

WHAT'S NEW?

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Redevelopment Update**
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**Human Element
Exhibit Opening**
Jan. 5
6:30-8 p.m.
Details, page 5

Library Lost & Found Giveaway
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City offices closed
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Monday, Jan. 16

Trash/recycling collection
No yard waste collection
Monday, Jan. 16

Editor's Note:
The theme for this issue is "New Year, New Resolve." From what I've hearing and reading, 2016 posed challenges for a lot of people, including members of the Takoma Park community. However, as we begin 2017 with new hope and resolve, I am reminded of the sentiment that Mayor Kate Stewart expressed in her Nov. 9 blog post, "it will be important to remember who we are in Takoma Park and what we value." We've asked Mayor Stewart and others to share their resolutions, and you'll find them throughout this issue. Here's mine: Be more present. All the Best in the New Year!



Apryl Motley



Photo: Selena Malott

One of the highlights from 2016 in Takoma Park was the unveiling of *Bird Calls*, an interactive piece created by artists David Schulman and Howard Connelly. This was a public art project funded by the City of Takoma Park. Ten year-old Seina Cimmino, a 4-H member, won the *Bird Calls* rooster recording contest and recorded her rooster Saint Charles' crow for the phone. Here Connelly meets Saint Charles.

Feasibility study begins at Piney Branch Elementary School

By Apryl Motley

With the Montgomery County Board of Education's appointment of the architectural firm of Smolen-Emr-Ilkovitch Architects Inc. on Nov. 15, 2016, the feasibility study at Piney Branch Elementary School officially got under way. The primary focus of the study is to determine the feasibility for a classroom addition to alleviate overcrowding at the school and address the projected need for even more space in the future.

Architects have started the due diligence phase of the study, which, according to Seth Adams, director of the division of construction for Montgomery County Public Schools, "focuses on looking at the building as a whole in terms of both civil and structural engineering."

Adams stressed that this is not a decision-making process. "Part of due diligence is understanding what's there," he said. "This is a data collection and fact-finding process to look at the feasibility of all options, including maintaining or not maintaining the pool. Information will be collected about the pros and cons of each option."

From the City's perspective, "the ideal outcome is that the needed classroom space is added, but not necessarily to the detriment of the existing pool," noted Deputy City Manager Jason Damweber. "Acknowledging the need for classroom space is paramount. If something has to happen with the pool at PBES, then we hope our partners — namely at the County, the school system, Washington Adventist Hospital, Montgomery College — step up and help advocate for and/or finance construction of a new pool/aquatics center locally."

Once the due diligence phase is complete, the community feedback process will begin giving City leadership and residents the opportunity to share their concerns. "The community will have multiple opportunities for feedback," Adams said. The first of four meetings will be scheduled for the end of this

FEASIBILITY STUDY □ Page 10

New Year, New Resolve!

According to researchers at the University of Scranton, "improve finances" is the second most popular New Year's resolution after the always popular "weight loss." What are your resolutions for 2017?

Making New Year's Resolutions is a time-honored tradition. Resolutions are a fun and positive way to start the New Year, so we're featuring some from City staff and leadership here in the January newsletter.



"My resolution for 2017 is: Be Kind. Be Bold. Resist."

—Kate Stewart,
Mayor, City of Takoma Park

NEW YEAR □ Page 3

A movement mobilizes in Takoma Park

By Helen Lyons

Hundreds gathered at Piney Branch Elementary School in Takoma Park on Dec. 4 for "Takoma Park Mobilization."

The event, organized by Jennifer Wofford, called for residents to "join others who want to do specific things to support all our neighbors, oppose racism and hate, defend social programs, protect our immigrant neighbors, defend reproductive rights, defend civil liberties and democracy, save our



planet, and get organized!"

Takoma Park resident Will Ramsey came ready to get more involved. "I'm con-

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Mini Fest**
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DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.
 Regular City Council meetings will take place in the Community Center Auditorium. The City Council will also hold two budget retreats in January — Monday, Jan. 9 and Tuesday, Jan. 17. Both begin at 6 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room.

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 7 p.m.
 TPCC Hydrangea Room

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.
 TPCC Third Floor

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, Jan. 9, 7:15 p.m.
 TPCC Lilac Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Jan. 26, 7 p.m.
 TPCC Hydrangea Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.
 TPCC Hydrangea Room

NOISE CONTROL BOARD

(tentative) Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
 TPCC Third Floor

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.
 TPCC Azalea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Jan. 19, 7 p.m.
 TPCC Hydrangea Room

SAFE ROADWAYS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.
 TPCC Lilac Room

TAKOMA JUNCTION COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.
 TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.
 TPCC Atrium 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 2016-44

Adopted Nov. 30, 2016

126 and 128 Lee Avenue
Approves the purchase of 126-128 Lee Avenue by the Montgomery County Dept. of Housing and Community Affairs and the transfer of said property to Coalition Homes as permitted under County Code Chapter 53A.

RESOLUTION 2016-45

Adopted Nov. 30, 2016

Council Recess
Sets forth the Council's winter holiday recess to extend from Thursday, December 8, 2016 through Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2017.

RESOLUTION 2016-46

Adopted Dec. 7, 2016

Takoma Junction Redevelopment
Extends for up to 30 days the deadline for the Developer (NDC) to negotiate the Co-op Letter of Intent.

ORDINANCE 2016-44

Adopted Nov. 30, 2016 (First Reading Oct. 26)

Replacement Truck
Authorizes replacement of one Public Works F 450 dump truck for \$61,402 to be purchased from Academy Ford.

ORDINANCE 2016-47

Adopted Nov. 16, 2016 (First Reading Nov. 2)

Code Amendment — Parking Meters
Amends Takoma Park Code, Ch. 13.12 Parking Meters to remove information regarding designation of parking meter zones, time limits, and rates since this information is now included in an administrative regulation.

Stay informed about City Council meetings and agendas! Subscribe to our weekly email list. You'll find the subscription form on the Council agenda page takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas.

TAKOMA JUNCTION COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE VACANCY

The Takoma Junction Community Consultation Process Advisory Committee helps facilitate community input and feedback at critical stages of the Takoma Junction development project. The committee's efforts focus on creating, in conjunction with Neighborhood Development Company, the process needed to guide community participation on important aspects of the development project effectively. The committee will not be responsible for making substantive decisions or providing specific recommendations to the Council about the design, layout or use of the planned development.

The Committee currently has one vacancy for a resident from Ward 4. Members should be skilled in outreach and social media, knowledgeable about local resources, and familiar with the best means of reaching residents throughout the community. The work of the committee will be finished when the community consultation period in the development process is complete in spring 2017. To apply for appointment, complete and submit an application: takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/f/bccapplication.

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 Dec. 16, 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Plastic bag ban now in effect

A long anticipated ban on the use of plastic single-use bags at point of sale went into effect in Takoma Park on December 1. The City Council, known for its progressive stance when it comes to sustainable policies and practices, passed the ordinance earlier this year after much consideration and discussion about the ban.

“We in Takoma Park, Md., have been a national leader in the preservation of natural resources and the environment,” said Councilmember Jarrett Smith who

initially proposed the ban. “With this plastic bag ban, our tenacity for all things that protect the environment continues... Sligo Creek, the Chesapeake Bay, and other environmental treasures will always be a priority for our city.”

Mayor Kate Stewart echoed these sentiments: “Takoma Park is proud of its dedication to protect the environment and create a sustainable community. Our deep commitment is exemplified by our willingness to pioneer new programs, stemming back to the early days of recycling

and tree protection laws.”

The plastic bag ban does provide a few exceptions, including dry cleaning bags, newspaper bags where newspapers are delivered by the publisher, and non-point of sale plastic bags, such as those used for raw or bulk items like produce, grains, candy and small hardware items. Farmers markets within the city are exempt from the ban for the first year until December 1, 2017, at which point they may provide compostable plastic bags to customers.

The emphasis for the first 90 days of

the new ordinance will be on education and outreach to local business. For full text of the ordinance, please visit <https://documents.takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/ordinances/2016/ordinance-2016-31.pdf>.

