

December
2016

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 55, No. 12 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

WHAT'S NEW?

Special LOVE in Four Languages Insert

Pages 7-10

Residents are encouraged to choose their favorite version and display it in the windows of their homes and businesses as an illustration of the love in the Takoma Park community.

Holiday Art Sale

December 10

Details, page 5

TPVFD Toy Drive

Through December 20

Details, page 14

City offices closed

Christmas Holiday

Friday, Dec. 23 – Monday, Dec. 26

City offices and facilities will be closed from 12:30 p.m. on December 23 through Monday, December 26.

New Year Holiday

Sunday, Jan. 1 – Monday, Jan. 2, 2017

City offices and facilities will be closed January 1 and 2 for the New Year Holiday.

Trash holidays

Christmas

No collection on Monday, Dec. 26

New Year

No collection on Monday, Jan. 2



Photo: Helen Lyons

Stella Lesnick, 9, holds up a sign that she made in a show of solidarity with her Muslim and immigrant neighbors.

Residents rally in support of immigrants, Muslims

By Helen Lyons

Just three days after the election of Donald J. Trump as the next President of the United States, hundreds gathered at Piney Branch Middle School to hold signs, link arms, and sing and chant promises of support and protection for their Muslim and immigrant neighbors.

"I'm Muslim-American, born and raised in the United States," said Shahid Mah-

mood of Silver Spring, who attended the rally with his wife Faiqa. "To hear what Trump was saying throughout this whole campaign was very disheartening, and I'm glad that we came together in the community to say look, we're all supporting you, we're supporting each other, [and] we want to stand together."

RESIDENTS RALLY □ Page 3

A Post-Election Message

By Kate Stewart, Mayor,
Takoma Park

In this blog post, which originally appeared on the City's website, Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart reiterated the importance of maintaining Takoma Park values in the weeks and months ahead.

In the coming days, our nation will face a great deal of transition and uncertainty. During this time, it will be



Kate Stewart

important to remember who we are in Takoma Park and what we value.

We are a City with residents and staff from all over the world, and we celebrate that diversity. We are a City that welcomes those who are the victims of terrorism and violence regardless of their national origins and

POST-ELECTION □ Page 13

Takoma Tidbits



An alternative to traditional holiday shopping:

The 18th Annual Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair will be held on Dec. 3 at Takoma Park Presbyterian Church from 12–4 p.m. During the fair, "shoppers" will interact with more than a dozen locally based nonprofit organizations and purchase items from their "shopping lists" by making donations to fund a specific service or item.

Gifts are priced from \$5 to \$100. They include a newborn welcome bag of baby essentials for a low income family, music lessons for an incarcerated youth and education for girls at a school in Malawi. All charities are represented by their own staff and volunteers eager to share their mission and message. 100% of the gifts purchased go to the charities regardless of how shoppers pay (cash, check or credit card). All gifts are tax-deductible and include a certificate to drop into a holiday card.

The fair is sponsored by Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington (www.aggw.org), the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, the Takoma Park Child Development Center, and Girl Scout Troop 1456. For information or to volunteer, contact Mimi Ikke-Khalsa, fair director, at 301-891-8891 or aggw_inc@yahoo.com.

Takoma Junction redevelopment update:

The City-owned parking lot at the Takoma Junction is slated for redevelopment to revitalize the commercial area. The Takoma Park City Council signed a development agreement with Neighborhood Development (NDC), establishing a framework for the overall project, identifying the actions that will be required to proceed with the planned development and reaffirming the Council's expectations regarding the nature of the development.

TAKOMA TIDBITS □ Page 13

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

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Inside



City Manager's Post-
Election Insights

Page 3



Summer
Camp Expo

Page 11



5 Questions for
Mr. Gabe

Page 15

DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.
After the Dec. 7 meeting, the City Council will be on recess until Jan. 11, 2017.
Regular City Council meetings will take place in the Community Center Auditorium.

CITY COUNCIL /20TH DISTRICT DELEGATION JOINT PRIORITIES MEETING

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, Dec. 5, 7:15 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Dec. 1
TPCC Hydrangea Room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE

Monday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 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 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/agendas.

ADA NOTICE

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who 1) wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing; or 2) cannot attend a public meeting but would like to record an audio comment to be played during the public comment period of the meeting, is invited to contact Jason Damweber, Deputy City Manager, at jasond@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7202 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.

RESOLUTION 2016-41

Adopted Oct. 19, 2016

LED Street Lighting

Provides direction on conversion to LED street lighting: conversion of the Pepco streetlights on wooden poles in the city to LED lights through the Pepco conversion program, phase in the conversion on a neighborhood by neighborhood basis, assure that the replacement lighting is appropriate for city streets, and assure that the fixtures will be night sky compliant and within the 3,000 Kelvin level to minimize light pollution.

RESOLUTION 2016-42

Adopted Oct. 19, 2016

Noise Control Board

Provides for appointments to the Noise Control Board: Beau Archer and Adriana Kuehnel (Ward 6); Nicholas Kowalski, Anne Perrault, and Josh Rudder (Ward 3).

RESOLUTION 2016-43

Adopted Nov. 2, 2016

Community Development Block Grant Project
Endorses the FY 18 Community Development

Block Grant project – City of Takoma Park Streetscape Improvements (\$91,000).

ORDINANCE 2016-40

Adopted Oct. 19, 2016

Bump-out and Concrete Pad for Bikeshare
Authorizes NZI Construction Corporation to construct a bump-out for a bikeshare station on Kirklynn Avenue (\$19,816).

ORDINANCE 2016-41

Adopted Oct. 19, 2016

Bikeshare Stations
Provides for the purchase and installation of two 15-dock bikeshare stations on Kirklynn Avenue (\$98,282).

ORDINANCE 2016-42

Adopted Oct. 26, 2016

Truck Engine
Authorizes purchase and installation of a replacement engine for a dump truck that will be used for food compost pickup (\$17,000).

ORDINANCE 2016-43

Adopted Oct. 26, 2016

Replacement Trucks for Public Works
Authorizes purchase of two replacement large dump trucks for public works (\$273,850).

ORDINANCE 2016-45

Adopted Oct. 26, 2016

Wireless Microphones for the Auditorium
Authorizes purchase and installation of wireless microphone system for the Auditorium to be used for City Council meetings, public forums and other community events (\$65,000).

ORDINANCE 2016-46

Adopted Oct. 26, 2016

Door Security Hardware and ID Software
Authorizes procurement of door security hardware and ID software to upgrade and expand the system (\$37,760).

ORDINANCE 2016-48

Adopted Nov. 2, 2016

FY 2017 Community Grant Awards
Awards FY 17 Community Quality of Life Grants as follows: Adventist Community Services: ACSGW Thrive Initiative (\$10,000); Artivate: Takoma Wings Academy (\$9,000); Collaboration Council: African Arts Culture and Education Academy (ACE) Essex House Friday Program (\$9,412); Community Bridges: Community Bridges Makerspace Program (\$5,370); Dance Exchange: Support for Youth Programs at Dance Exchange (\$5,740); Docs in Progress: Documentary Dialogue Takoma (\$8,238); Montgomery Housing Partnership: 7610 Maple Outdoor Mural (\$6,500); and Takoma Ensemble: Community Outreach Initiative (\$5,740).

Important City Phone Numbers

Main	301-891-7100	Housing & Community Development	301-891-7119
City Clerk.....	301-891-7267	Library	301-891-7259
City Manager	301-891-7229	Police	301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
City TV	301-891-7118	Public Works.....	301-891-7633
Finance	301-891-7212	Recreation/Facilities Rental	301-891-7290

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 Nov. 14, 2016:

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. Up to four vacancies.

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. Two vacancies.

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. Four vacancies.
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. Two vacancies.

