersection, check that it does not impede the sight line of drivers trying to cross or turn. If you have any questions about the process, you can contact the Housing and Community Development office at 301-891-7119.

## Development round-up

In Takoma Park, land subdivision and most new construction is reviewed by the Montgomery County Planning Department and ultimately approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board. The Takoma Park City Council has an opportunity to comment on these projects based on approved City policies and plans and input from citizens. Recent development review updates in Takoma Park include:

- Site Plan # 820150150 was approved by the Montgomery County Planning Board on Jan. 7 to construct a single-story commercial building for a quick service restaurant with a drive thru at New Hampshire Ave. and Holton Lane.
- Preliminary Plan #120160170 was submitted for review to subdivide three existing lots into five new lots

(two existing houses, three proposed) at 430-434 Ethan Allen Ave.

### How to participate

You can stay updated by visiting the development review page on the City's website to learn more about projects under review or approved in Takoma Park:

[takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/community-development/development-review](http://takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/community-development/development-review)

If a development project is scheduled on a City Council meeting agenda, you can send comments via mail or email to the City Clerk or speak at the meeting during the public comment period.

The Montgomery County Planning Board accepts written comments and oral testimony at public hearings. Visit [www.montgomeryplanningboard.org](http://www.montgomeryplanningboard.org) to learn more.

## SNOW SNAPSHOTS

■ From page 2

on 12-hour shifts, and local volunteers were out in full force to help residents dig out and remain safe during and after Jonas. "I am so impressed and appreciative of the wonderful job you did to open up the sidewalk in front of my home," said one 74-year-old resident in



Takoma Bicycle



Downtown Main Street

praise of the Snow Angels who assisted her.

City Manager Suzanne Ludlow had similar praise for Daryl Braithwaite, who spent long hours coordinating the snow removal effort, as well as for City Councilmembers,

SNOW SNAPSHOTS □ Page 11

## 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:** My husband is being discharged from the hospital and is unable to eat solid foods for a while. I heard that special protein drinks can be costly. He also needs special undergarments and possibly a portable bed-side commode. Where can I get help?

**A:** The Lutheran Church of St. Andrews Medical Closet has a large assortment of free items that range from special drink formulas to walkers. Anyone, at any age, can access their resources.



Marilee is the coordinator of their program. She can be reached at 301-384-4394. You pick up items, or if you are unable, the church will deliver them to your home at no charge. There are no financial restrictions. The address is 15300 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, Md. 20905. The office is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also, feel free to ask Marilee about the caregiver support group.

### Mark your calendar

Join our Celebration of Takoma Park Elders!  
Feb. 23, 10 a.m. - noon  
Takoma Park Community Center Azalea room  
Rescheduled from Jan. 26, this event is a fun opportu-

nity to connect with other city residents and learn about what is going on in the city and how we can support one another in living well. Feel free to bring your favorite music CD. We will play it at the event, which is brought to you by the Lifelong Takoma Program and the Village of Takoma Park. For more information, contact Karen at 301-891-7232 or [lifelong@takomapark.gov](mailto:lifelong@takomapark.gov).

## Did you know?

Nearly 25 percent of the City of Takoma Park is made up of residents 55+.



**Afro House presents  
Scott Patterson  
Saturday, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.  
The Takoma Park Community  
Center Auditorium  
7500 Maple Avenue**

Scott Patterson's influences are more of a grab-bag than a plastic Halloween jack-o'-lantern. The pianist and artist director of Afro House in Baltimore cites Chopin, Bob Marley and David Lynch's "Dune," as sources of inspiration for his sci-fi, piano rock opera Ebon-Kojo: The Last Tribe.

"I'm really into science fiction and space, and after a while, I realized my songs had a similar theme and that it was time to put them into a narrative," he said.

Patterson will bring an excerpted version of his Ebon Kojo song cycle to the Takoma Park Community Center on Feb. 6 at 7:30 p.m.

"The story ended up being about a general who gets sent on a suicide mission to create an atmosphere and bring life to a planet with help from an android, which he finds out is his son," Patterson said. "He has this moral dilemma where he has to go through with the mission and save earth or save his son."

Patterson is used to defying audience expectations with Afro House, a performing arts collective that bears the slogan: "Disruptive Music Culture."



Scott Patterson

"I'm a musician and composer, and there are definitely conventions that one would expect to hear from a pianist and composer," he said, "but I ignore all those conventions."

It's Patterson's 4-year-old son, though, who has mastered the art of true disruption.

"Once when we were doing [Ebon Kojo], and I'm calling the name of another character, who shares my son's name," he said. "My son thinks I'm calling him, and he's in the audience calling out an answer."

After performing at the Round House Theatre in Silver Spring, Patterson knew

that his rock opera would appeal to Takoma Park residents. His themes and muses, however, are universal.

"Becoming a father was a big part of this," Patterson said. "My kids are one of my greatest inspirations."

## More February Events from *We Are Takoma*



Henry-Vinton-Plummer

**Under his Voice: the Life and Local Legacy of  
Chaplain Henry Vinton Plummer  
Thursday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.**

Lecturers Dr. Leigh Ryan and Rev. L Jerome Fowler

recover the life story of local man and former slave Henry Vinton Plummer, the first African American chaplain in the U.S. Regular Army. After his "dishonorable" discharge in 1894, his story was almost forgotten. Today, Ryan and Fowler show that Chaplain Plummer is worth remembering. Suggested \$10 donation

**DOEVILLE  
Thursday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.**

Docs-in-Progress presents the uplifting tale of a reluctant farmer who never imagined she'd spend her '60s wrangling 100 deer in the Shenandoah Valley. After her deer farmer husband dies, Gail Rose must confront the uncertain fate of their farm and uphold her promise to keep it going no matter what. Q&A with filmmaker Kathryn Pasternak will follow the screening. Free.

**Third Thursday Poetry  
Thursday, Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m.**

The popular "Third Thursday" poetry series features the work of a wide range of poets from across the



Doeville

region. Stop by on any third Thursday of the month and check it out. February includes readings by Stuart Hickman, E. Laura Goldberg and Beth Konkoski. Free.

**The Quiet Play  
Saturday, Feb. 27, 4:00 p.m.**

Good Egg Community Theatre presents The Quiet Play, a new performance for children that incorporates movement, stories and lullabies and encourages the audience to "playback" with the performers. Sometimes noisy games seem like the most fun, but The Quiet Play encourages its audience to listen to the world around them.