A slightly longer version of this article appeared on the City's website on Dec. 5, 2016: takomaparkmd.gov/news-alert/plastic-bags-banned.

NEW YEAR

■ From page 1



“Now that I am no longer able to ride my bike or walk to and from work (because I have to drive one of my young kiddos to school), I resolve to make

time and find other ways to stay active and exercise.”

—Jason Damweber, Deputy City Manager



“I hope to finally learn to play the ukulele, so I can add a new musical dimension to our popular Tuesday morn-

ing Circle Time programs. I've got the uke; I just need to get some lessons and then practice!”

—Karen Macpherson, Children's & Youth Services Coordinator, Takoma Park Maryland Library



“Listen to understand. Interact with understanding.”

—Terry Seamens, City Councilmember, Ward 4



“I would like to learn how to sew as my New Year's Resolution.”

—Jamee Ernst, Planning Intern, Housing and Community Development



“Finding the right balance in everything.”

—Peter Kovar, City Councilmember, Ward 1

In addition, here are some tips from the Recreation Department on how to be successful in keeping your resolutions (Also, check out their recommendations for resolutions on page 6).

- **Be specific.** Write down your goals and then define specific, concrete paths to reach them. Set deadlines for your steps within each goal and track your progress. Don't be discouraged if you fall a little behind. Just jump back in and try again.
- **Keep it simple.** Keeping your resolutions should make you feel better about you. So, it's important not to make wild resolutions that are too difficult to follow.

- **Plan ahead.** There will be times when you don't feel like continuing towards your goal or when your enthusiasm goes away, so have a plan for how you're going to pull yourself out of that and get back on your feet.

- **Make it official.** Share your resolution in some way, such as telling others, posting it on the refrigerator or the mirror in your room, write a contract with yourself, or keep a journal. When you make your goal official, you will feel more accountable for achieving it.

Whatever you resolve to do in the coming year, we wish you well. Happy 2017!



MOVEMENT

■ From page 1

cerned about social issues,” Ramsey said. “So much is happening in the country right now. I think that people have been tricked by the election, and I'm concerned that so many people can buy into a leadership that's based on a lot of lies.”

The auditorium of the elementary school was filled to the brim with people and posters lined the walls proposing working groups in areas, such as immigration, health care, civil liberties and civil rights, environment, and communications.

“My fear is that people are going to have less freedom and less opportunity under this administration,” Ramsey said. He and others crowded into the school to listen to passionate speeches from community members and connect with others who share similar expertise and goals for political activism.

“The point is to organize Takoma Park in a positive way,” explained Sharon Stout, who joined the COOL (Communications/Outreach/Organizing/Logistics) Committee and helped people sign in at the door, “and to form working groups on various topics that are of interest to people.”

Residents took turns addressing the

crowd using a microphone, giving a brief description of their committee ideas and goals and designating a place in the auditorium where those interested could gather and begin planning.

Jennifer Wofford was thrilled to see so many engaged people there. “A couple of the working groups that had just gotten started when we first met have amazing people on them,” Wofford said. “[For example] the health care committee. I'm totally amazed by all these people who are so knowledgeable on health care and passionate about it.”

During the weeks following the kickoff event, more committees took shape and began developing agendas and goals. Each committee has one or two point people to coordinate emails and meetings and rotating facilitators, explained Anita Budhraj, Takoma Park resident and member of the Immigration and Muslim rights committee.

“Since Trump was elected, there were a lot of people who weren't politicized who are getting politicized and feeling motivated to be engaged citizens and be involved in politics,” Budhraj said. “I'm one of those people who might not call themselves activists, but are ready to act.”

Takoma Park activist Nadine Block wanted “to energize people and create

a space where people can form working groups and take on real projects.”

Anyone can join one of 13 committees currently in existence: the economic equity committee, the immigration, sanctuary, Muslim working group, the health care committee, the committee for the women's march, the breaking bread together: community dinners group, the stand up! Show up! rapid response to hate crimes or racism group, the electoral/constitutional committee, the education & training committee, the subcommittee on diversity, inclusion, bias and anti-racism training, the environmental committee, the civil rights & civil liberties committee, the LGBTQ committee and the communications/outreach/organizing/logistics committee (COOL).

For more general information, visit www.facebook.com/tpmobilization or email takomaparkmobilization@gmail.com.

The next meeting of Takoma Park Mobilization will be Saturday, Jan. 28 at 4 p.m. at Piney Branch Elementary School. Gustavo Torres of CASA de Maryland will be one of the speakers at the meeting.

Helen's resolution for 2017 is to have more fun!



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER
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 Assistant: Sean Gossard
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Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

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

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled—content paper.





BUILDING COMMUNITY

Public Works snow removal plan

By Daryl Braithwaite, Public Works Director

Public Works staffers are preparing to work hard to clear whatever snow falls on Takoma Park's 34 miles of city-maintained roads, as well



as walkways and sidewalks around city parks and public buildings. City staff tracks potential storms as they develop and prepares our response. Plow crews start plowing operations when one inch of snow is on the ground and are prepared to work 12-hour shifts. The City uses Public Works Right of Way staff as primary plow drivers, and sanitation drivers fill in the second shift. When significant snowfall occurs, city trash and recycling collection may be canceled to allow sanitation drivers to pitch in with road clearing. The City's garden division staff clears public sidewalks during daylight hours with assistance as needed from temporary laborers. Public Works encourages businesses and residents to do their part to clear snow and ice from the sidewalks adjoining their property.

Takoma Park's winter weather response plan divides the city into five snow removal zones, each with an assigned response vehicle. Within each zone, "primary streets" are those with the most traffic, and those that connect neighborhoods. "Secondary streets" are shorter, with fewer homes, and include courts, alleys and dead ends. The City's crews first clear primary streets and then proceed to secondary streets. The City's goal is to create two travelable lanes on each primary street within a 12-hour shift if the snow fall is six inches or less. If the snow fall is six inches or more, the expectation is to have one travelable lane over a 12-hour period. Snow removal equipment remains in service around the clock until all the roads are cleared. To see a map of snow removal routes, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov/snow.

Often, when severe weather is on the way, the City begins anti-icing procedures by applying a sand salt mixture or liquid de-icing chemicals to the street surface. Plowing begins once snowfall has accumulated to one inch on the street. If the storm produces only sleet and ice, the city treats roadways with sand and salt. Snow and ice response service on some streets is performed by outside agencies. **The State Highway Administration is responsible for clearing Carroll Avenue, Ethan Allen Avenue, New Hampshire Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue and Piney Branch Road. Sligo Creek Parkway is**

a Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission roadway, and snow and ice response is performed by Montgomery County. However, city plows will assist with snow removal on these streets in the course of their work to clear city streets.

If you have any questions before or during a winter event, please contact the Public Works Department at 301-891-7633.

Helpful Tips for Residents to Follow During a Snow Event

Stay connected:

Conditions leading to a declared snow emergency include the expectation of a significant quantity of snow or an ice event. The city manager may declare a snow emergency and will announce the status through Takoma Park Alert, local media, and on the city's website, Facebook and Twitter.

Adhere to the following restrictions that go into effect during declared snow emergencies:

- Residents are strongly encouraged to park vehicles in their driveways whenever possible. Fewer cars on the street allow city plows to more quickly and safely clear the roads.
- If you must park on the street, make sure to park your car as close to the curb as possible and maintain a distance of at least 25 feet from an intersection.

Clear your sidewalks:

- Residents are responsible for clearing the public sidewalks adjacent to their property.
- When possible, keep sidewalks clear of snow and ice by regularly shoveling accumulated snow during and after a snow event.
- Please do not shovel large amounts of snow into the street when clearing your driveway, lead walk or sidewalk. The best place to pile snow is on the lawn or grassy areas. Piles of snow shoveled out into the street can cause problems for passing vehicles.

Be a good neighbor and help others in need:

Reach out and ask neighbors if they need assistance with keeping their sidewalks clear. Many residents are physically unable to shovel snow and ice and are hesitant to request help from neighbors or friends. Your thoughtfulness can make a big difference to someone who might otherwise be unable to cope.