The **Noise Control 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

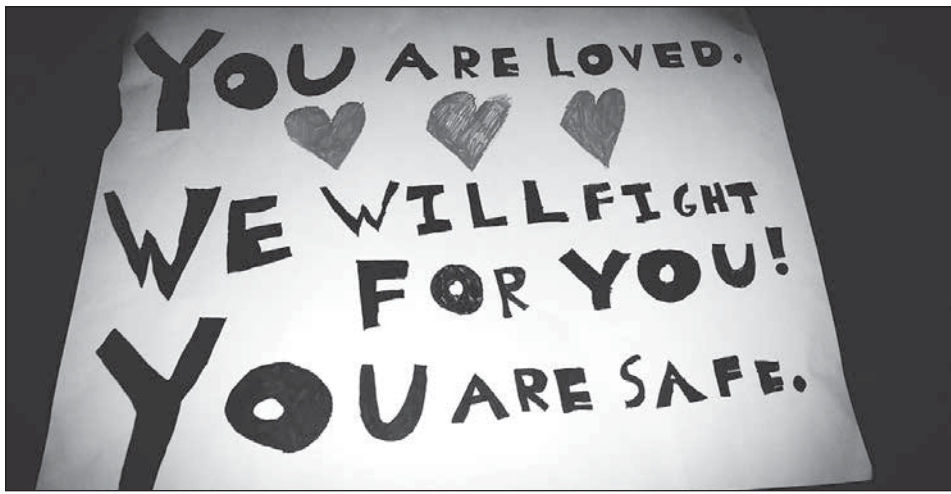
terms. Two vacancies.

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



RESIDENTS RALLY

■ From page 1

Adults and children alike came carrying homemade signs with slogans like “Immigrants make America great” and “You are loved. We will fight for you! You are safe.” They cheered and chanted as local activists took turns with a microphone, delivering speeches of unity.

“People are angry, frustrated, shocked, and at wits end,” said Greg Artzner, a former Takoma Park resident who brought his guitar to perform. He and his wife, Terry Leonino, led the crowd in singing “Give Light,” a song they wrote together that concluded the rally with the message that “people will find the way.”

The event was organized spur-of-the-moment, but drew a crowd of hundreds from Takoma Park and beyond. “It was very spontaneous,” Leonino said. “It was meant to give an opportunity for all of us to feel like we’re not alone. People in Takoma Park always make a point to find each other, and that’s why this is such a special place to live.”

Even those outside the city were drawn into the display of solidarity, including Muslims and immigrants who just wanted to confirm that they were still welcome and had a place in their own communities. “I’m a Muslim-American,” Dania Ayoubi explained, “and I wear the hijab so that makes me a visible member of the community. I feel that in some ways I have a greater responsibility to build bridges, and get to know my neighbors and make that powerful community that will be there to support me in times of need.”

And this seems to be one of those times. Faiqa Mahmood described the days that followed the election of Donald Trump as difficult, a sentiment that many in Takoma Park have echoed since the election results were first announced. “The kind of sorrow I felt was like if something that you really loved got broken and shattered,” Mahmood said. “You had this whole idea

of what America was supposed to be, and I just woke up the next morning feeling very, very unwelcome. But at the same time, I’m happy to live in a place where the majority of the people around me are feeling the same way. Someone was holding a sign that said ‘We love our Muslim neighbors,’ and they weren’t Muslims. Things like that just allow the healing to begin.”

Jill Feasley was one of countless non-Muslims and non-immigrants to attend the rally, concerned about the policies Trump touted over the last several months and how they would affect her friends and neighbors. “I know people who are immigrants, and who are Muslim,” Feasley said. “I just felt it was important to show support for people who feel threatened and afraid of what changes might be brought about as promised in the election by candidate Trump when he becomes president.”

The rally came together with the participation of Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart, City Councilmember Rizzy Qureshi, County Councilmember Tom Hucker, Maryland Delegate David Moon, Ahmed Elmi of the Somali American Community Association, Delia Aguilar from CASA de Maryland, and community activists Teba Assefa and Jheanelle K. Wilkins.

“There was a massive call for gatherings in communities across the nation,” explained Nadine Block, another contributing activist who has lived in Takoma Park for over 25 years. “We have to really build local capacity and make sure we are doing things locally that support all of our community members.”

As people finally disbanded in the darkness, carrying their signs and a newfound resilience back to their homes, there was a sense that this was only the beginning. “We had to come together to express our solidarity,” Artzner said. “We’re in this. Standing here with this incredible community... To me, it just looks like America. The resistance starts now.”

TPPD Chief reassures residents, clarifies roles

By Alan Goldberg, Takoma Park Police Chief

This message from the police chief, which offers residents clarification and reassurance about TPPD’s role in the community, originally appeared on the City’s website on Nov. 11, 2016.

I know that some of our residents have expressed angst over the recent political events. Like any other change in administration, there are unknowns. There have been concerns raised as to how the Takoma Park Police Department might change focus under the new president.

Unlike many of our European counterparts, the responsibility for protecting and serving the public is a local and state responsibility. State, county and municipal agencies do not work for the federal government. Our Constitution specifically prohibits a “National Police Force.” American law enforcement has always focused at the community level.

The Takoma Park Police Department is committed to constitutional policing where the rights of all individuals are respected. As a local police department, we have sworn to uphold the Constitution of the United States, the Maryland Constitution and the local laws and codes. Our priority is and always has been the preservation of life and protection of property. To that end, I can assure our residents that we are apolitical and will continue to build and maintain our bridges with the community. Procedural justice is a term used that speaks to law enforcement’s commitment to the spirit of the law, not just the letter. How we interact with our



Alan Goldberg

community is just as important as the act itself.

I know that there are specific concerns from some that fear that local police agencies will become an enforcement arm for the deportation of immigrants. Several years ago, the court in Maryland ruled that local law enforcement did not have the authority to arrest individuals for “civil ICE warrants.” We have no interest or authority in the deportation of immigrants. The mission and commitment of the Takoma Park Police Department is the safety and welfare of all our residents and visitors. We value and will continue to maintain our relationships with all members of our community.

The men and women of the Takoma Park Police Department are proud to partner with the residents of Takoma Park in building and maintaining a safe and livable community. The message of unity in the community that we have been celebrating will continue.

United the City stands: Q&A with City Manager Suzanne Ludlow

Takoma Park City Manager Suzanne Ludlow joins other City leaders in addressing residents’ concerns about how the post-election environment in the country as a whole might affect their local community.

TP News: What is the role of a city manager in a time of national political upheaval?

Ludlow: As a city manager, I serve the City Council and the residents impartially, recognizing that elected officials and the public need to be able to rely on me and the city staff no matter their political persuasion.

The council sets the policies and goals of the City of Takoma Park, and it is my job to implement those policies and attain those goals through the work of the staff I manage on a day-to-day basis. That remains my focus. In times of change at the federal level, I advise the council on the potential impacts to the city of changes in laws, processes and funding streams, and



Suzanne Ludlow

I work to ensure the city’s finances are protected.

TP News: What about your staff?

Ludlow: As a manager of the human beings that make up city staff, I also need to be sensitive to the concerns of my staff regarding how change at the national level may affect them or their families. The standards we uphold in the workplace regarding mutual respect and freedom from harassment will continue to be enforced. Staff has been advised that our human resources department can help with access to counseling services for those who may need them. Department heads recognize the need to remain calm, professional and supportive during this time.

TP News: What kinds of impacts might the City face from the change in president?

Ludlow: As a manager of the human beings that make up city staff, I also need to be sensitive to the concerns of my staff regarding how change at the national level may affect them or their families. The standards we uphold in the workplace regarding mutual respect and freedom from harassment will continue to be enforced. Staff has been advised that our human resources department can help with access to counseling services for those who may need them. Department heads recognize the need to remain calm, professional and supportive during this time.



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@

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BUILDING COMMUNITY

HOUSING MAILBOX



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

"I am a city tenant who is constantly arguing with my roommate and would like to know if the city's landlord-tenant office can help us resolve our problems."

The City's landlord-tenant law addresses disputes between landlords and tenants, and our office helps to resolve them through mediation. However, there is another organization that may be able to help. Disputes between roommates are one of several types of disputes that the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County Inc. (CRCMC) helps resolve.

