Hear the drum beat for unity

By Apryl Motley

If you were anywhere near 7071 Carroll Avenue on Sept. 25 around 4:30 p.m., you probably heard the kick-off block party for the Unity in the Community initiative before you saw it.

After brief remarks from Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart, the event co-organizers, and other public officials, community members were immediately engaged in a drum circle led by Katy Gaughan. They played a variety of hand-held “instruments” or cheered others on as they did.

Just a few feet away, some families explored the moon bounce with their little ones or got their faces painted by Karen Holliday. Others tie-dyed Unity in the Community t-shirts or enjoyed burgers and grilled compliments of TPPD or sampled free cheesecake.

This scene was very different from the images of protests – and sometimes unrest – in Charlotte, North Carolina and Tulsa that had been broadcast into so many residents’ homes in the week leading up to the event. Unity in the Community organizers could not have anticipated, but only hoped, that this wouldn’t be the backdrop against which they kicked off their efforts.

Before beginning her remarks, Mayor Stewart asked the group assembled to observe a moment of silence “to reflect on the lives of those touched by violence, the lives lost too young, and those who run towards the danger” to keep communities safe. “There’s been a lot of pain and violence,” she said, “and we feel that frustration and anger here in Takoma Park.”

Stewart believes that community members engaging in conversations with one another, where they talk honestly and openly about their feelings, is critical to building better relationships. To that end, she challenged attendees to break out of their comfort zones and spend time talking with someone they didn’t know. “I am going to do it too,” Stewart emphasized. “I know this community came out today to build better relationships.”

“Talk to people, ask questions, and get to know each other,” encouraged Takoma Park Police Chief Alan Goldberg. “This is a unique experience in this community. And police officers are a part of the community, especially in Takoma Park.”

“This type of conversation where the police interact with the community is so critical,” said Maryland Delegate Will Smith during his remarks. “We have to head this off. Police officers are a part of the community, especially in Takoma Park.”

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Hear the drum beat for unity
DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

TPCC, Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday, Oct. 3, 7:15 p.m. Green Team meeting (Joint Meeting of the City Council and the Committee on the Environment)
TPCC Azalea Room

Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.

City Council meetings will take place in the Community Center Auditorium.

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, Oct. 6, 7:30 a.m.

TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, Oct. 3, 7:15 p.m. Green Team meeting (Joint Meeting of the City Council and the Committee on the Environment)
TPCC Azalea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Oct. 27, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (TENTATIVE)

Tuesday, Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Council Conference Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE

Monday, Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m.

TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 8:30 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 and click on “Events and Calendar”.

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. 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 Aug. 15, 2016:

- Arts and Humanities Commission
- Board of Elections
- Board of Ethics
- City Commencement Committee
- Commencement Committee
- Commemoration Committee
- Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Environment Committee
- Human Rights Commission
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Committee
- Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee
- Police
- Safe Roads Committee
- Utilities Board

The following groups have vacancies as of Sept. 26, 2016:

- Arts and Humanities Commission
- Board of Elections
- Board of Ethics
- City Commencement Committee
- Commencement Committee
- Commemoration Committee
- Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Environment Committee
- Human Rights Commission
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Committee
- Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee
- Police
- Safe Roads Committee
- Utilities Board

Vacancies:

- Arts and Humanities Commission
- Board of Ethics
- Commencement Committee
- Commencement Committee
- Commemoration Committee
- Emergency Preparedness Committee
- Environment Committee
- Human Rights Commission
- Landlord-Tenant Affairs Committee
- Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee
- Police
- Safe Roads Committee
- Utilities Board

Board members serve staggered three-year terms. Up to three vacancies.

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. One vacancy.

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. Up to five vacancies.

The Safe Roads Committee advises the City Council on transportation-related issues including, but not limited to, pedestrian and bicycle facilities and safety, traffic issues, and transit services and encourages Takoma Park residents to use alternatives to driving, including walking, bicycling, and transit. Up to two vacancies.

The Personnel Appeal Board adjudicates employee appeals of the City Manager’s decisions regarding employee grievances or dismissals. The Board meets annually unless called to convene a hearing. Three vacancies.

City Council Agenda

Ordinance 2016-39
Adopted Sept. 14, 2016
Flower Avenue Green Street
Authorizes additional expenditures of $46,550 to complete the design of the Flower Avenue Green Street

Resolution 2016-32
Adopted Sept. 7, 2016
Unity in the Community
Thanks Meaghan Murphy for creating the idea of Unity in the Community and offering Capital City CheeseCake as the location for the first event and encourages residents to participate in this and other Unity in the Community events

Resolution 2016-33
Adopted Sept. 7, 2016
Facade Advisory Board Appointment
Appoints Anne Fothergill to the Facade Advisory Board

Resolution 2016-34
Adopted Sept. 7, 2016
Arts and Humanities Commission Appointments
Appoints Joelle Rabion (Ward 1) and Alexandra Reyes-Pinkston (Ward 5) to the Arts and Humanities Commission

Resolution 2016-35
Adopted Sept. 7, 2016
Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs Appointments
Appoints Millicent Osswey (Ward 4) and reappoints Peter Munger (Ward 1), Gehmelle Johnson (NR), Harry Edwards (Ward 5), and Juan Jose Canales (NR) to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

Resolution 2016-36
Adopted Sept. 21, 2016
Regarding Changing the Date of City Elections
Affirms the City Council’s intent to proceed with changing the date of City elections to coincide with state and federal general elections but does not commit to changing the date if it is determined that it is not feasible or not in the best interest of the residents of Takoma Park (VOTING ND: Councilmembers Smith and Schultz)

All actions take place in scheduled legislative meetings of the City Council. Only negative votes and abstentions/decisions are noted. Adopted legislation is available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov.
UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY
From page 1

From left to right: Takoma Park Police Chief Alan Goldberg, TPPD Captain Tyrome Collington, Maryland Delegate Will Smith, Capital City Cheesecake Co-Owner Meagan Murphy and Mayor Kate Stewart.

strengthening our community. It’s not about picking sides.”
And with that, the drum beat began, symbolic of what happens when a community circles itself around an issue and decides to build stronger relationships.

“Communities can answer these questions together,” Murphy said. “We can participate in mending, healing, and conversations during the kick-off event. In the spirit of continuing those conversations, we invite you to use the questions below to get to know your neighbors.

Keep Talking
A list of “Getting to Know Each Other” questions was distributed to help facilitate conversations during the kick-off event. In the spirit of continuing those conversations, we invite you to use the questions below to get to know your neighbors in Takoma Park better. Introduce yourself to someone new, get to know him/her.

1. What do you like to do in your free time?
2. What do you like to do in your free time?
3. What do you like to do in your free time?
4. What do you like to do in your free time?
5. What do you like to do in your free time?

Folk singer Sarah McQuaid comes to Takoma Park
By Morgan Fecto
Sarah McQuaid likes evolving — her musical genre, her relationship with her fans, and the places she calls home. The folk singer-songwriter’s commitment to an atypical guitar tuning comes from this desire to shake things up, and paradoxically, is one thing she won’t change.