The Home Stretch: City to roll out Down Payment Assistance Pilot Program

In response to the need to expand access to affordable homeownership, the City set aside \$50,000 in the FY17 budget to pilot a down payment assistance program. The program, called "The Home Stretch," is projected to assist up to five eligible individuals or families in achieving homeownership. Eligibility requirements include:

- Applicant must be a "first-time homebuyer." For the purposes of this program, a first-time homebuyer is defined as one who has not owned property in the past five (5) years.
- Applicant's income must not exceed 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) for Montgomery County. For a family

of four, for example, the maximum allowable income is \$86,600 for 2016. The median income for the County is \$108,600.

- Applicant must successfully complete a homebuyer education course approved by the City of Takoma Park prior to receiving assistance.
- The home must be located in the City of Takoma Park.
- The home must serve as the applicant's principal residence.

Interested applicants must submit an online interest form, available on the City's website starting Jan. 6, 2017. For additional information, please visit the City's website.

Takoma Junction Redevelopment Update

At its Dec. 7 business meeting, the Takoma Park City Council voted to allow 30 more days for a Letter of Intent to be negotiated and agreed to by the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op and the City's development partner, NDC, regarding the Takoma Junction development. In the meantime, NDC has signed a Letter of Intent with the Ability Project to provide a second story, 6,000 sq. ft. space in the development for adults with special needs to have a supportive environment in which they can gather and relax.

To learn more about the content of discussions with the Co-op to date and where things stand regarding current plans and aspirations, residents may wish to view this presentation given by NDC President Adrian Washington: takomaparkmd.gov/city-blog/takoma-junction-redevelopment-update. Residents are welcome to weigh in now and in the months ahead.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What are the City Council's goals for the project?

The goals of the City Council regarding the Takoma Junction development project remain: improve the aesthetic appeal of the commercial district and be contextually sensitive and environmentally sustainable. The Council has repeatedly expressed its concern for the well-being of the Co-op, particularly its need for continuity of operations. And, the Council is looking at the long-term needs of the City's taxpayers by putting a key property back on the tax rolls.

Where, exactly, will the Co-op be located?

There are two choices: the Co-op may remain in the building it is in and expand or not, or the Co-op could opt for relocating into a brand new building on the site of the City's current surface parking lot.

NDC has presented concept designs for either option. Moving into a new building adjacent to its current building has advantages in terms of the Co-op's continuity of operations and the opportunity to occupy a space optimized for grocery use. However, the Co-op may not wish to pursue that option. To be clear: NDC remains open to an arrangement where the Co-op is the anchor tenant and retains their current space, while also addressing the Council's overarching goals. NDC's proposals do not include relocating the Co-op to a site away from the Junction.

What about traffic studies, and will the State Highway Administration allow a "lay-by" design for large trucks to unload in front of the Co-op?

While NDC's traffic consultant has been active in the development of options, a real traffic study does not come until later when more information is known about a proposed site plan and potential uses. At the Mayor's request, City staff confirmed that SHA has no objections to such a design in concept.

How will the process move forward?

The final design of the Takoma Junction project is a long way off — there is a whole Takoma Park community process ahead, as well as the site plan review process through Montgomery County. The Council will be weighing many aspects of the site plan, including design, parking, loading, community use space, and safety. As a City-owned property, the Council has final say, within the parameters of the County's Codes.

How can city residents provide their input?

Comments may be submitted through the City's website at takomapark.seamless-docs.com/f/JunctionComments.

This article was adapted from City Manager Suzanne Ludlow's Dec. 9 blog post.

THE ARTS

The U-Liners

**Saturday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Suggested Donation: \$10**

Local Takoma Park band The U-Liners performs at the Takoma Park Community Center Saturday, Jan. 14, at 7:30 p.m. We Are Takoma is excited to have the group back at the auditorium. We caught up with band member Joe Uehlein for a question-and-answer exchange about the group via email.

We Are Takoma: The U-Liners are a dynamic group. Tell us about the band.

Joe Uehlein: Entering our 14th year together, we play a genre-blending style of Americana and roots-rock music from folk to rock, swing to bluegrass, country to soul. And, we like to mix it all up into one kind of music with a cool groove. We have a sub-specialty of songs with a purpose, songs that have something to say about the world around us, and, for me, these come from my life experiences as a laborer and as an environmental, social and economic justice organizer.

We Are Takoma: What can audience members expect at a The U-Liners concert?

Joe Uehlein: Plenty of original songs, as well as our fave covers! Songs to jump and down to, songs that cause you to think, songs to dance to, and most importantly, truly amazing artistry from Avril Smith on guitar, Tom Espinola on mandolin, Larry Ferguson on drums, Jessica Lake on vocals, Barry Warsaw on bass, and, for this upcoming show, and other shows as well, Rickie Simpkins on violin. Oh, yeah, and me, Joe Uehlein, on guitar and vocals!

We Are Takoma: The U-Liners take a unique approach to your repertoire. Can

you elaborate on that?

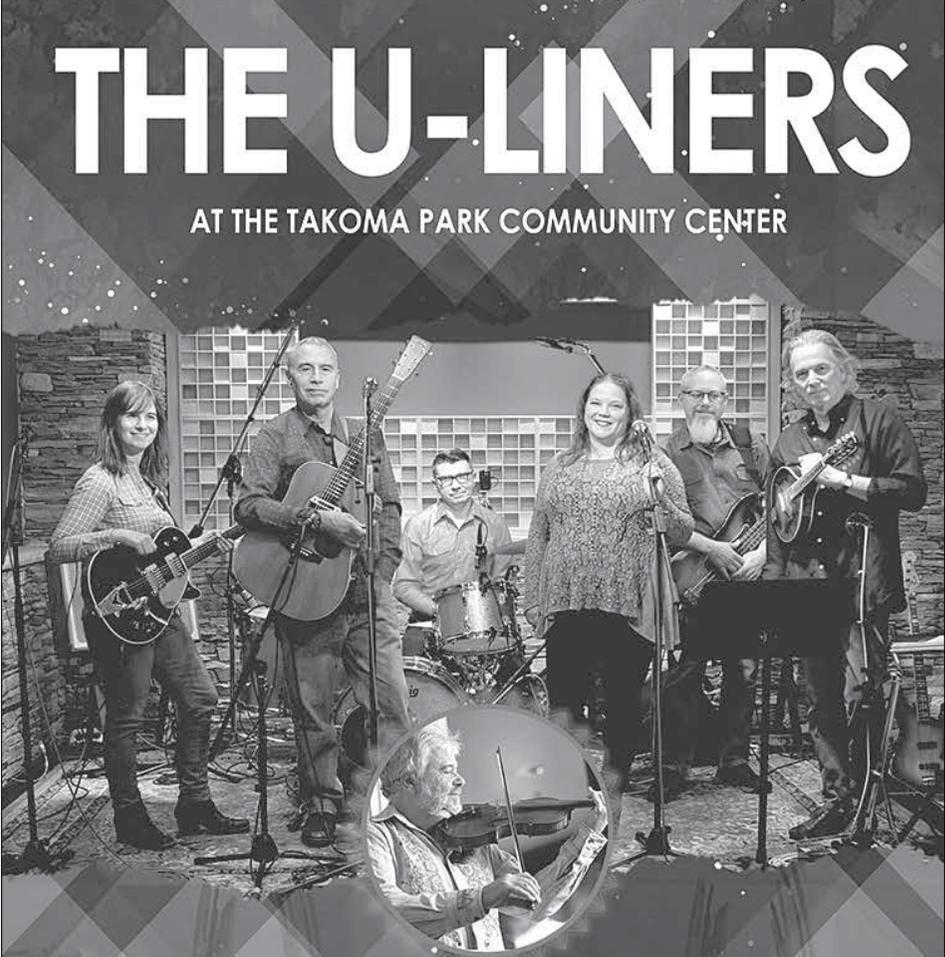
Joe Uehlein: We've developed a broad and deep repertoire of hundreds of songs from different genres suitable for many different occasions. We play bars and clubs, as well as concert halls, and we like to feature our original material. We love to go from bluegrass to rock 'n roll to folk and soul all in one gig. We've been referred to as "Woody Guthrie meets Merle Haggard meets Jerry Garcia," and we've done tributes to those artists and Pete Seeger, too!