The Center assists Montgomery County residents in constructively managing conflict by offering free mediation services in English and Spanish. A partial listing of the types of issues/disputes that the center has successful experience resolving includes:

- Roommate/housemate disputes
- Family member disputes
- Neighbor versus neighbor disputes
- Employer-employee disputes
- Small claims and selected other court referrals

CRCMC offers mediation that is voluntary, confidential and conducted by neutral mediators. The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County Inc. is located at 4805 Edgemoor Lane, 2nd Floor, Bethesda, MD 20814. For more information, call 301-652-0717 or visit www.crcmc.org.

Tenants or landlords with questions regarding the city's landlord-tenant and COLTA Laws can contact me at 301-891-7215 or mosesw@takoma.parkmd.gov.

Folk Festival returns in 2017

By Kevin Adler, Takoma Park Folk Festival Committee Member

The Takoma Park Folk Festival is on track to return to our city in 2017 – September 10, to be precise. "I couldn't be happier. We reached out to the community, and they responded," said Walter Mulbry, festival treasurer and a volunteer for more than 20 years.

Festival veterans held a public meeting this fall at which more than 30 people expressed interest in working on the event. From that crowd, the Festival has selected new co-chairs for 2017, Sarah Lanning and Robin Stearn. And other newcomers have stepped up to take on critical roles as well.

"Sarah and Robin are going to be a great fit for us. They are part of the area's folk music and dance communities, and they also have excellent organizational skills," said Scott Gilkeson, logistics chair for the

festival and a volunteer for more than a decade. "The idea is to blend the knowledge of us long-timers with new energy and ideas."

In addition to new co-chairs, several key festival committees also have new members and leaders. "The influx of new people really shows how much this festival means to the community," Mulbry said.

According to him, with new committee members, the festival might change in significant ways over the next few years. "The festival is always evolving. We got great input from people in the last couple of months, and we'll keep soliciting more as we move into planning stages," he said.

The Festival will hold a volunteer kick-off meeting in January – date and location to be announced soon. Gilkeson said, "Come to our January meeting. We're always looking for more participants."

Helping neighbors age in community

Have you seen cars around town with Village of Takoma Park signs on their doors and wondered about The Village? If so, you are not alone.

A grass-roots, inter-generational volunteer organization, The Village of Takoma Park (sometimes confused with the City of Takoma Park) is part of a nationwide movement. Villages differ in organization and services, but share one goal. By providing information, some direct services and referral to others, collaboration, and trained volunteers, neighbors help neighbors to remain in their homes and stay connected to their communities as they age and their needs change.

The seed for The Village was planted in 2011 at the initiative of residents Wolfgang and Gertrud Mergner, with a single breakfast meeting for elders and others interested in their welfare. Over time additional activities and services have developed into The Village of Takoma Park. Membership now numbers 156, with an age range of 20 to 90. Often in collaboration with the City and the County, the Village helps to provide support activities and facilitate access to information about services. Here's an overview of some of the Village's primary activities and services.

The Aging Well Network: These monthly meetings cover a broad variety of activities and informative presentations on relevant topics and include shared social time and refreshments. Attendance is free and open to all. For information on schedule and topics, go to villageoftakomapark.com. Do you have an idea for a topic and/or speaker? Please email villageoftp@gmail.com.

Transportation through VillageRides: VillageRides pairs volunteer drivers with neighbors who need help getting to appointments, shopping or social events. This is one of the most needed services. Since 2015, over 800 rides have been provided. Requests continue to grow, and additional volunteer drivers are needed. Village membership is required.



VillageRides driver Clair Garman (center) with two satisfied clients, Dorothy Sharp (left) and Jackie Davison.

Friendly visits and calls: Homebound neighbors may request a daily phone call or weekly visit from a Village volunteer. The visitation program is run in conjunction with Montgomery County EveryMind. To request weekly visits from a "friendly visitor," call 301-424-0656, ext. 507. Village membership is required.

Support groups: The Village has fostered the development of and helps to promote two support groups, one for residents with neuromuscular disorders (i.e. Parkinson's Disease and Multiple Sclerosis) and their caretakers and another for parents of special needs adults (POSNA). For information on Parents of Special Needs Adults, email muchui@aol.com

How you can get involved

To request all other services or to volunteer, call 301-646-2109 or email sandyeganretired@gmail.com. For more information about the Village, visit villageoftakomapark.com, email villageoftp@gmail.com or call 301-646-2109.

To join: Go to villageoftakomapark.com and click on "Join," or call 301-646-2109 to request a membership form. Dues are \$10 a year per person.

To donate: The Village relies on help from donations and grants to cover administrative expenses. Make a tax-deductible donation online, or send a check payable to Village of Takoma Park to Village of TP, P.O. Box 11420, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Q&A

■ From page 3

Ludlow: Much is unknown right now, so we are monitoring statements and proposals from President-Elect Trump. Certainly the vitriol of the recent election has left targets of that vitriol – immigrants, women, people of color, Muslims, and others – nervous about potential hate crimes, harassment and bullying. Our city staff, particularly our police department,

must protect our residents from that kind of behavior. We also need to realize that residents may be more hesitant to work with city staff due to their fears.

TP News: What might be the financial impact?

Ludlow: Uncertainty in general can lead to wide variations in the stock market. Cuts in federal employment and changes in tax law can result in reduced tax revenue. Since 25 percent of the City's budget comes from Montgomery County

and the State of Maryland, we are particularly vulnerable when their finances are tight, so reductions in revenue can hurt us directly and indirectly.

A number of people have asked about Takoma Park's status as a Sanctuary City and the pledge to not allow Sanctuary Cities to receive federal funds. We don't receive a lot of federal funding, but if passed, those restrictions could hurt. We are evaluating the proposals and possible impacts and will discuss them with the

City Council.

TP News: What won't change?

Ludlow: The commitment my staff and I have to serving this community. We have an aggressive agenda of services and improvements set out by the Council that we intend to do well. We also are committed to listening to and communicating with the public so that we remain a friendly part of Takoma Park.

Holiday Art Sale Preview: Hometown Artists

Shop local and give the gift of art this holiday season. The Holiday Art Sale is in its 11th year at the Takoma Park Community Center. This year we have thirty participating artists from Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC. They are potters, painters, jewelers, woodworkers, textile artists and more. Seven artists are from Takoma Park. We caught up with them to learn more about them and their work. You can find their art and meet them in person at the Holiday Art Sale on Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Jennifer Alexander

is a Maryland native and currently living happily ever after in Takoma Park. Although she always has adored both arts and crafts, she never felt terribly crafty or artistic. Then, a few years ago, she attended Sock Monkey Saturday at the American Visionary Art Museum in Baltimore and learned how to make sock monkeys. Great Ape! was born as a hobby. Jennifer hand sews sock primates because she loves to create silly things and make people smile.



Website designer and painter **Michelle Bailey** finds endless inspiration for her art in Takoma Park. Street scenes and moments from the Takoma Farmers Market all have been subjects for her canvas. According to her website, she spends about twenty hours on each painting. Each one begins with a single layer of color for the under painting, and then she adds many other layers until it is completed. She learns something new with each painting.



Keith Kozloff seeks to expand the ways people perceive the visual world. Although sharpness is prized in photographic images, Kozloff sometimes experiments with techniques (such as long exposures) that intentionally blur his subjects' boundaries. His goal is to create a sufficient impression of the subject to

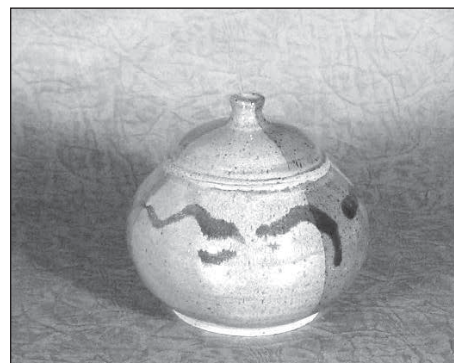


stimulate the viewer's imagination and to convey a sense of motion or energy. When using more conventional photographic techniques, he looks for compositions that offer new perspectives on, or create ambiguity about otherwise, familiar subjects.