“You’ve got a lot of choice. You’re not just limited to the chords,” McQuaid said of DADGAD tuning, which differs from the standard EADGBE tuning. “As soon as I tuned my guitar to DADGAD it was a sort of eureka moment, and suddenly I could make the sounds that I wanted to make. I was doing that tuning and a bunch of others for a while, and then I decided that everything I wanted to do I could do in DADGAD.”

The Cornwall, England by way of Chicago musician comes to Takoma Park for a DADGAD workshop at the House of Musical Traditions on Oct. 12 and for a concert with the Institute of Musical Traditions at Seekers Church on Oct. 13 at 5 p.m.

Although McQuaid has lived in Ireland, England, the Philadelphia suburbs, and Chicago, coming to Takoma Park will also be a homecoming for her. “I remember Takoma Park being a funky, very vibrant kind of place,” she said. “Funny enough, I lived in Washington, D.C. when I was in high school. I went to National Cathedral School, so I had friends who lived in Takoma Park, and I went along to some of the concerts if it wasn’t House of Musical Traditions, then I’m sure it was some predecessor.”

McQuaid’s music takes from a lot of sounds, such as the lo-fi tape hiss of indie rock and traditional, Celtic guitar. In her two-hour-long workshop, she’ll use familiar songs rather than her own music to illustrate DADGAD concepts. For McQuaid the result of DADGAD tuning is a more dynamic sound and a better show for her audience.

“As a solo performer I want to be doing something different with every song,” McQuaid said. “I’m on my own up there, so I can’t use different band members to introduce variety. I have to supply variety myself with the way I’m backing the songs.”

Teaching one day and then performing the next is an intimate and unfussy way to tour, and McQuaid wouldn’t have it any other way. “I’d love to make money at this. I’m still struggling financially like pretty much every musician I know is, but I’d hate to have to be hustled out of a back door into a limo to keep from being mobbed by fans. That would be even worse than being broke,” she said. “The best thing about working at the level that I’m working at is that I get to meet my audiences.”

To register for the DADGAD Song Accompaniment Guitar Workshop, go to hmtrad.com. For more info on McQuaid’s performance at Seekers Church, go to seekerschurch.org.

Youth united too
By Rick Henry
While a large part of the crowd at the Takoma Park Unity in the Community Event at Capital City Cheesecake on Sunday, Oct. 2 was made up of youth, it was especially hard to miss those clad in blue shirts. They were everywhere, serving food, handing out information and talking with police officers and citizens who showed up to show their support.

But unless one was paying close attention, the group’s core message might have been overlooked. The youth were representing a group called Teen NVasion, and their shirts were emblazoned with a message that was particularly relevant for both the event, and today’s times. On each one was the statement: “Teens taking control and re-establishing a positive presence within our communities.”

Teen NVasion, established in 2012, is a city-sponsored initiative of A.C.T.T. Now (Advancing Community through Teens Now), which is dedicated to providing teens with safe, supervised activities that promote positive self-image, health, well-

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER
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assistant: Sean Gossard
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Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@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.

YOUTH UNITED
**SafeTrack work on the Red Line to commence Oct. 29**

SafeTrack is underway, and Surge #10 will take place Oct. 29 - Nov. 22. This program will impact commuters in Takoma Park. In addition to the resources offered by WMATA, the City is encouraging commuters to:

- **Consider teleworking.** The Takoma Park Library and Community Center, as well as many local businesses, offer Wi-Fi and provide comfortable places from which to work.
- **Try biking.** Keep an eye out for additional signs directing riders to recommended routes into D.C., to alternative metro stations, or all the way downtown.
- **Consider carpooling.** During the SafeTrack surges, the parking rates will take place after the 30-day period to confirm compliance.

Section 6.16.050H (Obligations of Landlords) of the Takoma Park Landlord-Tenant Law requires landlords to paint all rental units in their entirety at least once every five years. Although repainting is not required between tenancies, all painted surfaces must be in clean condition and free of any peeling or chipping paint at the beginning of a new tenancy.

Tenants or landlords with questions regarding the City’s Landlord-Tenant and COLTA Laws may contact Moses W. Mosesw@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7215.

**Safetack [Page 11]**

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**An update from the Takoma Park Welcoming Committee for Syrian families**

By Nancy Abbott Young and Fran Pollner

The first official act of the new Mayor and Council in November 2015 was the unanimous passage of RES 2015-66, “Resolution Welcoming Syrian Refugees.” The action was in large part a principled local response to the stand taken by 30 governors, including Maryland’s Gov. Larry Hogan, against allowing refugees from the war in Syria to enter their states. Takoma Park was among the first of myriad local elected bodies across our state and the entire nation to declare its intention to welcome vetted Syrian refugees fleeing the war that continues to devastate their lives and country.

The resolution passed with considerable support from Takoma Park residents, who soon thereafter formed a Syrian refugee working group (now named the Takoma Park Welcoming Committee for Syrian Families) to determine how to bring the resolution to life by learning the process by which Syrian refugees are resettled in the United States and the requirements that must be met by communities eager to open their doors to them. Councilmembers Terry Seamens, Ricky Qureshi, and Peter Kovar have been committed participants in our group meetings and are spearheading several initiatives to make the intentions of the resolution a reality. Meanwhile members of the IRC’s resettlement team have been hard at work examining how best to accommodate Syrian families who may come to Takoma Park.

As a first step, two of our group members met with the International Rescue Committee at its Silver Spring office. The IRC is one of nine agencies designated by the U.S. State Department to receive refugees and asylum seekers into the national resettlement program. We were apprised of the exhaustive 18-24-month vetting process for Syrian refugees seeking resettlement in this country. It is expected that the families will arrive quickly after the intensive vetting process is completed, and the IRC becomes engaged.

The Takoma Park Welcoming Committee will work in partnership with the IRC and other organizations to provide critical support to new arrivals from Syria to be settled within the City’s borders.

**SYRIAN FAMILIES [Page 11]**

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**Attend a public open house on the City-wide Parking Management Study**

Takoma Park is undertaking a study of parking issues across the city that includes an examination of meters, handicap parking, residential permit zones, enforcement, City Code and regulations, and parking hot spots. It is a comprehensive and interdepartmental effort aimed at modernizing and streamlining existing programs while preparing for ongoing developments and technological changes that affect how and where people are going in Takoma Park.

The City-wide study kicked off with online surveys of residents and business owners, followed by data collection, a review of best practices, stakeholder interviews, and the development of interactive maps by an engineering consultant. The consultants presented their findings to the Takoma Park City Council on June 15. The interactive maps, presentation, and additional information about the project are accessible online at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/parking-study.