**we are  
TAKOMA**

## What do you think of the arts?

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/1MNtIsK](http://bit.ly/1MNtIsK)

Survey for families: [bit.ly/1Hxx8Tr](http://bit.ly/1Hxx8Tr)





# RECREATION

## 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](http://www.TakomaPlaytime.org) for more information.

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

## 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. 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. Contemporary and historical artists provide inspiration for this art program geared for 3rd through 6th graders.

TP Community Center Art Studio  
Thursdays, Feb. 25 – April 14, 4 - 5:45 p.m.  
TP residents \$150  
Non-residents \$170

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

*Ages 11-13*

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, March 1 – April 12, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.  
TP residents \$145  
Non-residents \$165

### DANCE

#### 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



### 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. 4 - Feb. 25, 4 - 6 p.m.  
TP residents \$45  
Non-residents \$55

### 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 & crafts, movies and theme nights.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium  
1st & 3rd Friday, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.  
Free with membership card

### EXTENDED CARE

#### After the Bell

*Ages Kindergarten – 5th grade*

After School 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

## TEENS

### ART

#### Nail Flare

*Ages 13-17*

Have you ever wanted to be able to do your nails and have them look like they were professionally done? If so, this is the class for you. There are a number of different nail art techniques you can use to create unique

designs on your natural nail. This class will teach you proper nail maintenance as well as design techniques, such as stamping, sponging, dotting, decals and drawing. Registration is required.

TP Community Center Art Studio  
Fridays, Feb. 5 – 26, 3:30 – 5 p.m.  
Free

### DANCE

#### Just Dance

*Ages 12-17*

The Just Dance Program will focus on Modern and Hip Hop dance while building teamwork and enhancing creative skills. Students must wear comfortable modestly appropriate clothing and bring a bottle of water along with a small towel. Registration required. Instructor: Brandy Robertson.

TP Community Center, Dance Studio  
Thursdays, Jan. 7 – Mar. 31, 4–6 p.m.  
TP resident \$10  
Non-resident \$15.

### DROP IN

#### Power Hour for Teens

*Ages 13-17*

Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. We are the perfect balance of academics and fun. Students are given quiet time to complete homework or read. Staff is available to assist and can review the completed assignments. Upon completion of work, students are invited to lounge, play games, and/or participate in activities. Registration is not required.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge  
Ongoing, Tuesdays, 4 - 5 p.m.  
Free

#### Teen Night

*Ages 12-17*

Nothing to do on Friday night? Looking for something exciting to do? The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides high quality, affordable, safe and fun activities for teens. Come on out to a night of games, activities and more. Bring your friends for a cheap night out of the house.

TP Recreation Center gymnasium  
2nd & 4th Friday, 7:15 – 8:30pm  
Free with membership card

#### Xpression Thursdays

*Ages 13-17*

Allow your imagination and creative juices to come alive on Thursdays in the Teen Lounge. Join Mr. Russell as you express yourself through art. Create pieces that you can take home. We are always looking for more ideas of ways to create and express ourselves.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge  
Tuesdays, Jan 7 – Feb 25, 4 p.m.

## ADULTS

### SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

#### Go-Go Fitness

*Ages 16 and older*

Go-Go Fitness is a comprehensive 60-minute, high cardio, dance fitness workout that incorporates various dance styles, toning moves as well as the classic call and response of a live Go-Go music workout set.

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium  
Saturdays, Feb. 6, 13, 27, noon – 1 p.m.  
\$5 drop-in fee

#### Jazzercise

*Ages 16 and older*

Jazzercise is the art of Jazz combined with the science of exercise physiology. Each 60 minute class includes easy to follow fun aerobic-dance routines, weights for muscle strength and stretching exercises all to the beat of great music. The music ranges from

### Registration Underway for Winter Classes

A full listing of our classes and programs are in the 2016 Winter City Guide or help us go green and visit us online [www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation).





RECREATION

■ From page 6

oldies to jazz to the newest pop tunes.  
TP Recreation Center gymnasium  
Ongoing, Mondays & Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m.  
Ongoing, Saturdays, 8 - 9 a.m.  
\$45 Per Month EFT (Easy Fitness Ticket)  
\$120/ 8 week pass  
Drop in \$15

**Ladies' Boot Camp I**  
*Ages 16 and older*

A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour.

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium  
Tuesdays & Thursdays, Jan. 12 – March 3,  
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
\$85/8 week  
Drop-in \$10

**Pilates**  
*Ages 16 and older*

This fun and invigorating workout teaches controlled movements utilizing the body's 'core' abdomen, back, and hips. Pilates improves core

RECREATION □ Page 9

Beat your feet at Go-Go fitness

There is a new fitness class that will help you with your New Year's resolution. It's called Go-Go Fitness. Provided by Go-Go Fitness LLC, this class is a comprehensive 60-minute, high cardio dance fitness workout that incorporates various dance styles and toning moves as well as the classic call and response of a live Go-Go music workout set.

Go-Go Fitness was the creation of Danette Tucker (a.k.a. Dani) in February 2012. Her reason for starting this class was to give families the opportunity to work out together. She wanted to create the same "Family Affair" that was the vision of the legendary Chuck Brown. Dani says, "Our classes are one hour long and provide a great cardio workout with several toning moves incorporated throughout each routine."

Go-Go Fitness has 15 instructors and is offered at various recreation/community centers throughout the Washington Metropolitan area. It is now offered at our own Takoma Park Recreation Center on Saturdays at 12:00 noon.

Go-Go Fitness was just featured at the NBC4 Fitness Expo at the Washington Convention Center last month. It was the absolute hit of the event with more 200 people participating in the demonstration.



Go Go Fitness Instructor - Danette Tucker

Dani has a very simple goal. She wants Go-Go Fitness to continue to be a "family affair" and to be an accepted genre in the music and dance/fitness industry. Don't miss out on a fun way to get in shape. For more information, contact Takoma Park Recreation Center at 301-891-7289.

RECREATION *Special programs*



**Art of the Game Basketball Fun Fest**  
*Grades 1- 8*

This event is an opportunity for youth to show off their skills on and off the court. Youth will participate in a three- point shooting contest, a dribbling competition and have the opportunity to design and print a t-shirt. There will also be a shooting stars competition for parent & child teams. Registration deadline is Feb. 1 and space is limited. To sign up, go to [artofthegamenbjr.eventbrite.com](http://artofthegamenbjr.eventbrite.com). For more information, call 301-608-9101 or email [jdominguez@pyramid-atlantic.org](mailto:jdominguez@pyramid-atlantic.org).