Photographer **Rob Rudick** shoots a variety of subjects – from nature to automobiles. He says he focuses on pictures that “leap out at me, crying to be taken.” No matter what is in his viewfinder, Rob works with the goal “to create a vision that attracts the audience's attention repeat-

edly.” Rob has had exhibitions at Saratoga Automobile Museum in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; Montgomery Parks' Brookside Gardens in Wheaton, and at Dumbarton Concert Gallery in Georgetown. He is active in the local arts community. Rob is the coordinator for Takoma Park's Photo Salon, which meets at the Takoma Park Community Center and helps organize the Holiday Art Sale.



Orion McCarthy got involved in pottery six years ago as a junior at Montgomery Blair High School. He kept up with his hobby through college and afterwards. He has taught pottery at camps and briefly at the Takoma Park Community Center. For five years now, Orion has been involved in the Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale, the Takoma Park Street Festival and other local craft shows. He says he enjoys the experience of sharing his work with the local community. Pottery gives him a creative outlet and a chance to get his hands dirty.

Sligo Creek captivates fine art photographer **Julius Kassovic**. His lens draws out the beauty of reflections in the urban waterway, reflections showing sky in moving water along with floating leaves or other natural elements.

In a September 22, 2014, interview with the *Washington City Paper*, Julius said he shoots the art already in the streambed and then enhances slightly with the computer: “Nature itself is doing the distorting, the layering, and the rearranging of reality. I'm just trying to capture the phantasmagorical result before it floats away.”

For years Julius worked for Peace Corps, and he thinks that experience impacted his photography. Julius said working with many people around the world “made me sensitive to meanings that lie below surface impressions.” He is now retired, and you can find him with his camera exploring light along Sligo Creek or volunteering with Friends of Sligo Creek.

He is grateful for having found—and having the ability—to explore this interest. The potter expresses love for animals and the environment through his work, and he has made several animal-themed bowls and mugs.

Marcie Wolf-Hubbard

has illustrated for magazines and books and worked as a courtroom artist. Today you can find Marcie in her studio mixing beeswax, damar resin and pigments to create her encaustic paintings, which have been exhibited throughout the East Coast.



Marcie is an instructor at Glen Echo Park, Yellow Barn Studio and Smithsonian Associates, and she teaches art in her studio. She holds a B.A. in studio art from the University of Maryland, and she studied fine art and illustration at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Stop by the sale and greet these local artists in person. Admission to the sale is free, and we will have food trucks for lunch. Check out works by all the artists in the *Holiday Art Sale Album* on our Facebook page.

We Are Takoma December Programs

We Are Takoma sponsors arts and humanities programming for children, families and adults. All events take place at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Saturday, Dec. 3 Staging Hope, 7:30 p.m.

Staging Hope, a theatre troupe made up entirely of homeless individuals, performs original monologues, poetry, improvisations and songs as a way to

spark conversations between housed and unhoused communities.

Thursday, Dec. 8 Vintage Movie Night with Richard Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Back by popular demand! C-SPAN's Richard Hall presents a screening of short educational films from the 40s, 50s, and 60s ranging from the funny to the ridiculous.

Saturday, Dec. 10 Holiday Art Sale, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Exquisite handmade gifts from thirty local artists, artisans and craftspeople. Admission free. Food trucks available for lunch. See above for a preview.

Thursday, December 15 Third Thursday Poetry, 7:30 p.m.

It's open reading at the December Third Thursday Poetry. Bring a favorite poem you've written and share it.

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.

YOUTH

EXTENDED CARE

After the Bell 2016-17

This after school childcare program for the MCPS 2016-2017 school year provides 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 enjoy arts and crafts, sports, board games, free play and more. Transportation will not be provided by the Recreation Dept. Please contact MCPS Transportation (301-840-8130) 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 is closed. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Kindergarten-5th Grade
Monday-Friday, through June 16, 2017
3:30 – 6:30 p.m.
\$125 per month

FEW
SPACES
LEFT!

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH



Basketball Skills Clinic

Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of this skills clinic. Participants will be provided with excellent coaching, which allows each person to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. This is not a league. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Instructor: Greg Harris.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
6-12 years
Saturdays, through December 17
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
\$60

Futsal League 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 60 participants. Parents are encouraged to volunteer as coaches.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
7-10 years
6 Week Season
Sundays, January 8, 2017-March 12, 2017 (No game on 1/15/17 and 2/12/17)
1 – 4 p.m.
\$60

Winter Basketball League

The Winter Basketball League is back! For more information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation/sports.
Coaching Information: Coaching opportunities

Registration
Underway!

are still available. Please contact the Takoma Park Recreation Department (301-891-7284) if interested.

Team Assignments: Coed divisions will reflect gender equity based on number of participants. New this year: Grade 7-8 Girl's Division!

Special Requests: Requests must be made in Activenet at the time of registration.

Various Local Schools
Gymnasiums
Kindergarten-8th Grade
8 Week Season
Saturdays, January 14, 2017-March 11, 2017
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Resident: \$70 / Non-resident: \$80

TEENS

DROP-IN

Teen Lounge

Grades 6-12 are welcome to become members to gain access to two 50-inch and one 70-inch LED SMART TVs. We also have X-Box One and Wii Games, workstations, board games and comfy sitting areas for socializing with friends. Come join us after school for fun and laughs and on special events for an amazing time. For more information, contact Chelsea Nunez at 301-891-7281 or chelsea@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6th-12th
Ongoing Monday-Friday
3 – 7 p.m.
Free

M.A.N.U.P.

MANUP is dedicated to developing the next generation of successful leaders by teaching the importance of education, social responsibility, self-empowerment and economic awareness. Several programs include guest speakers, field trips to various educational and fun locations, career development and more. This mentoring program is made possible by countless volunteer hours. These mentors work in cooperation with the Takoma Park Recreation Department. This is a drop-in program, and permission slips are required for trips.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
13-21 years
Ongoing Tuesdays
6:30 – 8 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.

Takoma Park Community Center
Rose Room
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6th-12th
10 Week Session
Wednesdays, January 11-March 1
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 and fun. Students are given quiet time to complete homework or read. Staff is available to assist and can review 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.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6th-12th
Ongoing Tuesdays
4 – 5 p.m.
Free

Spring Break P.R.E.P.S. Week

Spring Break P.R.E.P.S. (Planning and Researching for Educational and Professional Success) week is about assisting teens in planning for their future. During this week, teens will be able to participate in discussions with business professionals and take a few college tours to get a sense of life after high school. Occasional break away trips, such as bowling, laser tag or roller skating, will be included. **Come with questions, an open mind and a bag lunch!** For more information, please contact Ms. Leicia at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7283. Limited spaces are available. Sign up today, for this price we are sure this will fill fast!

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6th-12th
Monday-Friday, April 10, 2017-Apr 14, 2017
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Resident: \$100 / Non-resident: \$120

Wisdom in Minutes 102: Spring Forward

Participants will be able to clarify their dreams and take action toward them. We will help you to identify your skills, talents and goals while making the most of your resources and education by laying the foundation for a great launch in life! Spring Forward will teach you how to go from ordinary to extraordinary.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6th-12th
Thursdays, January 11-March 1
3 – 5 p.m.
Free

ADULTS

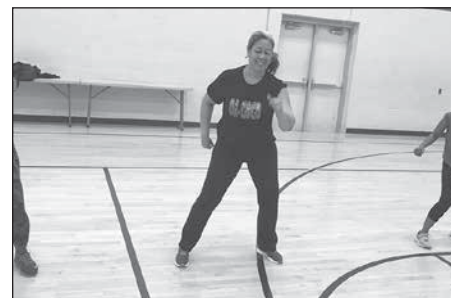
MARTIAL ARTS

Karate Self-Defense

Promote physical fitness, self-defense, leadership and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style, Isshinryu (which means One Heart Way). This program is a partnership between the Takoma Park Recreation Department and the Penn State University Karate Club. Cosponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Instructor: Penn State University Karate Club.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 and older
Ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays
7 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership

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.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 years and older
Ongoing Saturdays
12 – 1 p.m.
Drop-in: \$5

Ladies Boot Camp

A challenging workout within a quick hour, this total body program includes a circuit of drills, such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. Students are required to bring their own mats. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 and older
8 Week Sessions
Tuesdays and Thursdays
Through December 22
6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
\$85/8 weeks
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 who wants 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.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Front Room
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 and older
Wednesdays, through December 21
6 – 7 p.m.
\$60

FOREVER YOUNG: 55 PLUS

ART



Holiday Crafting with Alice Sims

Holiday craft project for adults. All supplies provided. Light refreshments and door prizes. This is a free workshop; however, online or in person registration is required with the Recreation Department.