The next step is for City staff to hear again from the community as recommendations for future action are prepared for the City Council to review later this year. The recommendations will cover all aspects of parking, including the Residential Parking Permit (RPP) program, on-street parking meters, parking enforcement (tickets), and commercial vehicle parking. The public is invited to two open house meetings to learn more about the project, discuss with City staff, and share input on areas for Council’s consideration.

- **Oct. 4, 7 - 9 p.m.**
  - Takoma Park Community Center (Azalea Room)
  - 7300 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park

- **Oct. 6, 7 - 9 p.m.**
  - Takoma Park Recreation Center (back room)
  - 7315 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park

Can’t make it to one of the meetings? The meeting information will be posted to the City’s website on Oct. 7. The City will accept public input until Nov. 7 through an online comment form on the project web page (see link above).
What would you do for love? Ponder this question as we begin October. We Are Takoma arts and humanities programming. On Thursday, Oct. 6 at 7:30 pm, Dr. Jennifer Tobkin introduces us to a Muslim judge, poet and literary critic, who according to legend, gave his life for love. The George Washington University Arabic professor presents Muhammad ibn Dawud al-Isfahani: A Poet of Male Friendship and Love in 9th Century Baghdad.

Explore a social issue affecting thousands of individuals and families in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Come to Street Sense Film Night on Thursday, Oct. 13, at 7:30 pm. DC’s first homeless filmmaking cooperative, based at the nonprofit Street Sense, presents the short films Fairness Rising, Late Show, and Raise to Rise, which address homelessness in the nation’s capital. The filmmakers and crews all experience homelessness, but the movies are made for everyone. Tap into your inner Irish and enjoy Lilt ‘n Dance on Saturday, Oct. 15, at 7:30 pm. The popular music duo Lilt collaborates with choreographer Kate Bole and the Cullin School of Irish Dance to bring this show with traditional tunes and fancy footwork.

Meet Your Arts and Humanities Commissioners

When you attend a lecture or film at the Community Center or see a mural or sculpture around Takoma Park, know that a group of citizen volunteers on the Arts and Humanities Commission (AHC) probably spent hours discussing and making choices to bring you that programming and public art. We want you to get to know these individuals. This month we introduce Arts and Humanities Commissioners Janet Rumble and Tommy Parlon.

Janet Rumble has a background in architecture, urban design and journalism. She is interested especially in the role that public space plays in strengthening communities and creating a sense of place. Janet currently works at Crossroads Community Food Network and is a co-founder of Tree House Concerts, a local live music series. Her main goal with the Arts and Humanities Commission is to ensure that the City’s arts programming both reflects and reaches residents of all wards.

Tommy Parlon, who has just joined the commission, is a dancer, choreographer and educator. He is currently the dance coordinator/associate professor of dance at the Community College of Baltimore County. Tommy hopes to broaden the type of arts programming the City offers and add more performing arts. Thank you for volunteering and serving, Janet and Tommy. The Arts and Humanities Commission still has vacancies. If you are interested in being a member, go to takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees.

Finally, visit two amazing exhibitions in the Community Center Galleries this month. Traditions looks at cultural traditions through quilting, painting and sculpture. And Kolams, crafted by Indian women outside their front doors often at the beginning and end of their days, are made of repeating patterns of dots and lines. The exhibitions are open during regular building hours through Nov. 6.

Diwali Festival

Celebrate the Hindu Festival of Lights at the 2016 Bi-County Diwali Festival Saturday, October 15, 1 - 6 p.m. at Langley Park Plaza, 8001-18 New Hampshire Avenue, Langley Park. Enjoy music, traditional dances and Indian food. Vendors will have clothing, jewelry and other merchandise for sale. Admission is free.

The festival will present traditional Indian dances, music, poetry and culture in a program produced by The Hindu Temple of Metropolitan Washington and Sri Siva Vishnu Temple, two of the area’s largest Hindu temples. Diwali is the annual festival of lights, which coincides with the New Year, and celebrates new beginnings, the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness.

This event is co-sponsored by the City of Takoma Park, Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority, and Prince George’s County. For more information, visit takomaparkmd.org or contact Melanie Issa at 301-445-7910 or mis5@takomalangley.org.

Holiday Art Sale Applications

Artists, the deadline for vendor applications for the Holiday Art Sale is right around the corner. The event is Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. Your submissions are due by Friday, Oct. 14. Apply on our website at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/arts-and-humanities/holiday-art-sale.

3rd Thursday Poetry returns on Oct. 20 at 7:30 pm and features readings by Jean Hordhaus, Martin Fitzpatrick and Renee Gherity.

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RECREATION

YOUTH

EXTENDED CARE
After the Bell 2016-2017
Kindergarten – 5th Grade
This after school childcare program for MCPS 2016-2017 school year will provide a safe environment for children in grades K-5. Participants will engage in daily indoor/outdoor group activities and special events. Each day they will receive a snack, have homework time, and engage in arts, crafts, sports, board games, free play and more. Transportation will not be provided by the Recreation Department, contact MCPS Transportation (301-940-8150) to change your bus route to New Hampshire Towers, and we will meet them at the bus stop. The “After the Bell” Program will not operate on days MCPS has half days or is closed.
TP Recreation Center
Kindergarten – 5th Grade
Monday-Friday, through June 16, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
$1,250

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Basketball Skills Clinic
Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of this skills clinic, which is designed to be progressed with excellent coaching which allows each person to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Instructor: Greg Harris.
Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
6 - 12 years
7 - 10 years
Saturdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Session 1 (8 Weeks): Sept. 10 – Oct. 29
8 Week Session: $90

Futsal 2017
Futsal, a sport that is similar to soccer, offers the perfect combination of learning and fun. It is designed to improve fundamental technique and skill development during the winter months. It’s also a great opportunity to meet new friends, stay in shape and prepare for the upcoming season. Please note that program registration is first come, first serve and space is limited to 40 participants. Parents are encouraged to volunteer as coaches.
Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
7 - 10 years
6-week season
Sunday, Jan. 15, 2017 – Feb. 12, 2017 (No class on Jan. 15 and Feb. 12), 1 – 4 p.m.
$50

Winter Basketball League
The Winter Basketball League is a non-competitive, developmental, community league. Program goals are: to introduce boys and girls to the fundamentals of basketball; emphasize that playing the game and being a member of a team are more important than winning by not establishing league standings or having playoffs/championship games but rather encourage personal improvement, sportsmanship, and fun; provide comparable playing time for all participants; and meet new kids from community and surrounding areas. Practice times vary throughout the week at various local schools.
Coaching Information: Volunteer coaches are always needed; training is provided. Please contact the Takoma Park Recreation Department if interested 301-981-7282.
Team Assignments: Co-ed divisions will reflect gender equity based on number of participants. New this year: Grade 7 Girls Division.
Special Requests: Requests must be made in writing and submitted to the Takoma Park Recreation Department league coordinator.
Various local schools gymnasiums
Kindergarten – 8th Grade
8-week season
Resident: $70/Non-resident: $80