Piney Branch Elementary School Gym  
Monday, Feb. 15, 12 - 3pm  
Registration is \$10 per player

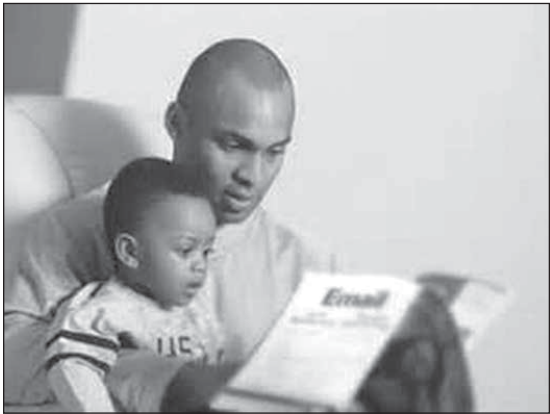
**Mid-Winter Play Day**

Get ready for the annual Mid-Winter Play Day! This year's event will be on Sunday, Feb. 14 at the Takoma Park Community Center. Enjoy dress up, face painting, giant chess, cookie decorating, making mud pies, fun with boxes and lots of great entertainment. Let your hair down, 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](http://takomaplays.org) or call 301-891-7225.

TP Community Center  
Sunday, Feb. 14, 1-4 p.m.



**Just For Dads: Parenting Tools, Techniques and Tips**



*Ages 16 and older*

What can us as fathers do to add depth to our relationships with our children? How can we help them tap into their own sense of motivation to learn and enhance their development? What can we do differently to avoid conflicts and power struggles? Join Takoma Park dad and Early Childhood Education Professional, Scott Mitchell to discuss tools, techniques and resources that answer these questions.

TP Community Center Azalea Room  
Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m.  
Beginning Feb. 18  
Free

RECREATION *Announcements*

**Change in Online Reservation Procedures  
for Heffner Park Community Center and for Park Pavilions**

As of 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 look forward to continuing to provide you with excellent customer service for your next rental request. Contact Gregory Clark, Takoma Park Recreation Director, at 301-891-7290 with any 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 [leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov). "Empowering Youth Through Employment"



**It's Snowing – Is My Class Canceled?**

The City of Takoma Park has several ways to let you know if City facilities are closed and if Takoma Park Recreation programs are canceled: get notices via Takoma Park Alert ([www.takomaparkmd.gov/alert](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/alert)); check the City's website; or call the Recreation Department's Inclement Weather Line (301-891-7101 x5606).

In general, if the Federal Government closes or has a delayed opening in the morning, the City does the same. Classes that begin before a delayed opening are usually canceled. Morning and Afternoon Addition and After the Bell programs follow the Montgomery County Public Schools declarations. If there is a 2-hour delay in the morning, Morning Addition starts at 9 a.m.

**Celebrate Takoma Committee Volunteers Needed**

The Recreation Department is beginning to plan the third annual Celebrate Takoma Festival for 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 Huffman at [deborahh@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:deborahh@takomaparkmd.gov). The committees meet monthly in the evenings. Come join the fun.







## My Caldecott Committee experience

By Karen MacPherson

The hundreds of librarians packed into the Boston Convention Center room on the morning of Jan. 11 erupted into cheers as the program emcee said: "And the winner of the 2016 Randolph Caldecott Medal for most distinguished American picture book for children is Sophie Blackall for *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear*."

As the crowd cheered, my fellow 2016 Caldecott Committee members and I turned to each other with huge smiles. We had done it! After a year of reading, and re-reading (and re-reading....), hundreds of eligible books, and after two days of intense and deeply meaningful discussions, our work was completed and was now being feted by our librarian colleagues.

Throughout the process of choosing the 2016 Caldecott Medal winner, we had been humbled and awed by the fact that we were charged with choosing a book that would be purchased by hundreds of libraries and thousands of parents. We knew that the winning illustrator would garner both fame and fortune, as books chosen for the Caldecott Medal virtually never go out of print. There's a good reason why the Caldecott Medal and the Newbery Medal, given annually to the best-written American book for children, are often called "the Oscars of the children's book world."

My involvement with the Caldecott process actually began in 2013 when I was asked to run for the 2016 Caldecott Committee. There are 15 members of the committee; seven are elected and eight, including the chairperson, are appointed by the leaders of the Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC), a division of the American Library Association.

The elections were held in the spring of 2014, and I won a spot on the committee. However, it wasn't until January 2015 that our real work began. Over the course of 2015, each committee member received hundreds of books from publishers. Contrary to popular understanding of the Caldecott Medal as an award for picture books written for preschoolers, books for children ages birth through 14 are eligible. That wide age range meant we received board books, illustrated non-fiction books, graphic novels and – yes – picture books for both young children and elementary-age kids.

Our job was to evaluate these books according to the Caldecott Medal criteria. Each month, we sent our chairperson, Rachel Payne of the Brooklyn Public Library, a list of suggested books, ones that we found interesting and thought our col-

leagues should read.

Then, in October things got really serious. Each committee member has seven nominations – three made in October and two each in November and December. With so many great books published in 2015, it was excruciating for us to narrow our choices, but we had to. The nominated books then became our "finalists," the only ones we could discuss when we gathered in Boston to choose our winner. All other books were off the table.

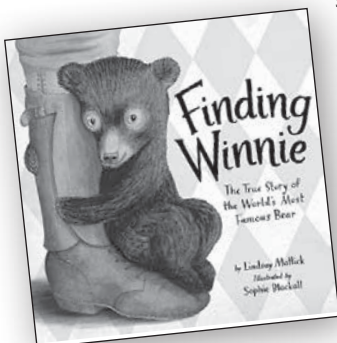
At this point, I need to mention the issue of confidentiality. All of our monthly suggestions, all of our nominated books, including how many books were nominated since people could end up nominating the same book, and all of our discussions in Boston will forever remain secret. Even our discussion room was designated as "secured," meaning only committee members could enter.

In addition, we never discussed the nominated books, even in email or on the phone, until our deliberations began at 8 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 8. As you can imagine, we were all quite eager to finally discuss books that had consumed so many of our waking hours for an entire year.