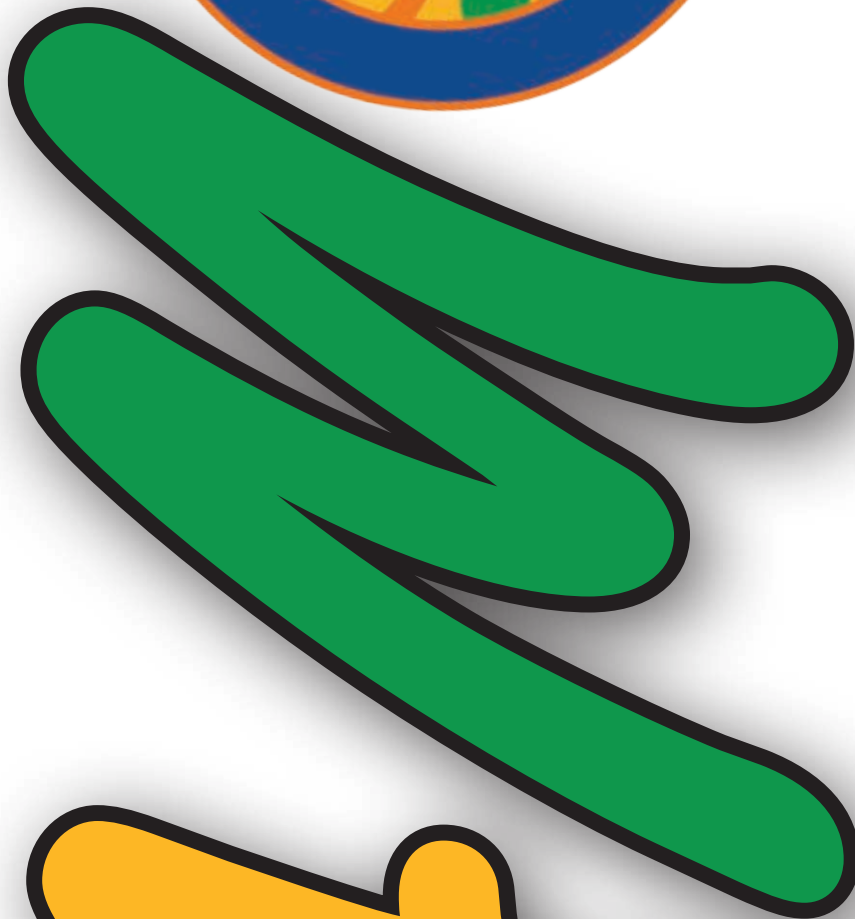
Takoma Park Community Center
Azalea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Monday, December 5
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Free

DROP IN

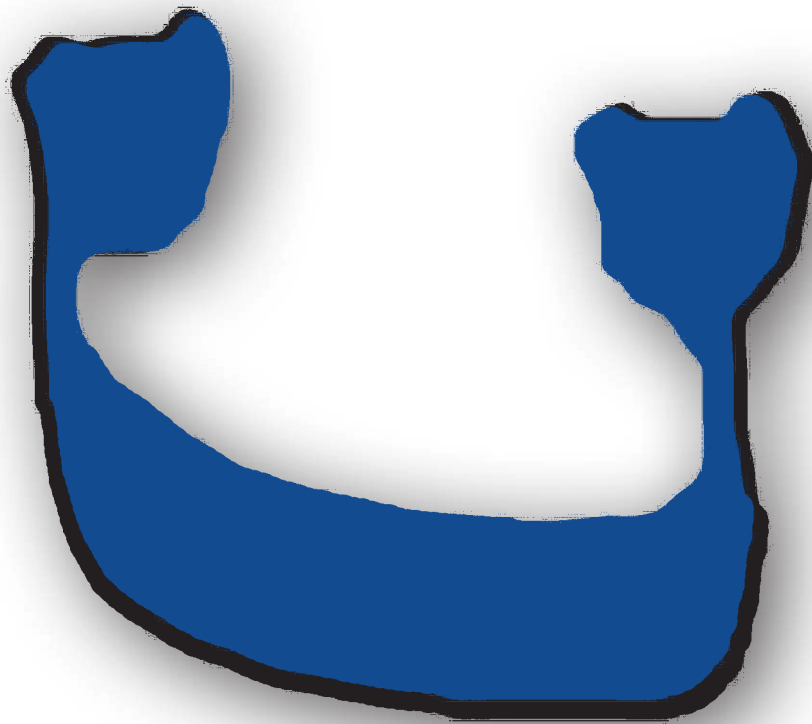
Bingo

Try your luck. Win a prize.
Takoma Park Community Center
Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue





WINTER



RECREATION

■ From page 6

55 and older
Thursday, December 15
12 – 2 p.m.
Free

Blood Pressure Screening

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

Takoma Park Community Center
Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Thursday, December 15
11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Free

Table Tennis

Come play this fun, energetic game, which is a

great way to improve eye-hand coordination and help keep the body healthy and the mind sharp.

Takoma Park Community Center
Game Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Ongoing Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Ongoing Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Free

Walking Group

Don't worry about the cold weather and join your neighbors and friends for indoor lap walking. Go at your own pace. Drop-in.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 and older
Tuesdays through December 13
12 – 1 p.m.
Free

Celebrate Takoma Committee Volunteers Needed

The Recreation Department is beginning to plan the 4th Annual Celebrate Takoma Festival, and we need your help! The festival celebrates the cultural diversity of Takoma Park. We will be looking for food and merchandise vendors and local entertainers. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of the Steering Committee, please email Debby Huffman at deborahh@takomaparkmd.gov. The committee meets monthly in the evenings. Come join the fun!



NEW!!! Multi Media Lab Open Hours

Located on the second floor of the Community Center, participants will have access to the latest Mac computers, word processing and editing software, including, but not limited to, Final Cut Pro and a variety of other programs. Utilizing this equipment will allow you to produce professional work of the highest quality at your own pace. No instruction provided; work independently. The Multi

Media Lab will be closed on Thursdays and Sundays. Instructors: William Rice and Rob Radcliffe.

Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
Monday – Wednesday & Friday: 3 – 8 p.m.
Saturday: 12 – 5 p.m.
Closed on Thursdays and Sundays

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, please email leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov. "Empowering Youth Through Employment"



Give the Gift of Activity

The holidays are approaching fast. This year help family and friends ditch the conventional presents and give the gift of activity through a Recreation Department Gift Card! Gift cards can be used for their favorite activities all year round. It is a great way to promote fun and encourage friends and family to try something new. With games, exercise classes, art classes, and much more, our centers offer something for everyone! It is the best gift you can give your friends and relatives.

Winter Break Camp Registration Underway

Winter Break Camp

Come experience "Winter Break Camp" with the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Campers will have the opportunity to add some excitement to their holiday break while playing holiday games with group activities and crafts. This winter break is set to be a whole lot of fun. No camp on Monday, December 26.

Takoma Park Community Center
Azalea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
5-12 years
Tuesday – Friday, Dec. 27 – Dec. 30
(4 Days)
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Resident: \$100 / Non-resident: \$120
Before Care
7 – 9 a.m.
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35
After Care
4 – 6 p.m.
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35



Summer camp participants

Summer Camp Expo

By Michael Kurland

The Summer Camp Expo is a great way for families to come and see firsthand what the Takoma Park Recreation Department has to offer for the upcoming 2017 summer camp season. You will learn about all of the exciting activities campers will take part in for the summer.