TEENS

DROP IN

Teen Lounge
This special room is for teens only (Middle School and High Schoolers). You are welcome to gain access to two 50-inch and one 70-inch LED Smart TV. We also have X-Box One and Wii Games, workstations, board games and comfy sitting areas for socializing with friends. Come join us after school for fun and laughs and special events for an amazing time. Stick around on Tuesdays for MANUP.
TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Grades 6th – 12th
Monday-Friday, 3 – 7 p.m.
Free

Education/Development
First of Many
There’s something special about being the first, especially being the first in your family to attend and graduate from college. First of Many is a series of workshops to help you discover colleges that care about first-generation students, find answers to your questions about college and receive guidance on the road to college. Instructor: Department Staff.
TP Community Center Rose Room
Grades 10th – 12th
10-week session
Wednesdays, Sept. 28 – Dec. 8, 4 – 5 p.m.
Free

Power Hour
Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. We are the perfect balance of academics: Teens (cont.) 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. Instructor: Department Staff.
TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Grades 6th – 12th
Ongoing Tuesdays, 4 – 5 p.m.
Free

Wisdom in Minutes 101 - Life Skills
Wisdom in Minutes 101 - Life Skills is a series of workshops to provide strategies and techniques used to guide teens into real world decision making. Some course may include: Resume Basics, Time Management, Interview Preparation, Public Speaking, Essay Writing and Presentation. There is still space available – come join us. Instructor: Tonda Bean
TP Community Center Rose Room
Grades 6th – 12th
9-week session
Thursdays, Sept. 22 – Nov. 17, 3 – 5 p.m.
Free

ADULTS

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Go-Go Fitness
Go-Go Fitness 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. Drop-in.
TP Recreation Center Gymnasium
16 years and older
Ongoing Saturdays, 12 – 1 p.m.
Drop-in: $5

Ladies Boot Camp
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. Students are required to bring their own mats. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness.
TP Recreation Center Gymnasium
16 and older
8-week sessions
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Session 1: Sept. 6 – Oct. 27
$85
Drop-in: $10

Pilates
A fun and invigorating workout that teaches controlled movements utilizing the body’s core – abdomen, back and hips. Pilates improves core control, coordination, standing alignment and balance with mat exercises. Pilates is the ultimate mind-body exercise for anyone wanting to tone, streamline and realign their body. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Students are required to bring their own mat and hand weights. Instructor: Nancy Nickell.
TP Recreation Center Front Room
16 and older
Wedges, Wednesdays, 6 – 7 p.m.
Session 2 (6 Weeks): Oct. 19 – Nov. 23
$60

FOREVER YOUNG: 55 PLUS

DROP IN

Bingo
Try your luck! Win a prize.
TP Community Center Senior Room
55 and older
Thursday, Oct. 27, 12 – 2 p.m.
Free

Blood Pressure Screening
Adventist Healthcare will be doing a free monthly blood pressure screening.
TP Community Center Senior Room
55 and older
Thursday, Oct. 27, 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Free

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

AARP Smart Driver Safety Program
This winter registration, Takoma Park City residents can register Thursday, Dec. 15 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Non-residents can register on Thursday, Dec. 22 beginning at 8:30 a.m. To confirm if you are a City resident, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council.
AARP Smart Driver Safety Program is designed to help drivers 55 and older learn safe driving strategies and the latest rules of the road. Some insurance companies in Maryland may offer auto policy discounts to drivers who take this course. With your agency. Instructor: Jerry Hulman.
TP Community Center
Registration Department in person or online. For more information, contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, at 301-981-7280 or paula@takomaparkmd.gov
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room
Ages 55 and older
Friday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Day of class: Bring your check, AARP Card and driver's license to class. Make checks payable to AARP.
$15 AARP Members/$20 Non-Members

TRIPS

TRIP #1:
Maryland Historical Society Museum, Baltimore
Thursday, Oct. 6, 8:45 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

TRIP #2:
Walkersville Maryland Railroad Train Ride & Museum
Saturday, Oct. 15, 8:45 a.m. – 4 p.m.

TRIP #3:
MusicaliTee, Strathmore Music Center, Bethesda
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 9:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.
TP Community Center Recreation Office

Ages 55 and older
For more information contact Paula Lisowski, seniors program manager, at 301-981-7280 or paula@takomaparkmd.gov. Registration is required. For trip details and procedures please see the Forever Young Fall 2016 newsletter online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation

Great News!
This winter registration, Takoma Park City residents can register Thursday, Dec. 15 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Non-residents can register on Thursday, Dec. 22 beginning at 8:30 a.m. To confirm if you are a City resident, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council.

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October 2016
Monster Bash is Coming!

The City of Takoma Park Recreation Department will be hosting our annual Monster Bash on Saturday, Oct. 29. Our event will kick-off at 1 p.m. at the public parking lot by the TPSS Co-op.

To hold the event and ensure patron safety, we will have the following anticipated road blockages:

• The public parking lot next to the TPSS Co-op will be closed from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

• The intersections of Carroll Avenue/ Ethan Allen, Philadelphia Avenue/ Holt Avenue, Spruce Avenue/Park Avenue and Carroll Avenue/Philadelphia Avenue will be closed from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

• Rolling road closures will be at the following intersections: Westmoreland Avenue/Carroll Avenue, Carroll Avenue/Laurel Avenue, Laurel Avenue/ Willow Avenue & Laurel Avenue/Eastern Avenue from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.

• Ride-On and Metro bus service will be interrupted on the aforementioned streets from approximately 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. Please check with the specific bus service to determine detour routes.

• We are expecting to re-open the streets by 7 p.m. During the time of the street closure, you will not be able to enter or exit your driveway.

• No parking will be permitted on both sides of the street from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

• No parking will be permitted on both sides of the street for Tulip (400-599) and Willow (7100-7130) Avenues.

For the most up-to-date listing of street closures for Monster Bash, visit our website: takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation/monster-bash.

If you live or work along the parade route, we encourage you to participate in the festivities by decorating your front doors and/or windows and dressing up in a costume.

The Bash Kick-off beginning at 1 p.m. will be a great opportunity to visit with neighbors, family and friends while having fun playing games, decorating pumpkins and experimenting with the Mad Scientist Lab. This will be followed by the Costume Contest and Parade, and we will end our program with an Award Ceremony and Celebrations in Old Town Takoma Park. The parade will begin at approximately 2.15 p.m. on Carroll Avenue in front of the TPSS Co-op, and judging will occur during the parade itself. We will then walk down Carroll Avenue to Old Town Takoma Park to the intersection of Carroll & Laurel Avenues for the Awards Ceremony and a fabulous concert by the Grandsons, Jr.

In the event of inclement weather, the Monster Bash will be moved to Piney Branch Elementary School, and the road closures will be lifted. To receive an update on weather conditions, please call our inclement weather line at 301-891-7101, ext. 5605.