Now the entire world knows our choices. In addition to awarding the 2016 Caldecott Medal to Blackall for *Finding Winnie*, our committee chose four Caldecott Honor books. They are (in order by illustrator's last name): *Trombone Shorty*, illustrated by Bryan Collier and written by Troy "Trombone Shorty" Andrews; *Waiting*, written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes; *Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement*, illustrated by Ekua Holmes and written by Carole Boston Weatherford; and *Last Stop on Market Street*, illustrated by Christian Robinson and written by Matt de la Pena.

In terms of Caldecott history, the 2016 Caldecott Medal was the 28th won by a woman (Some women have won multiple times.) since the award was first given in 1938; 50 medals have been won by men. Also, our group of Caldecott Honor books is amazingly diverse; our Honor illustrators include three African-American artists (Collier, Holmes and Robinson), a debut illustrator (Holmes) and a Caldecott Medalist (Henkes, who won the medal in 2005 for *Kitten's First Full Moon*).

In a bonus for us, most of our books received awards from other awards committees, underlining their excellence. Perhaps the biggest and best surprise was the fact that our Caldecott Honor book, *Last Stop on Market Street*, also was awarded the 2016 Newbery Medal for the lyrical and poignant text by author Matt de la Pena. It is only the second time that a pic-



## CALENDAR

### Circle Time

Every Tuesday.  
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

### Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m.  
Led by Senora Geiza

### MOOC Discussion of "From Freedom Rides to Ferguson"

Sundays through Feb. 28, 12:30 p.m.  
Computer Room B

### Newbery Medalist Kwame Alexander

Monday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m.  
Alexander will talk about his new picture book *Surf's Up!*

### Bedtime Stories and a Craft

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m.  
Join Ms. Kati for this fun monthly program.

### Graphic Novelist Gareth Hinds

Thursday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.  
Hinds' new book is *Samurai's Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune*

### Crafts for Kids

Sunday, Feb. 7, 2-3 p.m.  
Valentine's Day and Chinese New Year crafts

### Caldecott Club

Monday, Feb. 8, 7 p.m.  
All ages welcome; lemonade and cookies served.

### Comics Jam

Tuesday, Feb. 9, 4 p.m.  
Come read comics with Dave Burbank.

### Petites Chansons

Saturday, Feb. 13, 10:30 a.m.  
Led by Madame Marie

### Take Your Child to the Library Day

Sat., Feb. 13, 2 p.m.  
Join us for a special puppet show.

### Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 16, 7:45 p.m.

### LEGO Club

Sunday, Feb. 21, 1:30-3 p.m.  
Building fun for ages 5-12

### Kids Author/Artist Bob Shea

Thursday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m.  
Shea will talk about *Dance! Dance! Underpants!* – the latest book in his *Ballet Cat* beginning reader series.

### Friends Fortnightly Book Club

Wednesday, Feb. X, 7:30 p.m.

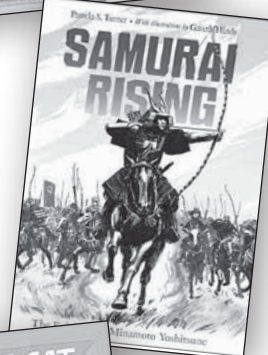
Our book is TBD..

### Looking ahead.....

- Winifred Conkling, author of a new non-fiction book, *Radioactive!*, focused on two pioneering women physicists, helps us kick off Women's History Month, Monday, March 7, 7:30 p.m.
- Bedtime Stories and a Craft, Tuesday, March 1, 7 p.m.
- LEGO Club, Sunday, March 6, 1:30-3 p.m.

## LIBRARY BRIEFS

We've got a stellar trio of children's book authors and illustrators in February. First up is 2015 Newbery Medalist Kwame Alexander, who will be talking about his first picture book *Surf's Up!* on Monday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m. Then, on Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m., award-winning graphic novelist – and Takoma Park resident, Gareth Hinds will discuss the illustrations for his new book *Samurai's Rising: The Epic Life of Minamoto Yoshitsune*. Finally, on Thursday, Feb. 25, at 7 p.m., author/artist Bob Shea will showcase the latest book in his *Ballet Cat* series for beginning readers, *Dance! Dance! Underpants!* Politics & Prose bookstore will be selling copies



of the books at each event, but the programs are free, and no purchase is required to attend.

The Friends Book Group will meet Wednesday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m.

to discuss *The Hiawatha* by the Native American writer, David Treuer. *The Hiawatha* tells the story of the tragic happenings to an Ojibwe family after the mother, Betty, uses a government relocation program to move to Minneapolis. Soon, fratricide, displacement and guilt combine in this novel to reveal how good intentions can go awry. Named for the abandoned railroad car where Betty's son Lester finds love, *The Hiawatha* describes the fate of three generations as they grapple with the consequences of life in the city.

ture book has won the Newbery Medal.

While our committee's official work is done, we now are charged with promoting our winners, using them in programs and talking them up with kids, parents and teachers. Meanwhile, our committee will gather one last time at the American

Library Association's conference in June to hear the acceptance speeches by the winners. And, finally, we'll always have our committee t-shirt (created in homage to a beloved Boston-based, 1942 Caldecott Medal winning book): "Make Way for Caldecott 2016!"



# Rhizome: Community as curriculum

By Rick Henry

Put together a group of people with a dizzying array of eclectic interests and a “maker’s” mentality and dynamic outcomes are almost sure to occur.

For a group of six Takoma Park residents, that outcome emerged after the group, which is composed of, among other interests and occupations, a scientist, a musician, a poet and an urban farmer, collectively asked themselves the question, “What is something you would like to do if you had the space?”

“We had been talking about putting something together (around that question) for years,” said Steve Korn, one of the “group of six.” “In September of 2014, we finally decided to officially start working on something.”

That something is Rhizome DC, a non-profit community space in Takoma Park billed “as a hub for experimentation, community collaboration, and social engagement” that was one of the organizations chosen to receive a 2016 community grant (\$11,250) from the City of Takoma Park.

More specifically, Rhizome DC, which has just set up a permanent space at 6950 Maple Ave. that will open on March 1, offers unique community education opportunities - workshops, classes, demonstrations and exhibitions - that would likely not be offered anywhere else.

“We want to be a home for experimentation and risk taking in programming,”



*Ribbon-cutting ceremony for five new businesses opening in DC's Ward 4: DC City Council member Brandon Todd did the honors as Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart looked on.*

Korn, who currently serves as president of the Rhizome Board, said. “We are not looking for things that are already offered.”

