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- moud 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, ‘We’re all supporting you, we’re supporting each other, and we want to stand together.’

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 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 background.

TPVFD Toy Drive

Through December 20

Details, page 14

No collection on Monday, Dec. 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
City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS
TTPC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
Wednesday, Dec. 7, 7:30 p.m.
After the Dec. 7 meeting, the City Council will be in 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.
TTPC Auditorium

BOARD OF ELECTIONS
Wednesday, December 14, 7:30 p.m.
TTPC Council Conference Room

COMMENORATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7 p.m.
TTPC Council Conference Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Monday, Dec. 5, 7:15 p.m.
TTPC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Thursday, Dec. 1
TTPC Hydrangea Room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
TTPC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, Dec. 15, 7 p.m.
TTPC Hydrangea Room

SAFE ROADSWAY COMMITTEE
Monday, Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.
TTPC Lilac Room

TREE COMMISSION
Tuesday, Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m.
TTPC 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 (TTPC).

Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail can sign up at takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-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 Dammeyer, Deputy City Manager, at jasond@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7202 at least 48 hours in advance.

RESOLUTION 2016-41
Adopted Oct. 19, 2016
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 purchase of two 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 ($85,000).

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 ($57,760).

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: ACSGV Thrive Initiative ($10,000); Articate: Takoma Wings Academy ($8,000); 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 ($8,740).

Important City Phone Numbers

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<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Main</td>
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<td>Police</td>
<td>301-270-1100 / 911</td>
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<td>Public Works</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recreation/Facilities Rental</td>
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VACANCIES ON CITY 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
- The Ethics Commission
- The Finance Committee
- The Noise Control Board
- The Recreation Committee

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 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 safety 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 turned with a microphone, delivering speeches of unity.

“They 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. Faiza 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 unwell. 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, Councilmember Rizzy Qureshi, Councilmember Tom Hacker, Maryland Delegate David Moon, Ahmed Elmi of the Somali American Community Association, Delia Aguilar from CASA de Maryland, and community activists Teba Bu 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 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 “fugitive 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 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?

Q&A Page 4
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.

CRCMC is another organization that may be able to help them through mediation. However, there are tenants or landlords with questions regarding the city’s landlord-tenant and COLTA Laws can contact me at 301-891-7215 or mossews@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 Mulry, 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,” Mulry 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 kickoff meeting in January – date and location to be announced soon. Gilkeson said, “Come to our January meeting. We’re always looking for more participants.”

Q&A

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.

Helping neighbors age in community

By Kevin Adler, Takoma Park Folk Festival Committee Member

The Festival will hold a volunteer kickoff meeting in January – date and location to be announced soon. Gilkeson said, “Come to our January meeting. We’re always looking for more participants.”
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 Apes 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.

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 stimulates 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.

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.

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 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.**

The Esquire 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.
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-February 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/city-council/sports. Coaching Information: Coaching opportunities 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 ActiveYn at the time of registration.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium Kindergarten-8th Grade 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 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 our 56-inch and one 70-inch LED 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 chelsean@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. Permission slips are required for trip. Takoma Park Community Center Teen Lounge 7500 Maple Avenue 12-21 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 8th-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 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. Learic at learics@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7283. Limited spaces are available. Sign up today, for this price we are sure this will sell fast!! Takoma Park Community Center Teen Lounge 7500 Maple Avenue Grades 6th-12th Monday-Friday, April 10, 2017-April 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, Ishinryu (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.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Teen Room 7500 Maple Avenue Grades 6th-12th Ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays 7 – 8:30 p.m. Free with Recreation Center membership

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH
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

RECREATION □ Page 11

December 2016

Page 6 Takoma Park News
Come play this fun, energetic game, which is a Table Tennis from 11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Thursday, December 15 at 7500 Maple Avenue, Senior Room.

Monthly blood pressure screening is also available for free from 12 – 2 p.m. Thursday, December 15 at 55 and older.

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 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 family to try something new.

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 family to try something new.

RECREATION

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 deborahhh@takomaparkmd.gov. The committee meets monthly in the evenings. Come join the fun!

NEW!!! Multi Media Lab Open House

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

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.
Friends bi-monthly reading group chooses next selection

By Tim Raha

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 or bargains, 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 Laxenner 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.

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

CALENDAR

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 Groupdiscusses Kindred by Octavia Butler in the Community Center.
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 Randys 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 abuses. Letters generated at each local event are combined 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 and signors on hand for anyone who wants to join the effort.”

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

First Place Neighborhood Energy Challenge Winners Plant Trees purchased with their prize money. On Saturday, Oct. 22, the Longbranch Sligo neighborhood energy challenge team purchased 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.

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 assist 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

POST-ELECTION

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.
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.

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 331 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, 33 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, pickpockets, and burglars. Here are some frequently asked questions, this time of year:

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, 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 engage 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 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 online 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.

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

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.

Happy holidays from the Takoma Park Police Department!
Five Questions for Gabe Hutter (Mr. Gabe)

“1 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 audience 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

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 Internationale 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 raise at least $650,000 to construct the school, and the group also aims to establish a scholarship fund of $350,000.

“Afire 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 tpdnewseditor@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.

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**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

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**COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES**

**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.
6838 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.

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**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.
Busboys and Poets, 235 Carroll St. NW
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. 15, 7:30 – 9:30 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://hudasafour.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 craftspersons 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.

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**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

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**Comment? 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

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