The Recreation Department is looking for volunteers to help with both set-up and breakdown of the event, costume judging for various age groups, barricade attendants, parade route coordinators and game booth attendants. Adults and teens are welcome to register at montgomeryserves.org (SSL hour approved). If you have any questions about the event, please contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290.

RECREATION Special programs

Registration Underway for Winter Sports Leagues

By Austin Hartsook

Temperatures may still be high, but prep for our Winter Sports Leagues are in full-swing. Registration for both the Winter Basketball and Futsal Leagues is underway, and we expect record numbers this season. In fact, we’ve already had over 200 participants sign up within the first week alone. Coach and teammate requests are on a first-come, first-serve basis, so please sign up ASAP to ensure your spot this winter.

For more information on both leagues, check out our brand new sports page at takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation/sports.

We are also on the lookout for volunteer coaches and scorecard operators for multiple divisions in both the basketball and futsal leagues. This is a great opportunity to make a difference in your community. If you wish to participate, contact Austin Hartsook at 301-891-7282 or austinh@takomaparkmd.gov.

For a complete list of offerings, check out the Fall City Guide. Registration began Aug. 15.

TAKOMA TIDBITS

Multifamily energy efficiency grants available

New grants up to $10,000 per project are available to multifamily buildings in Takoma Park with six or more units. Applications are due Oct. 10. For an application, go to takomaparkmd.gov/government/sustainability/energy-efficiency-rebates or email the sustainability manager at ginam@takomaparkmd.gov.

Bringing Nature Home to Takoma Park

On Saturday, Oct. 15 at 4 p.m., noted author and ecologist Doug Tallamy will speak at the Takoma Park Community Center. This event is being co-sponsored by the City of Takoma Park and members of Natural Takoma, a collaborative effort including the Committee on the Environment, Friends of Sligo Creek, Historic Takoma, the Takoma Horticultural Club and the Takoma Park Tree Commission. Following Tallamy’s talk, these organizations will host an information fair to share information about how residents can get involved in protecting and preserving Takoma Park’s natural heritage.

Celtic music from Doyle and Farrell

As a member of Solas, a solo artist, or an accompanist, guitarist John Doyle has appeared on more than 50 albums. Colin Farrell plays fiddle and tinwhistle with Lúnasa. His first solo album was named one of the ten best albums of the year by the Irish Echo. Doyle and Farrell will be performing together at concert presented by the Folklore Society of Greater Washington and Institute for Musical Traditions on Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 8 p.m. at Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.

Residential energy efficiency rebate cycle FY17 now open

Homeowners with property in Takoma Park are eligible for energy efficiency rebates up to $500 for qualified energy efficiency improvements, including air sealing, insulation, EnergyStar appliance upgrades and more. For more information, go to takomaparkmd.gov/government/sustainability/energy-efficiency-rebates or contact the sustainability manager at ginam@takomaparkmd.gov.

Fresh checks in demand

With a few weeks left of the farmer’s market, the demand for Fresh Checks has already surpassed what Crossroads Community Food Network anticipated for this season. The Fresh Checks program helps all residents in our community have access to fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables. For more information or to donate, visit www.crossroadscommunityfoodnetwork.org.

Adult HOW seeks registrants

Zenith Community Arts Foundation, a Ward 4 art nonprofit offering careers-in-the-arts training for young adults interested in jobs in the visual arts or design, has openings for its “Hands on Workshops (HOW) for Young Adults” or “Adult HOW.” Pre-registered, qualified D.C. residents age 20-24 get paid $8.25 an hour to learn when they attend Adult HOW. To learn more, contact ZCAF at 202-783-8005 or zcaf@zcaf.org.

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Brand new resources for the college bound

By Ellen Robbins

Whether you will be a first generation college student or one of many graduates in your family, we have brand new books that will help you in your preparation and your journey toward that degree.

Getting ready


Finding the best fit

“Barron’s Profiles of American Colleges,” 33rd ed. 2017

“Fiske Guide to Colleges,” 33rd ed. 2017. Stories that show you what makes each school unique, packed with tips from current students, includes academic, social and quality-of-life ratings for each school.


“Find the Perfect College for You: 82 exceptional schools that fit your personality and learning style,” 4th ed. 2010

“Where You Go is Not Who You’ll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania,” updated ed. 2015. The Washing- ton Post calls it, “a humane, measured book...in its authentic humanity, it has lessons for a very wide audience indeed.”

“America’s Best Colleges for B Students A College Guide for Students without Straight A’s, 6th ed. 2015.

Financing your college education

“Plan and Finance Your Family’s College Dreams: A Parent’s Step-By-Step Guide from Pre-K to Senior Year, from the Co-Founders of Invite Education,” 2016

“Parents’ Guide to Paying for College and Repaying Students Loans,” 2016

“How to Graduate Debt Free: The Best Strategies to Pay for College Without Going Broke,” 2016


“Confessions of a Scholarship Winner: The Secrets that Helped Me Win $500,000 in Free Money for College,” 2013

“The Ultimate Scholarship Book;” 2017


Getting in


“How to Prepare a Standout College Application: Expert Advice that Takes You from LMO (like many others) to Admit,” 2013


Online resources

With your Takoma Park Maryland Library card you can always access the most up-to-date resources for college and career planning. On the front page of the Library site, go to “online” at the top. Then choose “college and career.” This will lead you to the “career guidance center,” which provides information on college planning, job-hunting skills, resume preparation, internships and apprenticeships. And also to “test preparation,” which includes the latest high school, college and career exams, including sample tests and over 67 basic test preparation books. These resources provide valuable information that you can access on any computer, and they are always available and up to date.

Spanish Circle Time expands

Our popular Thursday morning Spanish Circle Time is expanding to two sessions beginning on Thursday, Oct. 6, Senora Geiza will offer the first Spanish Circle Time from 10:15-10:45 a.m. and then a second session from 11-11:30 a.m. Participants can choose to attend one session or the other as we try to accommodate demand for the program. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for funding Spanish Circle Time and also allowing us to offer this expanded version.

Kids’ author and illustrator events

We’ve got a great line-up of kids’ authors and illustrators who will be visiting the Library in October, thanks to our partnership with Politics & Prose book store. No registration is required for these events, which offer kids and adults an exciting chance to meet top authors and illustrators.

First up is a special bilingual (English-Spanish) event on Thursday, Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m., featuring author/illustrator Juana Medina. She will talk about Juana Lucas, the first book in a new illustrated chapter book series. Then, on Monday, Oct. 10 at 7 p.m., the always entertaining David Shannon (creator of No, David!) will present his newest picture book, Duck on a Tractor.

On Tuesday, Oct. 18, picture book creator Ryan Higgins returns to the Library to showcase his newest book featuring a grumpy bear named Bruce, Hotel Bruce. The following evening, Wednesday, Oct. 19 at 7:30 p.m., older kids and adults are invited to meet artist Jelliery Weatherford, who will talk about his illustrations for the newly-published You Can Fly: The Tuskegee Airmen.