A list of the offerings that Rhizome has already sponsored illustrates Korn’s point. A “Teen Hackerspace” event taught attendees how to build circuits that control robots or make music, while participants in “Make Your Own Synthesizer” workshop learned how to assemble their own customizable music synthesizer.

Anyone from the community who has unique expertise or knowledge is wel-

come and encouraged to teach a class or lead a workshop. “The community is the curriculum, and Takoma Park is a great community for it because it has such a wide cross-section of people from different backgrounds to partner and work with,” Korn said.

One such member of that community is Dr. Nadia Marsh. Marsh, who has an internal medicine practice in Takoma Park, wanted to share and apply her specialization in integrative medicine to a topic that resonated for people in the community. She settled on a workshop entitled

“Insomnia: An Integrative Medical Approach.”

“It was great fun,” Marsh said of the workshop she delivered last November. “When you are talking about health issues in an open, interactive forum, people learn more.”

Beyond the educational piece, Marsh stressed the importance of bringing a new approach to an issue many people are facing: “The participants appreciated the opportunity to express and share what they were going through.”

That sense of sharing, learning and experimenting is ultimately what is at the heart of Rhizome, Korn said. And now that the organization will have a permanent space, those affiliated with it are anxious to expand their reach and their offerings.

“The community grant was really helpful in getting us off the ground,” Korn said. “Now we want to get the word out that there is a space in Takoma Park where interesting things are happening and get as many people as we can to participate and put on programming.”

Have a unique or interesting skill, hobby or expertise that you would like to share with or teach to others? Contact Rhizome at [info@rhizomemd.org](mailto:info@rhizomemd.org).

*This is the second in a series of profiles about organizations that received funds through the City’s Community Grants Program.*

## RECREATION

■ From page 7

control, coordination, standing alignment and balance with mat exercises. Pilates is the perfect mind and body exercise for anyone who wants to tone, streamline, and realign their body.

TP Recreation Center Front Meeting Room  
Wednesdays, Jan. 6 – Feb. 10, 6 – 7 p.m.  
\$60/6 weeks

## FOREVER YOUNG: 55 PLUS

### DROP IN

#### Bingo

*Ages 55 and older*

Try your luck. Win a prize.

TP Community Center Senior Room  
Thursday, Feb. 25, 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. 25, 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 - Friday, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Free

## EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

### Computer Class

*Ages 55 and older*

Learn to use the internet, a word processing program, and email. You need a Takoma Park

Library card to access the computers, and take this course. Instructor: Patti Mallin. Six weeks. For more information contact Paula Lisowski, Seniors Program Manager at 301-891-7280 or [paula@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:paula@takomaparkmd.gov).  
TP Community Center Computer Center.  
Wednesdays, Feb. 24 - March 30,  
10 a.m. - noon  
\$10 Payable to the City of Takoma Park

## SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

### Cardio Groove

*Ages 55 and older*

High-energy and fast-paced, low-impact Aerobics that get the heart pumping and feet moving quickly. Followed by a cool down and stretch.

TP Community Center Dance Studio  
Thursdays, until March 10, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
Free

### Line Dancing

*Ages 55 and older*

Line Dancing is great physical and mental exercise and an enjoyable social activity that leads to meeting new people and making new friends. Strengthening of bones and muscles, weight loss, increased stamina and flexibility and stress reduction are just some of the benefits of dancing. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary.

TP Community Center Dance Studio  
Thursdays, until March 30, 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. (no class 2/3)  
Free

### Senior Free Fitness Pass

*Ages 55 and older*

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

TP Recreation Center fitness room  
Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon - 9 p.m.  
Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 2:30 - 9 p.m.  
Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Free

### Tennis Fun and Fitness

*Ages 55 and older*

This class blends exercise with learning or reviewing tennis skills utilizing special equipment for indoor play. All equipment provided, but you can bring your own racket. Instructor Coach S.J. For more information contact Paula Lisowski, Seniors Program Manager at 301-891-7280 or [paula@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:paula@takomaparkmd.gov)

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium  
Thursdays, until March 3, noon - 1 p.m.  
Free



### Zumba Gold

*Ages 55 and older*

Zumba Gold was designed for the active senior with less intense dance routines for beginners and older adults using modified movements. You may register for one class per week only. Choose the day that fits your schedule. For more information contact Paula

Lisowski, Seniors Program Manager at 301-891-7280 or [paula@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:paula@takomaparkmd.gov).

TP Community Center Dance Studio  
Thursdays, Feb. 11 - March 31,  
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.  
Saturdays, Feb. 13 - April 2, 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.  
Free

## PETS

### Basic Dog Manners

*Dogs Ages 1 & older*

It is never too late to start training with your dog. This class focuses on teaching the polite behaviors we want from our dogs in “the real world” on leash, at home, and with other dogs and people. This class covers foundation behaviors (sit, down, stay, here, leave it), leash manners (not pulling, passing dogs and people), polite greetings, dog body language, and how reinforcement works. Dogs should be friendly toward dogs and people and current on vaccinations. No pinch, prong, choke, or electronic collars in the classroom, please.

Heffner Park Community Center  
Thursdays, Feb. 18 – Mar. 17, 7 – 8 p.m.

TP residents \$120

Non-residents \$140

### Puppy Kindergarten

*Ages 8 weeks – 5 months*

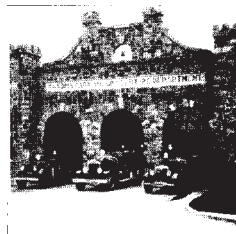
If you have puppy, you need Puppy Kindergarten! Early puppy training and socialization has been shown to help prevent behavior problems later on. Each class will include supervised, off leash play, where you will learn about dog body language and appropriate play. Most of all, we’ll have fun! No pinch, prong, choke, or electronic collars in the classroom.

Heffner Park Community Center  
Tuesdays, Feb. 16 – Mar. 15, 6:45 – 7:45 p.m.

TP residents \$120

Non-residents \$140





## THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service assigned to the station responded to 627 fire-related incidents and 3,300 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a grand total of 3,927 in 2015. Grand totals for 2014 were 684 and 2,870 representing an increase of 373 incidents.

The Takoma Park volunteers put in a grand total of 15,678.5 hours of standby time in the station compared to 16,542 hours in 2014, a decrease of 863.5 hours.

### Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported that the total fire deaths for 2015 were 61 compared to 64 in 2014. As of Jan. 23, 11 people have died in fires, compared to 8 in 2015.

### Safety Message

Cooking is still the main cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Make safety your first ingredient. Never leave cooking unattended.