We Are Takoma: How has Takoma Park influenced The U-Liners?

Joe Uehlein: I've lived in Takoma Park for going on 32 years, and Avril has been here for a long time, too. Tom's been teaching here for many years. I moved to Takoma Park because of the art and music and the politics. Living in a close knit community, and a community that shares our values as human beings and as artists, has influenced our sound and the songs we select.

We Are Takoma: What is one thing you wish more people knew about The U-Liners?

Joe Uehlein: That we continue to grow as artists, and as human beings. We are always bringing new music into the mix. And, babies, too! When we formed the band 14 years ago, there were no children in the mix, but over time, five children were born to members of the band. Musically, we are not wedded to staying in one idiom. We like to explore different sounds, mixing traditional bluegrass instruments and sound with rock 'n roll and just keeping the music fresh and expansive. Music is life, and we strive to live that way.

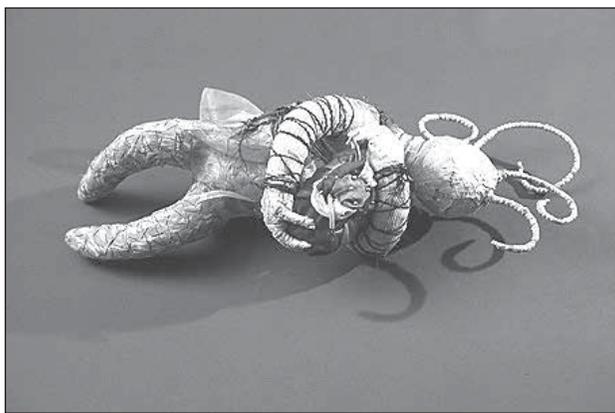


THE U-LINERS
AT THE TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

SPECIAL GUEST RICKIE SIMPKINS ON FIDDLE!

SATURDAY, 7:30-10 P.M.
1.14.2017
TAKOMA PARK CIVIC AUDITORIUM
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD, 20912

FOR MORE INFO & NEWS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT ULINERS.COM



"Secret keeper," Maria Simonsson

Human Element Exhibition

Opening Reception

Thursday, Jan. 5, 6:30—8 p.m.

Join us in celebrating the opening of our new exhibition *Human Element*. The show features works by photographer Suzheila "Sheila" Reyes-Bunnag, textile artist Maria Simonsson, and painter Cynthia Farrell Johnson. Enjoy great art, snacks, and beverages and meet the artists. The opening reception is free. *Human Element* is on view at the Takoma Park Community Center through March 5.



From *Brava*, by Alua Kennedy and Katherine Cerrone

Docs in Progress Presents Community Stories Student Showcase

Thursday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.

They were great the first time, and they are back for another showing. Docs in Progress features an encore screening of its Community Stories Student Showcase. The free event showcases thirteen short films made by first-time local filmmakers spotlighting stories from Takoma Park and Silver Spring.

One of the films being featured is *Brava* by Alua Kennedy and Katherine Cerrone, which features a ballet class

at Senior Source, a wellness center offering an array of programs for active adults 55 and older.

For a complete listing of the films being shown, visit www.docsinprogress.org/communitystories. Community Stories Student Showcase, part of We Are Takoma arts and humanities series, is free for everyone.

3RD THURSDAY
POETRY.

Third Thursday Poetry

Thursday, January 19, 7:30 p.m.

Join us for a fabulously free evening of poetry with works read by poets themselves: Gary Jacobik, Chris Llewellyn, Patric Petter, and Donald Illich. Come for the free event then stay for the reception. Third Thursday Poetry is part of the We Are Takoma arts and humanities series and made possible by the City of Takoma Park.

RECREATION

For a complete list of programs offered by the Recreation Department please visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation. Registration opened in mid-December or earlier for winter programs - Don't miss out — keep those New Year's resolutions going in 2017!

YOUTH

ART

On Stage: Scene Study

This is an in-depth acting class comprised of scene work as well as acting warm-ups and theatre games. It focuses on Stanislavski-based acting techniques (objective/obstacle/tactics, subtext, script scoring, etc.) used to build a character and create a believable scene. Students will pair up and work on a scene throughout class, which will culminate in a performance. Material is provided, or students may bring their own scenes to be approved.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
11-15 years
Mondays, January 9 - March 27
3:30 - 5 p.m.
Resident: \$165 / Non-Resident: \$185

CAMP

Spring Break Camp: Heroes & Villains

Do you pretend that you are a superhero saving the galaxy against a villain? Well, join



us for our Heroes & Villains themed week. Trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Must pack a lunch. Space is limited, so sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp. Before and After Care also available for an additional fee.

Takoma Park Community Center
Azalea Room
7500 Maple Avenue

5-12 years
Monday, April 10 - Friday, April 14
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Residents: \$125 / Non-residents: \$145

FITNESS

Taekwondo

Taekwondo, it is composed of three parts as shown in the English spelling, though it is one word in Korean. "Tae" means "foot," "leg," or "to step on." Kwon means "fist" or "fight," and "Do" means the "way" or "discipline." Martial Arts are studied for various reasons, including combat skills, cultivation (meditation), mental discipline, character development and building self-confidence. There is a one-time, non-refundable, \$40 uniform fee paid to the instructor at the first class.

Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
6 years and older
Monday, January 9-April 7
6 - 7 p.m.
Resident: \$165 / Non-Resident: \$185

TRIP



Fun Day (Pump It Up)

Sign your child(ren) up for a day of fun and excitement when they are off from school. Participants will get to jump and bounce on inflatable moon bounces. Participants will meet at the Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue. Lunch included (pizza) at Pump It Up. Trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Space is limited, so sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of program. There is no before or after care available for this program.

Takoma Park Community Center
Azalea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
5-12 years
Friday, January 27
8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Residents: \$40 / Non-residents: \$50

TEENS

CAMP

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! Now starting at 9 a.m. with Before Care and After Care available for an additional fee!



Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
1 Week Session
Monday, April 10 - Friday, April 14
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Residents: \$100 / Non-residents: \$125

DROP IN

Power Hour

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

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

Teen Lounge

This special room is for TEENS only (middle school and high school students)! You are welcome to watch 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.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Ongoing
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 3 - 7 p.m.
Tuesdays: 3 - 8 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Teen Night Out

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

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
2nd and 4th Fridays
7:15 - 8:45 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

First of Many

First of Many is a series of informative workshops to help you discover and take advantage of the possibilities offered for first-generation college students. Find answers to your questions about college and receive guidance on the road to applying and getting the most out of college.

Takoma Park Community Center
Rose Room
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 9-12
8 Week Session
Wednesdays, January 11 - March 1
4 - 5 p.m.
Free

Wisdom in Minutes 102: Spring Forward

Participants will be able to clarify their dreams and take action toward achieving them. We will help you to identify your skills, talents, and goals while making the most of your resources

RECREATION □ Page 7

What's Your New Year's Resolution?

New Year's resolutions can seem pretty pointless when they never actually work; or when you feel guilty because maybe you made some unrealistic ones. You really wanted to stick to them or at least try them out. In the end it seems a lot of New Year's resolutions almost always fail. So what's the point, right?

Well, resolutions don't have to be crazy and wild. Resolutions are about bettering yourself to your standards, not everyone else's. So let's make them a little more attainable, and make them fun. Maybe, just maybe that will help with fulfilling them. Here are few suggestions to try out for this year's resolutions.

1. **Get in shape.** Losing weight is the top resolution for most people. It's easy to start an exercise and diet program, but the trick is to find one that works for you. Help keep this resolution by joining the fitness center at the Takoma Park Recreation Center (7315 New

New Year's Resolution - A New Year's resolution is a tradition, most common in the Western Hemisphere but also found in the Eastern Hemisphere, in which a person makes a promise to do an act of self-improvement or something slightly nice, such as opening doors for people beginning from New Year's Day.



Hampshire Ave) or registering for one of the Recreation Department's many fitness classes.