We’ll close out the month with two more picture book events. First, on Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m., author Erica Perl and illustrator Henry Cole team up to spotlight their new book Ferocious Fluffy: A Mighty Bite-y Class Pet. Then, on Thursday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. author Jacqueline Davies, known for her popular Lemonade Wars series of novels for kids, will talk about her new picture book Panda Puts.

Kids can get an early taste of Halloween spookiness when popular storyteller Candace Wolf returns to tell scary stories at the Library on Monday, Oct. 24. We’ll have two sessions: from 7-7:45 p.m. Candace Wolf will tell stories appropriate for ages 5-7. Then, from 7:30-8:30, she’ll increase the scary quotient and tell tales suited to ages 8-13. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring this event.

CALENDAR

Spanish Circle Time

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

Spanish Circle Time

Thursdays, 10:15-10:45 a.m. OR 11-11:30 a.m. Led by Senora Geiza

LEDG Club

Sunday, Oct. 2, 1-3:30 p.m. Building fun for ages 2-10.

Bedtime Stories and a Craft

Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7 p.m. Join Ms. Kati for this fun monthly program.

Author/Illustrator Juana Medina Thursday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. Medina will spotlight her new chapter book Juana and Lucas.

Note: This event will be in English and Spanish

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time Saturday, Oct. 8, 10:30 a.m. Join Marie-Fraise des Bois (a.k.a. Madame Marie) for songs and rhymes in French. Registration encouraged if you want to be updated with future program dates; to register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents or call 301-891-7259.

Caldecott Honor Illustrator David Shannon Monday, Oct. 16, 7 p.m. Shannon will present his newest picture book Duck on a Tractor.

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Oct. 11, 11 a.m. Come read comics with Dave Burbank.

Caldecott Club

Monday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m. All ages welcome; lemonade and cookies served.

Picture Book Creator Ryan Higgins Tuesday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m.

Library Site

The Library site, go to “online” at the top. Then choose “college and career.” This will lead you to the “career guidance center,” which provides information on college planning, job-hunting skills, resume preparation, internships and apprenticeships. And also to “test preparation,” which includes the latest high school, college and career exams, including sample tests and over 67 basic test preparation books. These resources provide valuable information that you can access on any computer, and they are always available and up to date.

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Get ready for the friends’ book sale

The Friends of the Takoma Park Mary-land Library will hold their next gala used book sale on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The sale will be held on the Library lawn or in the Community Center Azalea Room in case of rain. The Friends’ book sales always include a huge variety of gently used books for adults and kids – all for sale at bargain prices.

Proceeds from the sales go to the library in the form of donations for programs and services. The Friends fund Spanish and French Circle Times, honorariums for guest speakers at the Big Book Club and for other speakers, refreshments for many programs, and lanyards for kids’ library cards. This fall the Library will begin offering two weekly sessions of Spanish Circle time with Geiza Keller-Souza – one at 10:15 to 10:45, and another at 11. We hope to add an additional monthly French Circle time with Madame Marie as well. The Friends also provide and support many of the Little Free Libraries around town. In short, they are an invaluable sup-port group in fundraising and advocacy for the City Library.

Volunteer

The book sales also depend on volun-teers to help out at the sale in two-hour shifts between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Ellen Robbins at ellen@takomaparkmd.gov and indicate when you would like to vol-unteer. The shift times are generally 8-10, 10-12, 12-2, and 2-4. Service learning hours are available for high school stu-dents. This is a great way to spend some time meeting your neighbors, finding some great books and helping the library.

Donate

The library will accept donations of books in very good condition during open hours until Oct. 17. Books should be boxed, and more than three boxes must be donated by appointment.

Hibachi, Teriyaki and Sushi – Oh my!

By Rick Henry

After 15 years of owning and operating a restaurant in Fairfax, Jimmy Lin was looking for a new concept and a new loca-tion. The result of his efforts, Sakura Teri-yaki Corner, has given Takoma Park and Langley Park residents a great new dining option.

The concept he settled upon was a fast-casual version of the traditional Hibachi steakhouse restaurants, the ones where patrons sit around large grills and the cooks are as much performers as they are chefs. Lin’s idea was, as the expression goes, to deliver the steak - or chicken, or shrimp, or vegetables- without the sizzle of a big production and higher prices.

“Those restaurants are great the first few times or when you are with a big group, but after that you don’t necessarily want to go back and pay that kind of money,” said Lin, who runs Sakura with his wife Helen. “Not everybody wants a show all the time that they would at a traditional Hi-bachi restaurant, but can receive the same quality. It also provides an option for pa-trons to dine in or carry out.

As to his choice of location, Lin, who also owns and manages Panda of D.C., a Chinese restaurant in D.C., researched a number of locations but settled on the Ta-koma Park area because he had lived in the area approximately 15 years ago and liked it and thought the demographics would be good for this type of restaurant.

After deciding to open Sakura in Ta-koma Park, Lin said it took him about six months to find his current location. He finally decided on 6843 New Hampshire Avenue (in the shopping center anchored by Shopper’s Food Warehouse) because it was in an existing shopping center with parking.

Lin’s instincts may be proving correct. Since opening in late June, he said he has seen his customer traffic rise from 60-70 a day to 150-180 per day. “We are getting a lot of repeat customers,” he said.

One of those is Cora Green of Mount Rainier. Green, who works at the nearby America’s Best store, says she has come to the restaurant often since they have opened. “They have good customer ser-vice and the food is delicious and fresh,” she said. Green’s favorite entree is the deep fried California roll.

Lin says that prior to opening Sakura he trained for several months with a chef friend in Pennsylvania and spent a lot of time perfecting the ingredient combina-tions in his dishes, giving special atten-tion to the three special sauces he de-veloped, a ginger dressing sauce, a spicy mayo sauce and a Yum Yum sauce.

Lin prides himself on the variety of entrees and the quality of ingredients. Besides the Hibachi meals, Sakura offers several Teriyaki dishes, Sushi and hand rolls, Bento boxes and Asian entrees and noodle dishes. Such fare certainly adds to the ever-growing options available on the New Ave.

Sakura Teriyaki Corner is open Monday – Thursday from 11 a.m. – 10:30 p.m.; Friday-Saturday from 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. and Sunday from Noon- 10 p.m. Phone: 301-270-0800. Website: www.mysakurateriyaki.com

Sakura Teriyaki Corner owners Jimmy and Helen Li.
Recommended

During August, Takoma Park Volun-
teers put in a total of 1,275.5 hours of 
standby time at the station compared 
to 1,289 hours in August 2015. Grand 
totals as of August were 10,554.5 hours 
compared to 10,745 hours in 2015, a 
decrease of 190.5 hours.

Maryland fire deaths
The Maryland State Fire Marshal 
Office reported that as of Sept. 16, 36 
people have died in fires compared to 
43 in September 2015.

Safety message
Make home fire safety the whole 
family’s responsibility. Work together, 
from the oldest to the youngest family 
member, to come up with an emergen-
cy escape plan in case of a fire or other 
emergency.