### Christmas Tree Sales

On behalf of the Takoma Park VFD, we want to thank you for your support that made our tree sales a success. We

sold out in two weeks. We look forward to seeing you next year. Have a Happy and Safe New Year!



### Annual Santa Run

Takoma Park VFD members were out again in the neighborhood with Santa, spreading the Christmas spirit. A fun time was had by all. Pictured: Santa (EMT Jorge Alfaro) with a couple kids he met along the way.

### 35th Annual Toy Drive

This year more than 100 children received toys. Thanks to all of you that donated toys. During the 35 years, approximately 5,000 children have received toys. We extend special thanks this year to Sergeant Tina Smith and Demetrice White, TPPD; Dave Hooker and Tina Willey, TPVFD; Brianna Bronson and Ernesto Lara, and finally to Captain Darrell Hout and crew MC-FRS.

are not required to repaint between tenancies, all painted surfaces in a rental unit must be in clean condition and free of any peeling or chipping paint at the beginning of each tenancy.

Section 6.16.050H of the city code requires landlords to post a durable notice in the rental facility, which contains the names(s) and day/evening telephone number(s) of the landlord and/or agent who may be contacted in emergency situations. The durable notice must be posted in an accessible and conspicuous place in the common area of the rental facility as well as provided to all tenants at the beginning of their tenancies and updated whenever there is a change in the landlord/agent emergency contact information.

Tenants or landlords having questions regarding the City's Landlord-Tenant and COLTA Laws can contact me at 301-891-7215 or mosesw@takomaparkmd.gov.

## What would you do?

By the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee

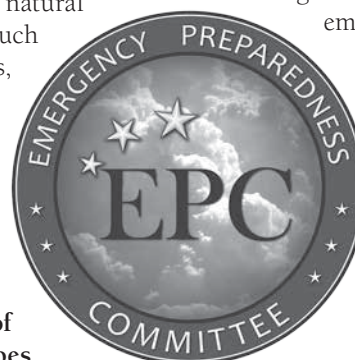
How might our Takoma Park elected officials help us in case of natural disasters or situations such as severe power outages, gas spills, and so on? We are asking City Council Members to discuss their leadership role in the event of crisis situations. We begin with Mayor Kate Stewart.

**Q: Given our history of severe storms, tornadoes, hurricane damage, power outages and occasional gas leaks, what are the varied ways you would communicate a message to the residents of Takoma Park? What would the message be?**

**A: Mayor Kate Stewart:** In any emergency situation, it is important to have a plan and to communicate accurate information to residents as quickly as possible. We are very lucky in Takoma Park to have an active residents' Emergency Preparedness Committee and an emergency manager on staff. As a member of the City Council, I have been through emergency preparedness training, and I am familiar with the City's emergency plans.

The Mayor's role in any emergency situ-

ation is to serve as the chief spokesperson for the City, confer with the City Manager, Police Chief and other department heads regarding the City's response to the emergency and to coordinate with state, county, regional and federal elected officials. We have varied means for communicating with residents during an emergency situation, including the Emergency Alert System, reverse 911 calls, local news media, the Takoma Alert system, the City website, the cable TV emergency message system and loudspeakers.



### City Contacts

- Sign up for emergency alerts: [takomaparkmd.gov/alert](http://takomaparkmd.gov/alert)
- Takoma Park Emergency Manager: Ron Hardy, [ronh@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:ronh@takomaparkmd.gov) (Note: Mr. Hardy is available to talk to your community or business association)
- Emergency Preparedness Committee: [tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov); [tinyurl.com/go9hdsa](http://tinyurl.com/go9hdsa)

## Snow Angels needed now more than ever!

The Snow Angels Program is currently at capacity. We are reassessing our number of volunteers versus the 20 new requests for snow removal assistance that we received between Jan. 18-21. If we get additional volunteers, we may be able to gradually open the list to include those who have already contacted us. We are not receiving any new requests for the winter season.

The Lifelong Takoma Program is a part-time program. It responds to a large number and variety of resident requests, including requests for snow removal assistance. The program manager is unable to respond to resident requests outside of the program's office hours (Tuesday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., except on holidays) or when the City of Takoma Park government offices are closed. Volunteers and residents can contact Karen at [lifelong@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:lifelong@takomaparkmd.gov) or 301-891-7232.



A snow angel at work



By Moses A. Wilds Jr.  
Landlord-Tenant Mediation Specialist

### Apartment Repainting/Landlord Emergency Contact information

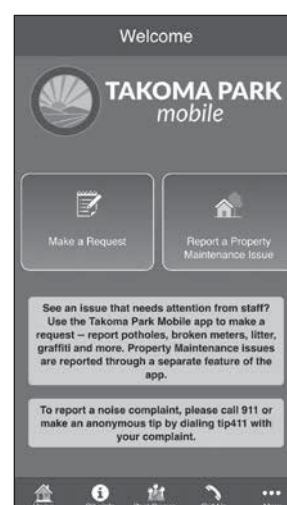
**A new tenant contacted the Mailbox and indicated that he thinks his apartment needs painting. He asked if this subject is covered by the City's Landlord-Tenant Law. He also asked if the landlord is required to provide his contact information in case of an emergency.**

The City's Landlord-Tenant Law requires landlords to paint all rental units in their entirety at least once every five years (Section 6.16.050.F). Although landlords

## There's a My TkPk app for that

The City of Takoma Park just released a new app that lets residents notify staff of service requests from their mobile devices. Whether it is a pothole or a tenant requesting help for an issue with a rental apartment, residents can contact staff in just a few easy clicks.

The new service, branded My TkPk, has existed on the City's website since 2009 and can be found under the Request/Report icon on the City's homepage or at [takomaparkmd.gov/my-tkpk](http://takomaparkmd.gov/my-tkpk). The latest iteration of the app takes the service to a new level, making it easier than ever before to communicate with City staff. The app can be downloaded for free via the app store by searching for *Takoma Park Mobile Reporting*.







## Crossroads call for vendors and volunteers

In preparation for the organization's 10th anniversary this year, the Crossroads Community Food Network is currently accepting both vendor and volunteer applications for the 2016 market season.

There is space for approximately five new vendors (aside from all those returning from last year). The market is especially looking to recruit dairy, free-range eggs/meats, seafood, bread, honey, and plant vendors for its 2016 vendor lineup. If you know of any such producers looking for a new local market, please direct them to the vendor application materials on the Crossroads website,

[www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org](http://www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org). The early bird deadline for submitting applications is Feb. 14.