Families will also have the opportunity to register for a variety of our camps for the summertime. Some of these camps include community favorites like Camp Takoma, Camp Recess, and Teens on the Move as well as some of our specialty camps, such as On Stage Footlight and Spotlight Camps, Visual Art Camp and Dance Camp. We are also adding a few new camps to our repertoire to include Wilderness Camps and a Cooking Camp for Tots.

"I thought the Camp Expo was great," Sally Heaven said. "We were able to sign our two kids up for the camps of our choosing, and [we] got a really awesome discount on top of it." During the Expo, families will receive a 20 percent discount off any camp(s) they register their child(ren) for (must be in line by 1 p.m. to get the discount). This discount gives many families the opportunity to get these camps at a significantly reduced price.

So join us for our 3rd Annual Summer Camp Expo on Saturday, Jan. 28, 2017 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Avenue).

For more information, please contact the Recreation Department at 301-891-7290, or visit us online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation.

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); check the City's webpage; 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 two-hour delay in the morning, Morning Addition starts at 9 a.m.

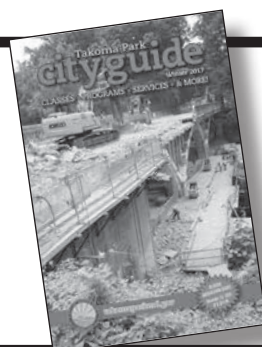
NEW

REGISTRATION FOR WINTER CLASSES

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.



You can find a full listing of our classes and programs in the 2017 Winter City Guide or help us go green and visit us online www.takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation.

LIBRARY



Friends bi-monthly reading group chooses next selection

By Tim Rahn

Kindred, a novel that uses time travel to explore slavery in the antebellum South, will be discussed by the Friends Book Group on Wednesday, Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Written by the late African-American science fiction writer Octavia Butler, *Kindred* tells the story of Dana, a young 20th Century black woman, who is "called back" to the early 19th century several times to save the life of a white ancestor, Rufus Weylin. Rufus, the son of a slave owner, leads a self-destructive life, caught—like his family's slaves—in a terrifying and perilous time.

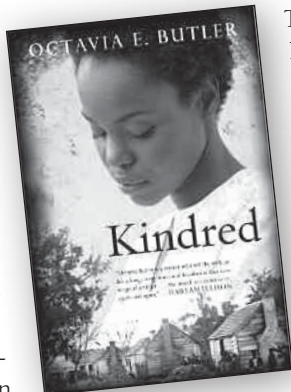
Butler brings to life the slave era by describing the oppression and bondage felt by the slaves and the sense of entitlement and power whites used to control the slaves. Through the use of time travel, she draws contrasts both to the post-civil rights era and the disenfranchised feeling experienced by temporary workers at menial jobs.

According to the *Kirkus Review*, "There is tremendous ironic power in Butler's vision of the old South in science-fiction terms...in this searing, caustic examination of bizarre and alien practices on the third planet from the sun."

Special holiday-themed programs

First, on Saturday, Dec. 10, we've got two special holiday programs. From 10 a.m.-3 p.m., come do some gift shopping at the **Friends' Holiday Book Sale**. The sale, which will take place in the Computer Center Rotunda, is a great way to purchase some new or gently-used books at bargain prices, and all proceeds go to Library programs. At 11 a.m. that same day, we'll be offering our annual **Holiday Sing-a-Long** in the Library's Children's Room. With music accompaniment provided by local musician Wendy Lanxner and her students, we'll sing songs of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. No registration is required, and all ages are welcome.

Then, on the evening of Thursday, Dec. 15, we'll celebrate the imminent arrival of the **Winter Solstice**. Beginning at 6:30 p.m., local musician **Bill Jenkins** will lead us all in a special drumming circle, using the dozens of drums and other percussion instruments that he'll provide.



Then, at 7:30 p.m., the **Foggy Bottom Morris Men** will swoop in with the songs, dances, sticks and good cheer. No registration required, and all ages are welcome at our Winter Solstice celebration, which has become a beloved Takoma Park tradition.

Finally, we've got two holiday craft options. First, on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 1:30-3:30 p.m., local artist **Kate**

Lanxner will offer a special workshop for kids who want to make a gift calendar. All materials will be provided, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. We ask kids to bring their creativity as well as a list of birthdays and other special dates they want to note on their gift calendar. This program is for ages 5 and up, and registration is required. To register, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents or call 301-891-7259.

Then on Sunday, Dec. 18, from 2-3 p.m., kids will have the opportunity to create **crafts related to Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa**. No registration is required for this program.

Mock Caldecott for adults

Grown-up fans of children's books are invited to attend our third annual Mock Caldecott for Adults on Saturday, Dec. 10 from 1-4 p.m. We'll read and discuss a list of 20 "finalists" — our choices for the 2017 Caldecott Medal — using the official Caldecott Medal criteria; it will be interesting to see how close we come to the real 2017 Caldecott Medal winner, which will be announced in January. At our event, snacks will be provided by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

The Library owns two copies of each "finalist" — one that can be checked

out, and another that will be kept in a box at the circulation desk and can be read in the Library. But you don't have to read the books ahead of time to participate in the program, as we will be reading each book (or parts of the book, if it's long), using our projector and screen, before discussing them. Registration is encouraged so we can be sure to have enough snacks; to register, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents or call 301-891-7259. Note: This is a program for adults only although children are welcome to observe. Kids will have their chance at our monthly Caldecott Club programs in December and January.



The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of nineteenth-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott. The Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, awards it annually to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.



Photo: Selena Malott

Residents enjoyed the Friends Fall Book Sale, and they can shop for more great finds at the holiday sale.

CALENDAR

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

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Saturday, Dec. 3, 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.

LEGO Club

Sunday, Dec. 4, 1:30-3 p.m.
Building fun for ages 3-10.

Caldecott Club

Monday, Dec. 5, 7 p.m.
All ages welcome; lemonade and cookies served!

The Spy Who Couldn't Spell Author Event

Tuesday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Author Yudhijit Bhattacharjee discusses his new book.

Bedtime Stories and a Craft

Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7 p.m.
Join Ms. Anne for this fun monthly program.

Friends' Holiday Book Sale

Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Computer Center Rotunda

Annual Holiday Sing-a-Long

Saturday, Dec. 10, 11 a.m.
Come sing songs of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa

Mock Caldecott for Adults

Saturday, Dec. 10, 1-4 p.m.

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 4 p.m.
Come read comics with Dave Burbank.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Thursday, Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m.

Make a Gift Calendar

Saturday, Dec. 17, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Ages 4 up; registration required.

Kids Art

Sunday, Dec. 18, 2-3 p.m.

Coming Up...

- Monday, Jan. 9 — Caldecott Club, 7 p.m. We'll vote for our choice for the 2017 Caldecott Medal.
- Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Friends' Bi-Monthly Reading Group discusses *Kindred* by Octavia Butler in the Community Center.



Photo: Karen MacPherson

Local musician Wendy Lanxner and her students provide the music each year at the library's annual Holiday Sing-a-Long.

Make it write

By Rick Henry

In a hyper plugged-in world, can there still be value in a hand-written letter?

"Yes and the impact can be so great," said Randy Marks of the Amnesty International Group 297 based in Takoma Park/Silver Spring. On Saturday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. at Capital City Cheesecake, he and other members of the chapter will demonstrate that impact by participating in "Write for Rights," an annual event sponsored by Amnesty International.

Every year to mark Human Rights Day on Dec. 10, hundreds of thousands of people around the world write letters and sign online petitions on behalf of 12 prisoners of conscience and victims of human rights abuse. Letters generated at each local event are combined together and sent to government officials to help convince them to free the chosen 12.

According to Marks, letter writing has always been a core of Amnesty International's work, and its power is undiminished. "Now everything is online, which is easier and more efficient, but actually delivering handwritten letters sends a powerful message," he said.

"The idea is that the volume of cards and letters sent will show the jailers that the world is watching and let the prisoners of conscience know that the world cares what happens to them,"

said Connie Johnson, a Group 297 member, who has been involved with Amnesty International for more than 15 years.