- Pick up useful skills or fun hobbies.** Just sitting around all day won't get you anywhere. Give your thumbs a break from all the texting and social media! It's better to use your free time in a constructive manner and pick up new skills while having fun at the same time. In the end you will be glad that you did.
- Improve your GPA if you are still in school.** Make small goals of improve-

ment; start off by simply doing your best to improve on the next test. Make small goals that are attainable and keep increasing your goal, so eventually you can move that "C" to a "B," and then you are well on your way to an "A." Stop by the Power Hour every Tuesday afternoon in the Teen Lounge for extra help on your homework.

- Start expressing yourself artistically.** Expressing yourself in some creative artistic way is a great form of stress relief and helps keep your mind sharp. So get in the arts, write, craft, make

DIY projects, whatever makes you feel good. Sign up for a ceramics class at the Community Center or stop by one of the many *We Are Takoma* events.

- Play more.** Play is an important source of relaxation and stimulation. In addition, it can make you more creative and productive. Bring more play into your life by making it a New Year's resolution and include your friends on the fun! Kick off your year of play at the Indoor Splash and Play Pool Party hosted by the Recreation Department and Let's Play America on January 8 from 2-4 p.m. at the Piney Branch Public Pool.

Visit the Takoma Park City website at www.takomaparkmd.gov to see all of the fun happenings going on in town that can help you start, maintain and achieve your resolutions.

RECREATION

■ From page 6

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
Rose Room
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
8 Week Session
Thursdays, January 12 - March 2
3 - 5 p.m.
Free

ADULTS

ART

Ceramics: Wheel Throwing

Receive instruction on using the potter's wheel. Participants will make cups, bowls and dishes. Tools and



other materials provided. There is a \$15 materials fee due to the instructor on the first day of class.

Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 years & older
8 week sessions
Wednesdays, February 1 - March 22
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Resident: \$110 / Non-Resident: \$130

Ceramics: Hand Building & Sculpture

Come learn how to use clay without the wheel. Bowls, soap dishes, vases, and plates can be made by many methods, including plaster molds to create large bowls and plates. Sculpture students can make clay animals, figures or portrait heads. Glazes are food safe. There is a \$15 materials fee for clay, glazes

and tools due the first day of class.

Takoma Park Community Center Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 years & older
8 week sessions
Mondays, February 6 - March 27
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Resident: \$110 / Non-Resident: \$130

DROP-IN

Multi Media Lab

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. For more information, please contact John Webster at 301-891-7225 or johnw@takomaparkmd.gov.



Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
Monday - Wednesday & Friday; 3 - 8 p.m.
Saturday; 12 - 5 p.m.
Closed on Thursdays and Sundays

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
January 4 - March 29
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, beginning January 7
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
January 10 - March 2
6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
\$85
Drop-in: \$10

Pilates

A fun and invigorating workout that teaches controlled movements utilizing the body's "core" - abdomen, back, and hips. Pilates improves core control, coordination, standing alignment and balance with mat exercises. Pilates is the ultimate mind-body exercise for anyone who wants to tone, streamline, and realign their bodies. 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, January 4 - February 8
6 - 7 p.m.
6 Weeks: \$60
4 Weeks: \$40

SENIOR/55 PLUS

DROP IN

Bingo

Try your luck. Win a prize.
Takoma Park Community Center
Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Thursday, January 26
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, January 26
11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Free

RECREATION *Special Announcements*

Indoor Splash & Play Pool Party

Piney Branch Public Pool
Saturday, January 8
2 - 4 p.m.

Splash around and have a blast! This event promises to be great fun for everyone! Volunteers wanted. This event is co-sponsored by the Takoma Park Recreation Department and Let's Play America. For more information, visit letsplayamerica.org



Summer Camp Expo

Join us for our 3rd Annual Summer Camp Expo where you will get the opportunity to register your child(ren) for Takoma Park Recreation Department's upcoming summer camps. During the Expo only, families will receive a 20% discount off participating camp(s) (must be in line by 1 p.m. to get the discount). Please check out the Summer Camp Guide for descriptions and prices associated with the camps.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Saturday, January 28
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Summer Camp Employment

Looking for something fun and rewarding to do this summer? Look no further! Takoma Park Recreation Department will soon be looking for summer camp staff. Apply online at takomaparkmd.gov/hr/careers



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 Takoma Park Recreation programs are canceled: get notices via Takoma Park Alert (www.takomaparkmd.gov/alert); check the City's website; or call the Recreation Department's Inclement Weather Line (301-891-7101 x5606).

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

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. The Business Interest Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 15, 10:30 a.m. @ TPCC**. For more information or to RSVP, email leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov. "Empowering Youth through Employment"



Celebrate Takoma Committee Volunteers Needed

The Recreation Department is beginning to plan the fourth annual Celebrate Takoma Festival for Saturday, May 20, from 4 - 7 p.m., and we need your help. The festival celebrates the cultural diversity of Takoma Park. We will be looking for food, merchandise vendors and local entertainers. If you would like to volunteer to be a part of the steering committee, email Debby Huffman at deborahh@takomaparkmd.gov. The committees meet monthly in the evenings. Come join the fun!



LIBRARY



Seeking solace in our shelves

By Karen MacPherson

In the weeks after the election, amidst a surge in hate crimes nationwide, our library patrons — young and old — searched for solace on our shelves, looking for hope and inspiration. There are many books that can speak to this need, especially books aimed at children, and so we have put together a special “Hope and Inspiration” annotated booklist.

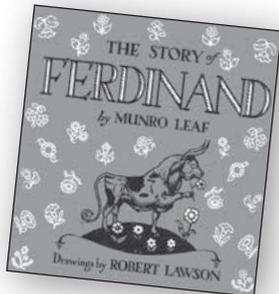
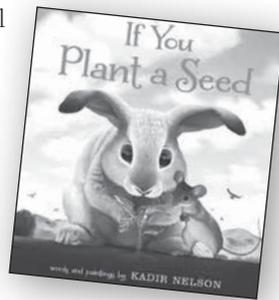
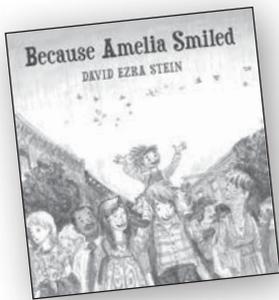
We offered a community, read-out-style “Hope & Inspiration Storytime” in early December based on this booklist with patrons taking turns reading the books aloud. We plan to offer another one this winter. Meanwhile, here’s an abbreviated version of our booklist. Of course, there are many more books where younger readers — and their grown-ups — can find hope and inspiration. Just ask us for further suggestions! (Note: This booklist was published in the Washington Post online on Dec. 13 and in print on Dec. 20.)

For younger readers, ages 3-7:

Because Amelia Smiled, written and illustrated by David Ezra Stein: One smile has international consequences in this book that celebrates the power of love and hope.

Can I Play Too?, written and illustrated by Mo Willems: Elephant and Piggy must wrestle with the question of what to do — and how they should act — when Snake, who has no arms or legs, asks to play catch.

Counting on Community, written and il-



lustrated by Innosanto Nagara: In this counting book, readers learn any number of ways that community is important, from working together in a community garden to protesting injustice.

If You Plant a Seed, written and illustrated by Kadir Nelson: A huge food fight breaks out when a rabbit and a mouse refuse to share the bounty of their vegetable harvest with a flock of birds; things look grave until the mouse realizes that sharing just might be a better solution.

Last Stop on Market Street, written by Matt de la Pena and illustrated by Christian Robinson: During a bus ride, a young boy in the inner city learns to appreciate his Nana’s ability to find — and celebrate — beauty anywhere.

The Lion and the Mouse, written and illustrated by Jerry Pinkney: Setting Aesop’s beloved fable in the African Serengeti, Pinkney’s illustrations — and nearly wordless text — give this classic a powerful new twist.

The Peace Book, written and illustrated by Todd Parr: In his relentlessly cheerful style, Parr defines the meaning of peace for very young children.

The Story of Ferdinand, written by Munro Leaf and illustrated by Robert Lawson: This classic tale tells the story of a peace-loving bull named Ferdinand, who is mistakenly thought to be a tough, violent animal but proves otherwise when he’s put to the test in the bullring.