As for volunteers, there are more than 20 different positions available, allowing local students and community members to engage more deeply with Crossroads Farmers Market on Wednesdays and beyond to share their talents in the areas of outreach, nutrition education, media/communications, research, and much more. There's something for everyone, so take a look at the volunteer position descriptions on the website.

## NATURAL TAKOMA

# The hidden world of tree roots

By The Takoma Park Tree Commission

*Editor's note: Since Takoma Park's founding in 1883, residents have valued its sylvan beauty, parks and abundant wildlife. With this issue, the newsletter is inaugurating a new column, Natural Takoma, to be published periodically. It will explore the wide range of the City's natural treasures and share information and opportunities to celebrate and protect them. Natural Takoma is a collaborative effort involving the Friends of Sligo Creek, Historic Takoma, the Takoma Horticultural Club, the Takoma Park Committee on the Environment and the Takoma Park Tree Commission.*

Takoma Park is still in the midst of winter, so it seems appropriate to begin this first column with a closer look at the City's roots – in this case the critical hidden world of tree roots, where nature is quietly growing in the dark, even in the coldest months of the year.

We are all aware of what we can see of trees: flowers in spring (think of the pink mist you see in maple trees in late February), summer green, fall leaf color and winter bark. But their roots are typically out of sight and out of mind.

Yet roots are essential. Large roots anchor the tree in the ground, while hair-like feeder roots absorb minerals and water from the soil. Tree roots spread far beyond the dripline, up to twice the diameter of the canopy or more. For example, a 40-foot high oak might have a framework of roots 80 feet in diameter. Most roots, especially feeder roots, are near the soil surface where there is oxy-

gen and organic matter. So think of those fragile roots next time you start to walk under a tree and walk around it to avoid compacting the soil.

In the fall, as days grow shorter, our deciduous trees, such as oaks, undergo programmed dormancy. Leaves move their nutrients into roots, turn color and fall, and buds harden against the winter cold. Roots, however, don't become dormant; instead they remain quiescent, which means that they slow down but remain ready to start growth at any time if the soil warms up. For example, during last year's spring-like December in our area, roots grew merrily while other parts of the trees remained dormant.

Keeping these facts in mind, you can protect your trees in the winter months by following these three tips:

1. Create a thin layer, no more than two inches, of partially degraded leaf compost (available from the Department of Public Works) around the drip line and pile a thin layer of wood chips on top, thus reducing compaction.
2. Avoid piling mulch against the bark. Leaf mulch contributes not just nutrients but also mycorrhizal fungi, those nifty little fungi that form in or around roots, enhancing nutrient absorption and repelling tiny underground pests.
3. Avoid shoveling snow from the street onto your roots as the salt mixture can damage or kill them. Consider erecting a silt fence (a low, temporary plastic barrier) along your curb to protect both street and private plantings from salt.



Photo: Selena Malott

John Kirakosian, owner, PhotoPressArt

## BEER AND WINE

■ From page 3

At PhotoPressArt, located at 914 East-West Highway, owner John Kirakosian stocks well-known beers and modestly priced California wine labels, such as YellowTail, Coppola and Jacobs Creek.

"Beer is selling better – especially Heineken and Corona," he said on a recent Friday night, while serving a steady flow of customers, who came in to stock up for the weekend.

For Kirakosian, it's part of a strategy to offer something for everyone from his compact, bright storefront. Patrons can pick up a snack, Lavazza coffee, and now beer and wine, or use services, such as passport photos and printing.

"This shop has been here since 1982, and I bought it four years ago because it had a good reputation," he said. "I ask people what they want, and then I try to get it. That's what I do with my beers."

Doing what people want is what got the City to this point, said former City Council Member Seth Grimes, who supported changing the alcohol law when he was in office. "The Co-op went all-in on this effort, and I'm glad it did," Grimes said. "There are a lot of people who appreciate having a convenient place to get beer and wine."

Passage of the law in 2014 was not a foregone conclusion. The City Council had considered changing Takoma Park's alcohol rules in 2010, and a number of citizens testified against it.

Fast forward a few years, and a similar proposal passed the City Council with

strong support and little opposition last January. The state legislature heeded the City's request and changed state law so that Montgomery County alcohol licensing rules would apply in Takoma Park.

The January 2015 City Council resolution included support for Montgomery County Councilmember Hans Riemer's initiative to curtail the county's alcohol-distribution monopoly. The Montgomery County Department of Liquor Control (DLC) oversees distribution of all alcohol (beer, wine, hard liquor) and is the only allowed retailer of hard liquor.

Meanwhile, for the shopper seeking liquor to make the perfect martini or mojito, county-owned liquor stores are still the only choices. There's one exception – TJ Beer Wine and Liquors, which is in Takoma Park, of course.

"TJ's is the only privately owned liquor store in Montgomery County," said Takoma Park City Manager Suzanne Ludlow. "It's on New Hampshire Ave. and was in Prince George's County, so it was grandfathered when the boundaries for Montgomery and Prince George's were changed."

"I think we were the first [body] to call for ending the monopoly," said Grimes. "There's resistance in the county because the monopoly is so lucrative, but we're starting to see movement on it."

For now, Czech and Kirakosian are learning how to work through DLC's byzantine distribution system. It can be slow, but Czech said the Co-op is able to obtain almost anything that a customer requests and he's "happy to do special orders."

## SNOW SNAPSHOTS

■ From page 4

who checked on conditions and pitched in with shoveling, and the police force. Ludlow kept everyone updated throughout the storm

via the city's website to let residents know city offices remained closed and that the County's transfer station was also closed making it necessary to delay trash, recycling and food waste collection. Unfortunately, about 1,200 households lost power due to a tree falling on Poplar Avenue. No other major emergencies were reported.

Ludlow's main message: "Be safe and



Becca Lilly Park



Snow fort on Maple Ave.



be a good neighbor." Local photographer Selena Malott captured these photos of the local area.



# FEBRUARY '16

## Do you have an item for the city calendar?

Do you have an item for the city calendar? Let us know if you have a nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the March issue is Feb. 12, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Feb. 26.

To submit calendar items, email [tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov).

"TP Community Center" is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park.

All addresses are in Takoma Park or Takoma, D.C., unless otherwise noted.