By holding the event in a public space, Group 297 hopes to increase participation in the event and visibility for Amnesty International. "We like to hold the event in public, so people see us and learn that there is an organization in their community working on human rights," Marks said.

The group has held the events at various venues in Takoma Park and Silver Spring over the years, but for the last few years has staged it at Capital City Cheesecake.

"Meaghan (Murphy, co-owner of the cafe and bakery) has always been very generous about letting us hold the event," Marks said.

Both Marks and Johnson say they participate in the event and in Amnesty International because they have a calling for human rights. They hope the Write for Rights event will inspire others to join the cause. "Writing letters and signing cards is something that anyone can do," Johnson said. "Amnesty International provides all the information needed. We will have materials on hand for anyone who wants to join the effort."

To learn more about "Write for Rights" and the 12 cases, visit <http://write.amnestyusa.org>. To participate in the event, visit Capital City Cheesecake on Sunday, Dec. 10 at 2 p.m.

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



Photo: Selena Malott

First Place Neighborhood Energy Challenge Winners Plant Trees purchased with their prize money. On Saturday, Oct. 22, the Longbranch Sligo neighborhood energy challenge team planted the trees they purchased with the prize money for winning first place in the Neighborhood Energy Challenge. They purchased 60 trees to plant in their neighborhood. Pictured here: Jim Woodworth, Mica Bevington (pouring), Ben Bevington and Jack Bevington

POST-ELECTION

■ From page 1

that refuses to demonize Muslims. We are a City that upholds the right of all people to live their lives with dignity and respect.

In September we launched Unity in the Community to build stronger and better relationships in our community among residents and police officers, among neighbors of different races and backgrounds, and among elected officials and residents.

Today we remind the world that in Takoma Park we believe in building strong,

inclusive and healthy communities by ensuring the rights of all are upheld. Immigrants, people of different faiths, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, people of color, and everyone who calls our city home have a right to be treated with fairness and justice and not with hatred and bigotry.

We are a community dedicated to forging stronger relationships and creating out of our myriad of differences and experiences one community that stands together. Unity in the Community.



Photo: Mark Verschell

Troop 33, Pack 33, and members of the Takoma Park Police Department worked together to host the troop's annual pancake supper.

TAKOMA TIDBITS

■ From page 1

One element of the agreement was a requirement that NDC provide the Council with a signed letter of intent between NDC and the TPSS Co-op by the end of November 2016, indicating a commitment to moving forward on the project together. NDC has been in talks with the Co-op about a plan that would allow the Co-op to expand in the Junction as part of the larger redevelopment project.

NCD provides weekly updates on the status of the negotiations with the Co-op, as required by the agreement. The updates, along with the history of the redevelopment process, are on the City's website at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/takoma-junction-redevelopment.

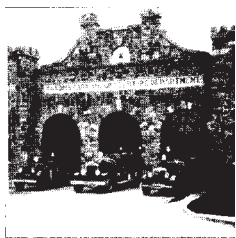
Pancakes for dinner: Last month Takoma Park Boy Scout Troop 33 hosted its annual pancake supper at Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, where the scouts as-

sist with snow removal and other maintenance as needed. The funds raised support everything from the purchase of camping equipment to providing "camperships" for scouts who otherwise can't afford summer camp. The Troop currently has 60 scouts, representing an inclusive cross-section of the community.

Groundbreaking for public garden: In October a groundbreaking ceremony was held for the Takoma Horticultural Club's Centennial Garden. Located at the corner of Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue (Rt. 410), the garden will feature native plantings, pathways, a place to sit, signage, educational plant labels and shade. The groundbreaking was one of a variety of commemorative activities planned for this 100th anniversary year of the club. A grant from the Takoma Foundation, combined with member contributions and in-kind plant donations from the City, will make the garden possible. For more information, visit www.takomahort.org.



Photo: Selena Malott



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Oct. 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 497 fire-related incidents in 2016. The department addressed or assisted with 2,602 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 3099. Totals for 2015 were 531 and 2639, representing a decrease of 161 incidents.

During October, Takoma Park Volunteers put in a total of 1,423 hours of standby time at the station compared to 1,260.5 hours in October 2015. Grand totals as of October were 13,143.5 hours compared to 13,239.5 hours in 2015, a decrease of 96 hours.

TPVFD needs toys

The Takoma Park VFD has started its 36th annual Toys for Needy Families Children Program. We will be collecting until Dec. 20. If you have new or like-new toys, you can drop them off at the fire station or tree lot. Families needing assistance with toys (ages 10 and under only), contact the fire station at 240-773-8954.



The Takoma Park Christmas Tree Lot

Trees were scheduled to be delivered during the weekend following Thanksgiving Day. The lot is located in the parking lot next to the Co-op. Hours will be 12 to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday, 12 to 10 p.m. on Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.



Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported that as of Nov. 14, 53 people have died in fires compared to 53 in November 2015.

Hot car deaths

As of Nov. 14, 38 children have died across the country in hot vehicles. Children dying in vehicles can happen any time of the year. We must check the back seat, when we leave it, also lock your vehicle

Safety message

The holidays are a wonderful time to enjoy dinners with your family. It's also the time we need to be extra careful when cooking. It hasn't changed. Cooking is still the number one cause of home fires. We must never leave cooking unattended.

Making sure these are happy holidays

We will gather with friends and family and hug them even more this year. Some of us will travel out of the area while others will stay here as guests or hosts. We'll be doing Holiday shopping, and so will the scammers, pick-pockets, and burglars. Here are some frequently asked questions, this time of year:



etc., while I'm away or during the day when I'm at work?

A: Make an inventory of these valuables and take pictures. Then engrave them and record serial numbers. Put all this information in a safe place, and tell someone you trust how to access it in case you are away.

Note: If these items are pawned, it's legal in Maryland for police to go to pawn shops and

check.

Q: I'm going away over Christmas for eight days. My nephew was going to stay here, but he now has another obligation. So the house will be empty. My neighbor said something about help from the Takoma Park Police Dept.

A: Yes, the TP Police Department can help. For those who are away 4-30 days, the police will do a "house check" (for free) to make sure no one has tampered with windows, doors, set a ladder, etc. Contact them in advance at 301-270-1100. If you are away up to three days, especially if there were problems in the area, call the TP Police—same number—for information on what you can do.

Q: I'm going to be away for several days three times this month. In addition to contacting the police, is there any other advice?

A: Let a neighbor, family member or friend in the area know you will be away and how to reach you. Use timers, so lights go on/off overnight at different times in the house and on the front porch.

Q: I have some jewelry from my mother and grandmother, tablecloths that my grandparents bought when they first came to the U.S., and other items that aren't financially valuable but very special to me. How can I protect these valuables, such as jewelry, laptops, phones,

Q: I like to order online. I've learned about scammers and data breaches from the news. What can I do?

A: (1) Use a credit card, instead of debit card because there are more protections with credit cards, and the money isn't instantly taken from your bank account. (2) If you have two credit cards, use one for onsite shopping only and a different one for online shopping. In case of a credit breach or abuse of your online card, you would still have the onsite card. This also gives you an easy way to track your online purchases on one statement. (3) According to www.marketwatch.com, "E-cards, fake advertisements for deals, infected attachments and links to phony websites disguised as Christmas cards: Scammers have many routes to attack your devices. Fake notifications about package delivery problems are common during the holidays." Do not click on these email messages. Instead go back to your original site and put in the tracking number you received. (4) Be sure to let the credit card company know if you are traveling, and where you are going, so use of the card can be pre-approved.

Remember: Being prepared prevents being scared! Have a wonderful holiday season.

Passport Services

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

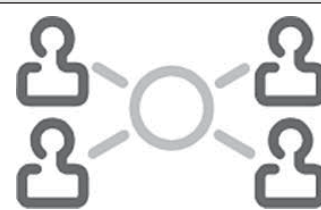
For additional information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports.



STAY CONNECTED!