Hot car deaths
As of Sept. 16, 29 children have died 
across the country in hot vehicles. 
When you leave your vehicle, check the 
back seat and lock up your vehicle.

Walk to School Day: Just keep walking
This year marks the 10th anniversary 
of Walk to School Day in Takoma Park 
and the 20th anniversary nationally. Safe 
Routes to School invites city students, 
their families and school staff to participate in 
Walk to School Day on Wednesday, Oct. 
5. All SRTS schools in Takoma Park have 
made Walk to School Day a yearly event on 
the school calendar.

Over the years, our students have been 
featured on the front of the Washington 
Post Metro section, on NPR with Armando 
Trull and on First Lady Michelle Obama’s 
blog, Let’s Move. Many dignitaries have 
come to Takoma Park to walk with our 
students, including former U.S. Secretary 
of Transportation Ray LaHood, former 
U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation 
John Porcari, and Montgomery County Ex-
decutive Ike Leggett, among others. Takoma 
Park Safe Routes to School has been a model 
in the county, the state and nationally.

While it is certainly nice to welcome the 
media attention and high level visitors, one 
trend stands out: More students are walk-
ing to school on a regular basis in Takoma 
Park this year than ten years ago. Once 
families choose to participate in Walk to 
School Day, the idea is that they will de-
cide to make walking a more frequent part 
of their routine. The benefits of walking to 
school are obvious. Leaving the car at home 
reduces congestion and auto emissions, ex-
ercise promotes better physical and cogni-
tive health, and it’s fun.

To celebrate Walk to School Day and help 
parents determine the best route to school, 
Safe Routes has created walking maps for 
each school. The maps indicate which 
routes have sidewalks, crosswalks, crossing 
guards and stoplights and more. Look for 
the map in your student’s backpack or on 
the school website.

Takoma Park Elementary School will meet in front of the Community Center on 
Maple Avenue at 8:45 a.m. and start walk-
ing at 8:50. They will walk up Philadelphia 
Avenue to Holly Avenue.

Takoma Park Middle School PTA will 
welcome walkers and bikers to school with 
refreshments and give-a-ways starting at 
7:45 a.m.

Takoma Park Elementary School will meet at the 7600 Maple Avenue at 9 a.m. 
Walkers will walk on the sidewalk along 
Maple Avenue to Piney Branch ES.

Check with your school’s administration 
or PTA for specific details about your Walk 
to School Day event. Takoma Park Police 
will be onsite to enhance the safety of the 
walkers.

Safety tips
Here are some tips to stay safe while 
walking and biking to school:

1. Pay attention. Don’t be distracted by 
your cell phone or headphones.
2. Walk on the sidewalk whenever possible. If there is no sidewalk, 
walk on the left side of the street as 
far from traffic as possible.
3. Cross at the crosswalk whenever possible. Stop at the curb. Look 
left, right and left again before 
crossing the road.
4. Make eye contact with the driver before crossing.
5. Follow the instructions of the Crossing Guards and Safety Patrols.
6. Always wear a helmet when riding a 
bike, scooter or skateboard.

Be aware: Scam operators follow fires, 
floods, explosions and other disasters
You’ve had a fire in the house or 
a storm led to falling trees and 
damaged the property, or there’s 
flooding in the basement. Now you 
need help, but be careful.

Unfortunately, scams and un-
scrupulous business practices 
frequently follow major disasters,” 
according to Eric Friedman, director of the 
Office of Consumer Protection in 
Montgomery County.

Some of the service providers offering 
help may be woodchucks (unlicensed 
contractors), those who practice affinity 
fraud, independent insurance adjusters, 
or attorneys without Maryland licenses. 

• Woodchucks are contractors without a 
license, typically tree cutters or home 
improvement people, and likely from 
out of state. They ask for deposits (in 
cash) beyond the third down allowed by 
Maryland law.

• Affinity fraud is practiced by those 
who come to your door after a visible 
problem, such as damage to landscape 
or side of house, and tell you that they 
have been referred by X neighbor, and 
then claim they have experience in 
your specific situation. In reality, they 
may have introduced themselves to the 
neighbor and then come through the 
neighborhood, but with no recommen-
dation.

• Independent insurance adjusters 
do not work with your insurance com-
pany. They work for another company, 
which may not be licensed in Mary-
land, or on their own. They offer to 
negotiate on your behalf, claiming they 
can get you a larger pay out. In fact, 
they get paid first, and the payout claim 
is unfounded.

• Lawyers who offer assistance 
amay not be licensed in Mary-
land or may not have experi-
ence for the specific problem.

Protect yourself
• Never pay a deposit without a 
written estimate and an investigation 
to see if the repair person is licensed in 
Maryland. Do not pay cash. Do 
not give more than a small proportion 
of your total cost as a deposit.

• To stop affinity claims, check with the 
neighbors or friends to see if they re-
ferred the person. Follow up and ask for 
details about the work that was done, so 
you find out whether the person can do 
what you need and can do it well.

• Contact your insurance company first. 
Independent adjusters, who claim 
they can do better for you, would get 
you money before you do. And they 
may have connections with restorers 
whose work is questionable. Don’t rely 
on business cards. Check everyone out 
first.

• Make sure attorneys are licensed in 
Maryland and have the expertise 
and experience to deal with your situation.

• Don’t share any personal or identifying 
information.

• Finally, make decisions calmly and 
check credentials.

If you have questions or need additional 
information, contact the Montgomery 
County Consumer Protection Office at 
240-777-3636 or online at montgomery- 
countymd.gov/consumer. This office has 
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information, contact the Montgomery 
County Consumer Protection Office at 
240-777-3636 or online at montgomery-
countymd.gov/consumer. This office has
Three simple steps to $5 Million

How do you motivate all 17,000 citizens of Takoma Park to start practicing energy efficiency? Make a funny video to show them how (ridiculously) easy it is.

Gina Mathias, the City’s Sustainability Manager, and her Takoma Park-based Sister Eden Media to create a funny video to help spread the word about the Georgetown Energy Prize and the three easy steps everyone can take so that the City can win the $5 million.

Led by husband and wife team John Robinette and Lori Hill, Sister Eden Media creates how-to and satirical videos that show audiences how to take care of themselves and the planet. “When I was looking for ways to help spread the word about what we all need to do to win the Georgetown Energy Prize, I immediately thought of teaming with Sister Eden Media because their videos are so funny, but also have a great message,” Mathias said.

“Also, John and Lori live in the Long Branch-Sligo neighborhood of the City, which was the co-winner of the Neighborhood Energy Challenge,” she continued. “Lori was that neighborhood’s team leader for the Challenge, so they really understand the importance of this competition and the simple things we all can do to reduce our energy consumption and win the prize.”