### PUBLIC MEETINGS OF NOTE

#### Presidents' Day – City Offices Closed

All City offices & facilities will be closed Monday, Feb. 15, for the Presidents' Day holiday. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

#### 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](mailto:educare_ss@yahoo.com)

[www.educaresupportservices.org](http://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, 232 Carroll St., NW

Various food vendors

#### Under his Voice: The Life and Local Legacy of Chaplain Henry Vinton Plummer

Thursday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.

Lecture on Henry Vinton Plummer, former slave

#### Community Conversation on Affordable Housing

Saturday, Feb. 6, 9:30 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

The meeting, the first in a series of Community Conversations on various topics, will provide an opportunity to learn and engage in a discussion about the City's approach to housing, current trends at the local and state level, and some new ideas for addressing the issue of affordable housing in Takoma Park. In addition to City Council, subject matter experts from City staff and national and community organizations will be present to share information, respond to questions, and participate in the conversation.

TP Community Center

and first black chaplain of the US Regular Army.

Suggested \$10 donation

TP Community Center Auditorium

[www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts)

#### DOEVILLE

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

Docs-in-Progress presents the uplifting tale of a reluctant farmer who never imagined she'd spend her 60s wrangling deer in the Shenandoah Valley.

Free

TP Community Center Auditorium

[www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts)

#### Mid-Winter Play Day

Sunday, Feb. 14, 1 p.m.

Enjoy dress up, face painting, giant chess, cookie decorating mud pies, fun with boxes and lots of great entertainment, let your hair down, play with Play-Doh, put on your comfy shoes and get ready to play. This annual event is fun for the whole family.

TP Community Center

Call 301-891-7225

#### Art of the Game Basketball Fun Fest

Monday, Feb. 15, noon

Grades 1 – 8. This event is an opportunity for youth to show of their skills on and off the court. Youth will participate in a 3 point shooting contest, a dribbling competition and have the opportunity to design and print a t-shirt.

Piney Branch Elementary School

Piney Branch Elementary School gym registration is \$10 per player

Call 301-608-9101

#### Restoration of Historic Windows

Thursday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

A presentation by expert craftsman Neil Mozer of Mozer Works, Inc. and Lorraine Pearsall of Historic Takoma on the process and benefits of restoring your windows. Neil will walk you through his restoration process and Lorraine will discuss both State and County tax credits for this restoration.

7328 Carroll Ave, Takoma Park

#### Takoma Park Middle School Used Book Sale

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 19-20

More than 4,000 books available on all subjects and for all ages. All books priced at \$1 to \$2.

Proceeds benefit the PTA. Hours are 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Feb. 19 and 9 a.m. to noon on Feb. 20. Free admission

Piney Branch Elementary School

7611 Piney Branch Rd., Takoma Park

#### Celebration of Takoma Park Elders

Tuesday, Feb. 23, 10 a.m. – noon

Connect with other city residents and learn about what is going on in the city and how we can support one another in living well. Feel free to bring your favorite music CD. We will play it at the event, which is brought to you by the Lifelong Takoma Program and the Village of Takoma Park. For more information, contact Karen at 301-891-7232 or [lifelong@takomapark.gov](mailto:lifelong@takomapark.gov).

TP Community Center Azalea Room.

#### Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA)

Thursday, Feb. 25, 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 Muchui at [muchui@aol.com](mailto:muchui@aol.com).

#### Photo Salon

Monday, Feb. 29, 7 p.m.

A monthly salon for photographers to show and critique work. Professional, fine art, and amateur photographers are welcome.

TP Community Center Hydrangea Room

### ARTS AND LITERATURE

#### People's Open Mic

Sundays, 9 p.m.

Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.

[www.republictakoma.com](http://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](http://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 Katy Gaughan and friends

#### 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

TP Community Center Auditorium

[www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts)

#### Ike Reilly

Saturday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.

Tree House Concerts

6903 Sycamore Ave., Takoma Park

Tickets: \$25 (donation; *in advance only*)

#### Afro House Presents Scott Patterson

Saturday, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.

A Sci-Fi rock opera performed by pianist and composer Scott Patterson.

Suggested \$10 Donation

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

[www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts)

#### Victoria Vox and the Unified Jazz Ensemble

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

A ukulele-playing, award-winning songwriter with an infectious pop-folk-jazz style.

\$16 advance/\$20 door

Carroll Café

Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW

[www.carrollcafe.org](http://www.carrollcafe.org)

#### Third Thursday Poetry Reading

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

Featuring poets Stuart Hickman, E. Laura Goldberg, and Beth Konkoski.

TP Community Center Auditorium

[www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts)

#### Annual Jazz Band Competition/Fundraiser

Sunday, Feb. 21, 2:30 - 5 p.m.

The Takoma Park JazzFest will present its annual jazz band competition/fundraiser at El Golfo Restaurant. To honor our ongoing commitment to jazz education, the contestants are all students at local colleges and universities. The winners will be paid \$600 to play in a showcase set at JazzFest on June 12. El Golfo will donate a generous portion of the show's receipts to JazzFest.

El Golfo Restaurant, 8739 Flower Ave.

[tpjazzfest.org](http://tpjazzfest.org)

#### The Quiet Play

Saturday, Feb. 27, 4 p.m.

A children's performance that incorporates movement, stories, lullabies, and audience interaction.

Suggested \$10 donation

TP Community Center Auditorium

[www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Crossroads Community Documentaries

Thursday, March 10, 7:30 p.m.

Crossroads Community Food Network presents a series of short documentaries that explore how food fulfills and unites a community. Crossroads is a local non-profit that sponsors food access programs, including the popular Crossroads Farmers Market at the Langley Park/Takoma Park crossroads.

Suggested \$10 donation

TP Community Center Auditorium

## STAY CONNECTED!

The City of Takoma Parks strives to keep residents engaged and informed in a variety of ways including social media, the new City website, public safety notifications via email and text, and this newsletter, to name a few. As we begin a new year, we want to provide you with some tips for staying on top of the goings on around the City.

- Visit [takomaparkmd.gov](http://takomaparkmd.gov), where you can access information on upcoming Council meetings and agendas, City news, and the status of City projects
- Like the City of Takoma Park on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at @TakomaParkMD
- Sign up for Public Safety notifications on Takoma Park Alert: [takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert](http://takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert)
- Access special messages from the Mayor and City Manager on the City's blog: [takomaparkmd.gov/news/city-blog](http://takomaparkmd.gov/news/city-blog)
- Make a service request or report an issue using "My TkPk," an online and application based reporting tool: [takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk](http://takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk)