The City of Takoma Parks strives to keep residents engaged and informed in a variety of ways including social media, the 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, 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
- Stay up to date with city news and blogs from City Staff, the Mayor and Council at takomaparkmd.gov/news
- Make a service request or report an issue using "My TkPk," an online and application based reporting tool: takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk



Five Questions for Gabe Hutter (Mr. Gabe)

"I needed a job, and I wasn't interested in working in an office," said Takoma Park resident Gabe Hutter, better known around town as Mr. Gabe, of his motivation for becoming a musician and performer. Hutter has lived in the Long Branch-Sligo neighborhood with his wife Jennifer Ruark since 1997. In 2012, Mr. Gabe released his first CD, *Play Date*.

He has performed at libraries, cafés, pre-schools and performing arts centers throughout suburban Maryland, Washington, DC, and Northern Virginia. One of the biggest lessons he's learned from his audiences is patience. "It's a lesson I'm still learning," he said. "It's easy to get irritated sometimes when grown-ups at my shows act as though I'm not really there or don't keep an eye on their kids, but it's never helpful. I also have to remind myself that for the most part, everybody is doing the best they can."

Mr. Gabe is featured in the third of our series of periodic "quick-question" interviews.

- 1. **Favorite Place/Activity in Takoma Park:** Community Circle Time at the Takoma Park Maryland Library. "It's maybe the happiest place on earth."
- 2. **Best Thing about Living in Takoma Park:** Being part of a real community
- 3. **On My Desk Right Now:** An expired laptop and a pile of papers



Mr. Gabe sitting on his front porch

- 4. **In My "Spare Time" I Do:** A lot of crossword puzzles and watch German soccer
- 5. **Best Advice I Ever Got (and from whom):** Do what you love! This idea was driven home to me in reading a memoir by Marcel Reich-Ranicki, perhaps the most famous post-war German literary critic. In the 1930s, he had to leave Germany to flee from the Nazis and then lived through the Warsaw Ghetto and waited out the end of the war on a small farm in the Polish countryside. He ended up in East Germany after the war and was able to defect to the West in the late 1950s. What impressed me about his story was that he never gave up on his passion for German literature. At nearly every step of his tumultuous journey, when somebody asked him what he wanted to do to earn a living, he always answered: "Something with German literature."

BONUS: If I had a magic wand for a day, I would go back to a time before cell phones and the Internet just to remind myself what it was like.

For more information about Mr. Gabe, visit mrgabemusic.com. Send your suggestions for future interviews to tpnewse-ditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

Local nonprofit works to build school in Sierra Leone

By Helen Lyons

Four decades ago, Sierra Leoneans arriving in the Washington metro area of the United States found a country that was "cold," and unwelcoming. "People here go to work, go home, and close their doors," Al-Hassan Korona said.

It was difficult for the newly arrived immigrants to assimilate into a culture where they didn't know anyone and didn't speak the language, which is one of the reasons that Tegloma was formed.

"It's a local culture organization for Sierra Leoneans who are living here in the United States," Korona, who serves as chairman of the organization's board, explained. "When people came here, they were very lonesome; they were far away from home. They didn't have local support."

However, over the years Tegloma has become so much more than that. While the nonprofit, which takes its name from a Mende word for "progress," has had its roots in Takoma Park, since its inception, the organization has always kept close ties to home by sending money, food and medical and school supplies to the country over the decades as well as sponsoring the education of orphans.

Through the financial support of its members and donors, Tegloma has assisted in the resettlement of refugees, rebuilt medical clinics, helped with water well projects in villages and issued over

250 scholarships to Sierra Leonean students.

Now Tegloma embarks upon its most ambitious aid project yet—the construction of Tegloma International School in Bo, Sierra Leone, to educate underprivileged children from the elementary to high school grades. Korona estimates they'll need to raise at least \$650,000 to construct the school, and the group also aims to establish a scholarship fund of \$350,000.

"After the rebel war, some of the parents died," said Braima Moiforay, Tegloma's president. "Some of the children were left on their own. If you don't pay school fees, they don't allow you in school. It's not like over here."

This was one of the reasons that Tegloma began its sponsorship of orphans. "Tegloma had to adopt those kids," Moiforay said, "to help with their education, and now we want to build a structure for it, a school for them to go to."

It's an ambitious goal—raising a million dollars—but Korona is hopeful. "The most rewarding aspect is the community aspect," he said. "The friends we make, the relationships we build, that kind of dedication to others... When things happen in the community, we're able to raise funds."



DECEMBER '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 January issue is December 16, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning December 30.

To submit calendar items, email 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

City Council

City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

After the Dec. 7 meeting, the City Council will be on recess until Jan. 11, 2017.

* Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Day after Christmas - City Offices Closed

Monday, Dec. 26

All City offices and facilities will be closed Monday, Dec. 26, for the day after Christmas 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

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 – 9 p.m.

Parking lot of Capital City Cheesecake, 7071 Carroll Ave.

Various food vendors

Community Self Defense

Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

6836 New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park

Certified Gracie Jiu Jitsu Black Belt instruction

Free and open to all

Fall Leaf Collection

Through Friday, Dec. 23

The Public Works Department collects yard waste from all single family homes and most small apartment buildings within the City of Takoma Park year round. Yard waste collection is a curbside collection service and is offered once a week on Mondays.

ARTS AND LITERATURE

People's Open Mic

Sundays, 9 p.m.

Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.

www.republictakoma.com

Drum for Joy! with Jaqui MacMillan

Mondays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St.

Learn hand drumming

Blues Mondays

Mondays, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.

Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.

www.republictakoma.com

Open Mic Night

Tuesdays, 9 – 11 p.m.

Busboys and Poets, 235 Carroll St. NW

Jazz Jam

Tuesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.

Takoma Station, 6914 14th St. NW

Open mic for jazz musicians

Wednesday Night Drum Jams

Wednesdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m.

The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St. NW

Hosted by Katy Gaughan and friends

Staging Hope

Saturday, Dec. 3, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

TP Community Center

Staging Hope is a theatre troupe made up entirely of homeless individuals. They create performances of original monologues, poetry, improvisations and songs as a means to spark conversations between housed and unhoused communities. While many of the pieces directly focus on homelessness – difficulties, political issues, humanization, etc. – others deal with universal human experiences such as loss, family, and romantic love.

Holiday Open Studios

Sunday, Dec. 4, noon – 5 p.m.

D.C. Arts Studios, 6925 Willow St. NW, across from CVS

Two floors of open studios, original art for sale, dance demos and refreshments.

Free and open to the public.

www.dcartsstudios.org

Film: Vintage Movie Night with Richard Hall

Thursday, Dec. 8, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

TP Community Center

A continuation of our seasonal series with C-SPAN's Richard Hall, we'll be presenting a screening of short, educational films from the '40s, '50s and '60s that range in tone from funny and ridiculous, to surprisingly

frank and honest. These clips are a window into life in post-WWII America. And if you've been before, fear not, films not screened before will be presented at the event.

Huda Asfour Trio in concert

Friday, Dec. 9, 7:30 – 10 p.m.

276 Carroll St NW 20012

Carroll Cafe at Seekers Church offer contemporary Palestinian music.

\$18 in advance, \$20 at door

<http://hudaasfour.com>

Holiday Art Sale

Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

TP Community Center

The 11th annual sale features work from local makers, artists and craftspeople just in time for the holidays. This is a juried sale, and only original handmade work is sold.

Free

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, Dec. 15, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium

Open reading. Bring a favorite poem you've written to share.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, Jan. 19, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium

The popular "Third Thursday" poetry series features the work of a wide range of poets from across the region. If you have not sat in on one of the readings yet, stop by on any third Thursday of the month and check it out. The words begin at 7:30 p.m.

Free

Comments? Concerns? Questions?

Stop by on your way to work to talk about issues important to you. Locations will vary; stay tuned on the City's e-news and social media for locations.

Upcoming Community Coffee

Friday, Dec. 9, 8 a.m.

The Deauville Apartments

7520 Maple Avenue

(Ward 4)

"Starting Friday mornings with coffee and conversations with residents is the best way to get things done in Takoma Park!"

—Mayor Kate Stewart