LIBRARY □ Page 9



Photo: Selena Malott

Local residents browse during the Friends of the Library Fall Book Sale.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Caldecott Club: Our Caldecott Club meets on Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. to vote on our choice for the 2017 Caldecott Medal. We’ll be reading and briefly discussing our finalists before voting on our top selection. It will be interesting to see how close we can come to the winner of the “real” 2017 Caldecott Medal, which will be announced by the American Library Association on Jan. 23. All ages are welcome at our program, and no registration is required. Plus, cookies and lemonade will be served, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Friends fundraising on the move: Two recent book sales held by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library netted \$3,590.

The Friends’ book sales could not take place without the efforts of many volunteers, as well as City staff. We wish to thank the volunteers, in no particular order, whose efforts were crucial in making our sales a suc-

cess: Michele Morgan, Walter Mulbry, Rachel Mulbry, Tim Rahn, Tom Brune, Rebekah Zanditon, Deborah Nelson, Miriam Szapiro, Pat Hanrahan, Sylvie Shafer, Emily Van Loon, Suzanne Morgan, Pat Taylor, Pat McMahon, Kim Linton. Susan West Montgomery, Laura Jacobi, Linda Carlson, Mary Rein, Irene Huntoon, Ann Slayton, Nancy and Dan Kunkel, Sherelyn and Jerry Ernst, Sam McCollin, Dave Burbank and Phil Shapiro of the library staff, Troy Fingal and ‘Dred’ of the department of public works, and of course coordinator and organizer Merrill Leffler.

All proceeds for the Library Book sales benefit the Library in support for programs and resources.

Lost and found giveaway: Over many months we have accumulated many articles of clothing (mostly kids’) in our lost and found. We will be giving everything away in early January, on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Faustian Bargain

By Phillip F. Schewe

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe is to German literature what Shakespeare is to English literature. Novelist, playwright, critic, copious letter writer, scientist and diplomat, he dominated German culture

and had a wide readership outside German-speaking lands during and after his life (1749-1832).

For the Takoma Park Big Book Club, dedicated to tackling challenging books, Goethe’s masterwork, *Faust*, is a natural selection. In spring 2017 the club will meet to hear a noted expert summarize Goethe’s career. Then, club members will meet several more times to discuss *Faust*, a long verse drama written in two parts published 25 years apart. *Faust* is the story of a man who sold his soul to the devil in return for unlimited earthly powers. Other writers prepared Faust stories, but none as famous as Goethe’s.

To round out the book club discussions, we will probably consider one of Goethe’s novels, which were also widely popular and influential.

Phillip Schewe is the current organizer of the Big Book Club; contact him at pschewe@umd.edu if you’d like to be on the mailing list. The above picture shows a statue of Goethe in Grant Park, Chicago.



Photo: J. Crocker.

Statue of Goethe in Grant Park, Chicago

CALENDAR

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Saturday, Jan. 7, 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, Jan. 8, 1:30-3 p.m.
Building fun for ages 3-10.

Caldecott Club

Monday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
All ages welcome; lemonade and cookies served!

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 4 p.m.
Come read comics with Dave Burbank.

Bedtime Stories and a Craft

Wednesday, Jan 11, 7 p.m.
Join us for this fun monthly program.

Kids Art

Sunday, Jan. 22, 2-3 p.m.

Friends Fortnightly Book Club

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.
Discussion of “Kindred” by Octavia Butler
Hydrangea Room, Community Center
Books available in the Library. All welcome.

Coming Up.....

Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m. — Author Emily Jenkins discusses her new picture book, “A Greyhound, A Groundhog.”

LIBRARY

■ From page 8

Older Readers, ages 5-12:

A Is for Activist, written and illustrated by Inno-santo Nagara: This unusual, beautifully-illustrated book for older readers offers ways to identify and promote activism through each letter of the alphabet.

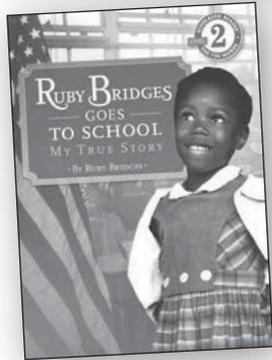
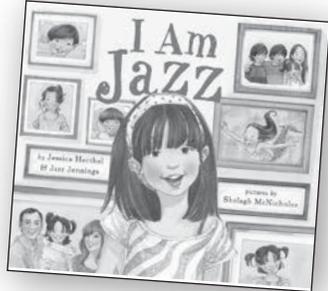
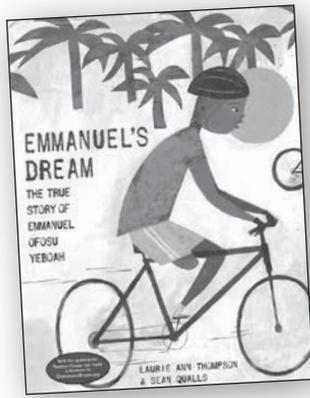
Drum Dream Girl, written by Margarita Engle and illustrated by Rafael Lopez: Millo Castro Zaldarriaga, a Chinese-African-Cuban musician, won international acclaim for her drumming, but only after overcoming Cuba's ban on women drummers.

Emmanuel's Dream: The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah, written by Laurie Ann Thompson and illustrated by Sean Qualls: Born with a deformed leg, the determined Yeboah nevertheless became a renowned athlete.

Harvesting Hope: The Story of Cesar Chavez, written by Kathleen Krull and illustrated by Yuyi Morales: Krull tells Chavez' compelling story with emotion and compassion as she details what led him to push for the creation of the National Farm Workers Association.

I Am Jazz, written by Jessica Herthel and Jazz Jennings and illustrated by Shelagh McNicholas: Jazz Jennings, who knew from the age of two that she was really a girl in a boy's body, has become a heroine in the transgender community.

Malala: A Brave Girl from Pakistan/Iqbal: A Brave Boy from Pakistan, written and illustrated by Jeanette Winter: The stories of two brave Pakistani children, who re-



fused to accept the limitations set by the Taliban.

Ruby Bridges Goes to School, written by Ruby Bridges: In 1961, six-year-old Ruby Bridges was thrust into the national spotlight when she became the face of school desegregation efforts in New Orleans.

Separate Is Never Equal: Sylvia Mendez & Her Family's Fight for Desegregation, written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh: The Mendez family led a successful fight to desegregate the California schools nearly a decade before the U.S. Supreme Court decision on *Brown v. Board of Education* outlawing segregated schools.

Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down, written by Andrea Davis Pinkney and illustrated by Brian Pinkney: On Feb. 1, 1960, four young African-American men took a seat at a "whites only" Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, N.C., inspiring others to do the same throughout the South.

The Storyteller's Candle, written by Lucia Gonzalez and illustrated by Lulu Delacre: In this book, a Puerto Rican family, newly arrived in the United States, finds a refuge at their nearby public library where the children's room was presided over by Pura Belpre, the first Puerto Rican librarian hired by the New York Public Library.

Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer, Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement, written by Carole Boston Weatherford and illustrated by Ekuia Holmes: In a series of emotionally-searing poems, Weatherford takes readers through the momentous life of civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer.

Learning takes flight at Takoma Wings Academy

By Rick Henry

Takoma Wings Academy (TWA) is an example of a great idea that has taken flight. In this case, literally.

The unique program brings middle school boys and girls from low-income, immigrant families together in a summer camp to investigate the science and engineering of flight in nature, aviation and space exploration as well as flight as a means of self-expression in the arts.

The ½ day, three-week summer camp, which has been held at Takoma Academy for the last two years, recently received a \$9,000 Community of Life Grant from the City of Takoma Park.

It is a joint venture between two area nonprofits, Silver-Spring-based Artivate, which specializes in arts-based community learning programs, such as workshops, performances and artist-in-residence programs, and Big Learning, (formerly the Montgomery County Council of PTAs), which operates elementary and middle school instructional programs in language and the sciences.

The pairing of the two organizations was intentional, said James Modrick, Artivate's executive director. "We wanted participants to explore the science and engineering of flight through an artistic lens. The program engages both sides of the brain, the technical side and the creative side."