Syrian Families

The Takoma Park Welcoming Committee for Syrian Families, please contact Fran Pollner (franpollner@yahoo.com) or Nancy Abbott Young (nancyabbottyoung@gmail.com) to find out more about housing needs and options, please contact Terry Seamens (terrys@takomaparkmd.gov) or Shruti Bhattacharya (shruti@takomaparkmd.gov). Regarding employment opportunities, please contact Peter Kvar (peterk@takomaparkmd.gov).

Get Involved

SYRIAN FAMILIES

• 1. Housing. The IRC will not place Syrian individuals and families in Takoma Park (or anywhere else) unless they have a home here — furnished and awaiting their arrival straight from the airport. We have found a scarcity of affordable housing in the area and long waiting lists at many of the multifamily apartment units in Takoma Park. There is also a dearth of licensed accessory apartments in private homes. The Welcoming Committee is now also exploring a “group house” option.

• 2. Job opportunities. The committee will work with interested volunteers and local faith communities to establish a family mentoring program. Two volunteer family mentor coordinators are needed to link individuals to families in Takoma Park. The committee will work with the Unity in Community Initiative to link families in Takoma Park with similar families who have already made the transition, and so forth.

• 3. Job opportunities. The committee will work with interested volunteers and local faith communities to establish a family mentoring program. Two volunteer family mentor coordinators are needed to link individuals to families in Takoma Park. The committee will work with the Unity in Community Initiative to link families in Takoma Park with similar families who have already made the transition, and so forth.

Warm coats for local folks

The Takoma Park Lions Club and the Takoma Park Police Department have joined forces in an effort to help provide some needed warmth to people who have little means of protecting themselves from the upcoming winter weather. All coats will be donated locally to the Shepherd’s Table clothing closet and Sligo Adventist Church, which provide clothing and other necessities for the homeless and needy individuals.

Beginning Oct. 1, two locations in the city will have drop-off boxes for donations of slightly-used winter coats, gloves, mittens and hats:

• City of Takoma Park Police Department (TPCC, 7500 Maple Ave., first floor lobby)
• Old Takoma Ace Hardware (7001 Carroll Ave.)

Donations can be made Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Members of the Lions club and the police department will be collecting the coats and winter accessories through Nov. 30.

For more information, please call Lion Mike Bigler at 202-438-1686 or Cathy Plevy, public information officer, City of Takoma Park Police Department, at 301-891-7142.
PUBLIC MEETINGS OF NOTE

City Council
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Oct. 26, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Nov. 2, 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 Fridays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Grace Church, 7001 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 in the public parking lot next to the TPSS Co-op.

Various food vendors

Crossroads Farmers Market
Wednesdays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Located in the public parking lot next to the TPSS Co-op.

This annual event kicks off with games and music in the public parking lot next to the TPSS Co-op located at 201 Ethan Allen Ave.

Games and music are followed by the Costume Parade and Contest down Carroll Avenue. We will end the festivities with the Costume Award Ceremony and celebration in Old Town Takoma Park.

Free

Food Truck Fridays
Fridays, 5 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.

Various food vendors

Fun and games just for teens

Food Truck Fridays
Fridays, 5 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.

This annual event kicks off with games and music in the public parking lot next to the TPSS Co-op located at 201 Ethan Allen Ave.

Games and music are followed by the Costume Parade and Contest down Carroll Avenue. We will end the festivities with the Costume Award Ceremony and celebration in Old Town Takoma Park.

Free

ARTS AND LITERATURE

People’s Open Mic
Sundays, 9 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6839 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Drum for Joy! with Jazquill 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, 6839 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

Lecture: Muhammad ibn Dawud al-Ishafani
Thursday, Oct. 6, 7, 8:30 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center

This lecture is an introduction to Muhammad ibn Dawud al-Ishafani (886-909 C.E.), a Muslim judge, poet, and literary critic in Baghdad during a time and place known for its cultural diversity and its vibrant intellectual life. It will conclude with a reading of several of his poems in Arabic along with an English translation.

Film: Fairness Rising, Late Show and Raise to Rise
Thursday, Oct. 13, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center

D.C.’s first homeless filmmaking cooperative, based at the nonprofit Street Sense, presents three short films about homelessness in the nation’s capital made by people experiencing homelessness but for everyone to see. Presented by Street Sense.

Joe Uehlein and the U-Liners – CD Release Concert
Friday, Oct. 14, 7:30 – 10 p.m.
Carroll Cafe at Seekers Church
276 Carroll Street NW

Join Street Laran for a CD release concert of this concept album with special guest Rickie Simpkins of Seldom Scene. Advance tickets on sale now at carrrolaffe.com.

Lilt ‘n Dance
Saturday, Oct. 15, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center

The popular Irish music duo Lilt (www.liltishmusic.com) has collaborated with choreographer Kate Bole and the Culkin School of Irish Dance to bring this show of traditional tunes and fancy dance footwork.

Free

Lecture: Highlights from the Collection of Italian Renaissance Sculpture at the National Gallery of Art
Thursday, Nov. 3, 7:30 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center

Laura Langer, a recent PhD in Art History from the University of Maryland, will highlight Italian Renaissance sculptures featured at the National Gallery of Art in D.C. This virtual tour will introduce some of the most renowned artists of that era: Andrea del Verrocchio, Luca della Robbia, and more. Plus, later in the gallery’s most treasured items, the famous painting of Ginevra de’ Benci by Leonardo da Vinci.

ORDER FORM

Please include check, including tax, written to the City of Takoma Park and be sure to draw a map of the property and locations for installation. Submit to Todd Bolton, Takoma Park Department of Public Works, 31 Oswego Ave., Silver Spring, MD. 20910 by close of business on Oct. 15.

Name ____________________________________________
Address ____________________________________________
Phone ____________________________________________

Please include a map of property/tree installation locations.

• Swamp White Oak (2”) $195__
• American Linden (2”) $195__

• Sweet Gum (2”) $195__
• Black Gum (2”) $195__
• White Oak (2”) $195__
• Princeton Elm (2”) $195__

+ 6% sales tax

Total ______________________

Make a Difference - Plant a Tree

Discount Trees Available to Beautify Your Yard, Replace the Canopy

The season is right to plant trees, and in Takoma Park that means residents can help replenish the aging tree canopy in the city. The city offers added incentive by reducing the cost of the first tree purchased by $100 (unless it is a replacement tree required as part of a Tree Removal Permit). That means residents can add a $195 tree to their yards for just $95 plus 6 percent sales tax, a total of $100.70. Add a second tree and the bill is still only $307.40, planted and guaranteed for one year.

Established discounts still apply as well, through the city’s annual bulk buy tree sale.

As a purchasing agent with Arbor Landscapers, the city is making five species available at wholesale prices. Swamp white oak, Princeton elm, sweet gum, black gum and American linden—all native shade trees that usually retail for about $350—are available to residents at $195, installed.

Sale dates runs Aug. 1 through Oct. 15.

TP Community Center

Takoma Park, D.C., unless otherwise noted.

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 November issue is October 14, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning October 28.

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

*TP Community Center, 700 Maple Ave., Takoma Park.

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