Jane De Winter, Big Learning's executive director, agreed, noting the two organizations had worked together on previous initiatives before deciding to pair up on TWA. Both De Winter and Modrick stress the concept of STEAM education rather than STEM education.

"Big Learning is focused on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and



Math), but Artivate provides the A (Arts) piece that is so important," De Winter said. Merging the two means getting participants involved in both designing and building.

"We take a 'maker' approach that gets them involved in building and testing different types of flight devices, such as hovercrafts and hydroplanes," Modrick said.

De Winter added that they engage the participants in friendly competitions that allow them to showcase what they have developed. "We have them build catapults and see who can launch things the farthest, for example," she said.

These challenges not only provide a fun way for the campers to test their prototypes, but they teach them important lessons about resiliency and experimentation. "If something doesn't work as well as they hoped, the kids learn to go back and look at the problem a different way and make adjustments," she said. "It shows that failure is not a deal breaker, but part of the process." Beyond that, De Winter said, the challenges allow the participants to coalesce and support each other.

TAKOMA WINGS □ Page 10

RECREATION

■ From page 7



Table Tennis

Come play this fun, energetic game. A great way to improve eye-hand coordination: helps keep the body healthy and the mind sharp.

Takoma Park Community Center Game Room
55 and older
Ongoing
Mondays - Fridays, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.
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, begins Jan. 3
12 - 1 p.m.

Needlework Get-together

Work on your knitting and crochet projects with other needlework enthusiasts. Join us for fun, conversation and support with your projects. Not an instructional class.

Takoma Park Community Center Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
10 week session
Mondays, January 9 - March 27
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Computer Basics

This three week course will introduce people with little or no previous experience to basic skills, such as sending and receiving email, internet searching, and using a word processor to compose letters, etc. You need a Takoma Park Library card to access the computers. Registration with the Recreation Department is required. Instructor: Patti Mallin.

Takoma Park Community Center Computer Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older

3 Week Sessions
Wednesdays, January 18 - February 1
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
\$10 (Plus a Takoma Park Library card)

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

Cardio Groove

High energy and fast paced, low impact aerobics that gets the heart pumping and feet moving quickly, followed by a cool down and stretch. Instructor: Nancy Nickell.



Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Thursdays, January 5 - March 9
1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Free

Line Dancing

Great music! This class provides enjoyable physical exercise and requires no prior experience. Instructor: Barbara Brown.

Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Wednesdays, January 11 - March 29
11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

Free

Senior Free Fitness Pass

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

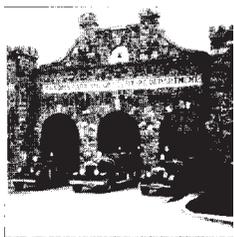
Takoma Park Recreation Center Fitness Room
55 and older
Ongoing
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 2:30 - 9 p.m.
Tuesdays and Thursdays 12 - 2 p.m. (Seniors only)
Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Free

Tennis Fun and Fitness

Rediscover your love of tennis or find it for the first time while learning or reviewing tennis skills. The goal is fun and fitness utilizing special equipment for indoor play. All equipment provided, but you can bring your own tennis racket. Instructor Coach SJ.

Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 and older
Thursdays, January 5 - March 9
12 - 1 p.m.
Free

AT YOUR SERVICE



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Nov. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 548 fire-related incidents in 2016. The department addressed or assisted with 2,825 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 3,373. Totals for 2015 were 567 and 3,031, representing a decrease of 225 incidents.

During November, Takoma Park Volunteers put in a total of 1,300.5 hours of standby time at the station compared to 1,352 hours in November 2015. Grand totals as of November 2016 were 14,444 hours compared to 14,591.5 in 2015, a decrease of 147.5 hours.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported that

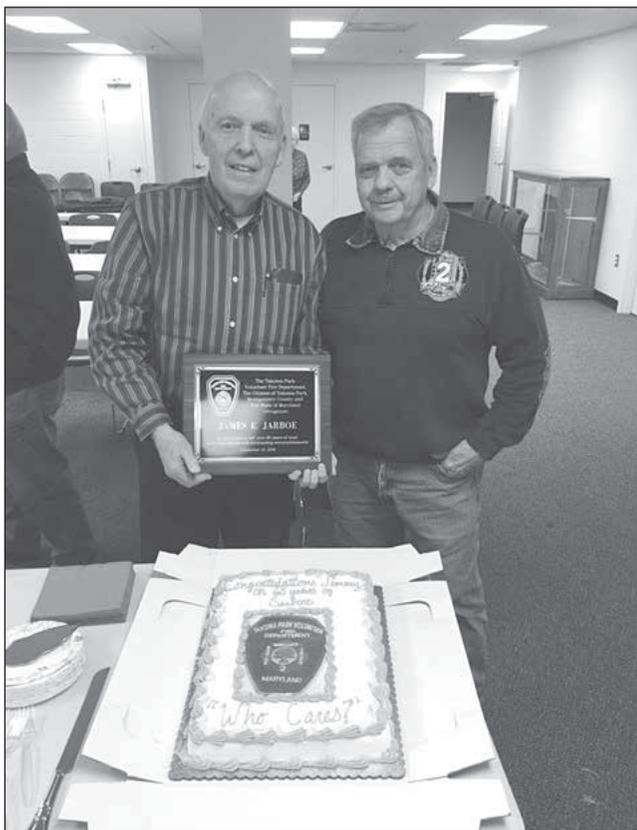
as of Dec. 19, 64 people have died in fires compared to 59 in December 2015.

Safety Message

Once you are finished with your Christmas tree, please remove it to the outside until pick up by the City. If you are not ready, keep it watered until then.

My 2017 Resolution...

To continue promoting fire prevention throughout the community to help reduce fires and injuries.



Surprise! Surprise!

At the Takoma Park VFD membership meeting held on Dec. 14, the department surprised Chief Jim Jarboe with a plaque and cake celebrating his "60 years" of continuous service to the department and community. "I want to thank the department and appreciate the kind words by Fire Chief Tom Musgrove, Life Member Steve Novik and Monsignor Sal Criscuolo. It was truly a great time," Jarboe said at the meeting.

Staying prepared

By Ron Hardy, Emergency Preparedness Manager



This past year Takoma Park experienced a blizzard, had some temporary power outages, experienced a shelter in place or lock-down of schools and the municipal building due to a gunman loose in the county, a Zika virus scare and took note of the other events across the country with tornadoes, wild fires, and civil unrest. The employees of the city are here to serve the needs of the community and assist city residents with services. However, the employees are just as vulnerable to the disasters as the community they serve.

Each year city employees receive annual training in their specific job functions as well as safety preparedness, such as an active assailant, sheltering during weather hazards and being aware of their surroundings. When visiting a city facility, you should feel confident that city staff is trained to act responsibly to different events and give guidance on our safety procedures.

We all know the basics of having a gallon of water a day per person and enough dry or canned food to last for three days,

staying indoors during extreme weather, and having a go bag with extra clothes, copies of our essential documents and medicines. As our neighbors on Arliss Street experienced, you never know when tragedy will strike. As we learned from this disaster, the help and resources will come, and the members of the community will help one another.

If a disaster of a larger scale were to happen in our region, would you be able to be self-sufficient for three days, have a portable radio to receive informational updates, and a plan to communicate with your family?

The city has an Emergency Preparedness Committee, which helps review the city's Emergency Operations Plan and works with the Emergency Preparedness Manager on outreach projects to assist residents in better preparing themselves for a disaster. The Takoma Park newsletter provides a monthly article useful to residents on preparedness, but if you, a group or your neighborhood would like more information on preparedness, contact us at tpepc@takomaparkdmd.gov or 301-891-7126.

TAKOMA WINGS

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Such lessons and hands-on experiences are particularly import for the demographic enrolled in the program, boys and girls, aged 10-14, from low-income families in Takoma Park and Langley Park. The initial program began when one of Artivate's main funders, the Trawick Foundation, approached the group about creating a program for low-income, middle-school boys.

The first TWA was limited to boys only, but the second year's camp was opened up to both boys and girls. Twenty boys attended the initial camp, while 26 participants, split nearly even between boys

and girls, according to Modrick, attended last year's Academy. The only cost is a \$25 registration fee. All materials, instruction, and field trips to places like Goddard Space Flight Center, the ropes course at Sandy Spring Adventure Park and the Air & Space Museum are free.

According to Modrick, in addition to next summer's camp, there are also plans to host a camp over the 2017 spring break.

Interested participants and those who want to more about the initiative can contact the Artivate office at 301-588-7525 or info@goartivate.org to get information on the next TWA program.

Rick's resolution is to run a 10K race in 2017.

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.



FEASIBILITY STUDY

■ From page 1

month or the beginning of February.

"At the first meeting, what we're trying to accomplish is showing some initial concepts [for a classroom addition] and getting feedback about the community's priorities," he explained. "Then, the second meeting is typically scheduled two weeks after the first giving us time to revise the concepts based on the community's feedback."

In terms of the overall timeline for the study, the goal is finalize the report in the spring. With that report in hand, the superintendent will make a recommendation to the board of education, and

should they act on that recommendation, the Montgomery County Council will make the final decision about whether to move forward with a classroom addition at Piney Branch. "The feasibility study does not mean there will be a project at Piney Branch," Adams said. "It will be determined whether this is a priority from a capital project perspective."

The first meeting to solicit community feedback will be advertised via cards sent to parents via mail and also sent home with students. This information will also be posted on the construction division's website when it becomes available: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/facilities/construction/index.aspx.

Local rental housing needed to support refugee resettlement

Takoma Park Welcoming Committee for Syrian Families has been actively working since November 2015 to support resettlement of Syrian families in Takoma Park. We are working with resettlement agencies to meet this goal. Our top priority is to identify safe and affordable rental housing options for new families in Takoma Park.

If you are a home owner and interested in supporting this effort by offering your home or part of your home as a rental property, please review the federal requirements listed below to ensure that it meets the required criteria, so housing is safe, sanitary and in good repair:

- There must be an appropriate number

RENTAL HOUSING □ Page 12

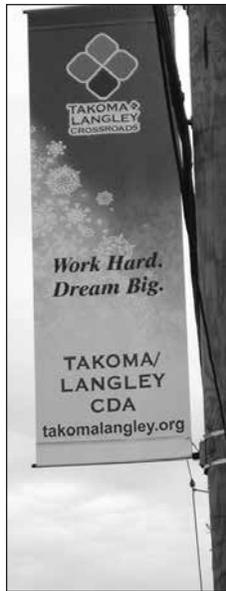
Banners of encouragement

The Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority (www.takomalangley.org) recently hung new banners throughout the Takoma/Langley area. The banners feature encouraging phrases in English, Spanish and French designed to lift the spirits of passersby during the holidays and winter months when darkness comes early, and skies are often grey.

Expressions imprinted on banners include:

- Be the change you wish to see and Si el cambio que deseas ver!
- Never Give Up and Ne perdez jamais espoir
- Make a Difference and Haz la diferencia!
- “Work Hard, Dream Big and Travaillez dur, Revez en grand
- Tomorrow is another day

Many of the banners are sponsored by local businesses and have their names and phone numbers imprinted on them to give them more visibility. For more information, contact Melanie Isis at 301-445-7910 or misis@takomalangley.org.



Folk Festival kickoff meeting Jan. 24

By Kevin Adler

Although it's the middle of winter, the Takoma Park Folk Festival is not in hibernation. The Festival's leadership team will be holding a kickoff meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 24, and all members of the community are invited.

After missing last year for the first time since its creation in 1978, the Festival's organizers are preparing a full-scale event and considering ways to add new activities. The Festival is scheduled for Sept. 10, 2017, at Takoma Park Middle School.

“We've got an energetic group of new volunteers,” said Sarah Lanning, Festival co-chair and a new festival committee member herself. “But there's always more to do. This meeting will be a great time to share ideas and to tell us how you want to help.”

Applications for performers, crafters, community tables, food vendors and beneficiary groups will be made available early in the year. Discussions have been underway about how the Festival can stay true to its traditions, while also reach out to new audiences, too, said Rob Hinkal, the Festival's program chair.

As part of its outreach, the Festival will host fundraisers or community events in the spring and summer. “We're going to

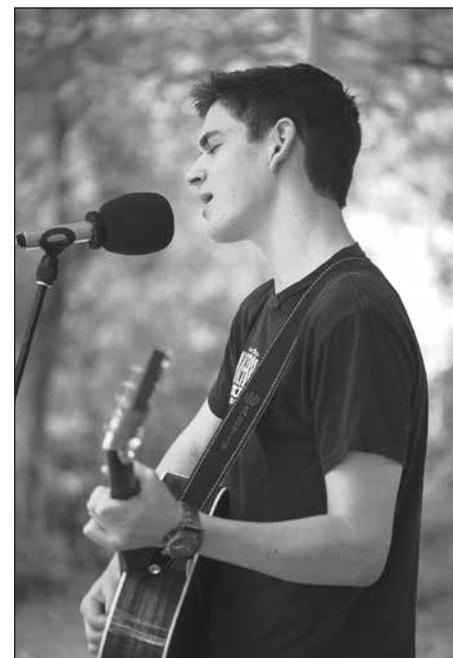


Photo: Selena Malott

Chris Monaghan performs at the 2015 festival.

be busy,” said Walter Mulbry, committee member.

For information about the exact time and location of the meeting on Jan. 24, check out the Festival's website at www.tpff.org or its Facebook page.

FSGW shares folk arts

By Morgan Fecto

It's a Thursday night in early December, and although the days are darker, things are light at April Blum's Adelphi home. That is, Contra dancers are light on their feet.

“The hall we're usually in wasn't available, but as it happens, I have a 25 foot by 50 foot ballroom in my house,” said Blum, who is president of the Folklore Society of Greater Washington. “We call it ‘Ballroom Blum,’ and we even have a Facebook page.”

Blum lends her home to the arts, and as a part of FSGW, she gives her time to sharing folk arts with the community. Of the 200 annual FSGW-sponsored events, the Mini Fest at Takoma Park Middle School is especially significant to those who organize it.

“It's just an absolutely joyous way to spend a cold and grey February day — regardless of the weather, it's warm inside,” said Blum. “My favorite is walking the hallway and hearing music coming from the stairwell or people singing a cappella.”

Spontaneity and participation are cornerstones of Mini Fest's fun. Morris Dancers break into “Morris Choruses,” Flamenco dancers and cigar box guitar makers give workshops, and singers from every folk tradition fill the middle school's cafeteria, the craft-lined hallways, and five adjacent classrooms with a cacophony of sound.



Foggy Bottom Morris Men

“It's a blast is what it is,” said Mini Fest programmer Mike Livingston. “Being able to share stuff with the community and have it be well received, that's exhilarating.”

Organizers finalize the Fest's program schedule in mid-January, but attendees can bank on harmony workshops, a “Jams Room,” banjo, English Country dancing, storytellers spinning tall tales, and of course, Subway sandwiches. They can also expect something new: a room dedicated to participatory programs for families with children.

“You or I, if we're not into a performance then we can walk down the hall, but kids can't if they're not excited,” Livingston said. “That's why we're going to give them an opportunity to do something.”

Since Blum started organizing the Mini Fest with Charlie Baum in 2006, she's wanted to expand the children's programming at Mini Fest. The hope is that expanding the variety of workshops and demos will introduce them to a lifelong passion.

“Dancing brings us together, and children get it,” said Blum. “They see that you're more powerful in a group, and they see those crisp moments in a group dance when everyone reaches out their hands to simultaneously make a star. Dance is ephemeral. It's passing beauty.”

It's that kind of zeal for the arts that keeps the all-volunteer FSGW running. “The key word in the FSGW is ‘society.’ It's everyone stepping up to make this happen,” Livingston said.

When it comes time to schedule the Fest's programs, stepping up kicks into high gear.

“What happens in a community like this — with talented people who are so engaged — is that many of the performers are involved with more than one thing — a musician in one group, a dancer in another, with a thing on the side,” Livingston said. “It's about navigating schedule conflicts. Charlie does a really good job of organizing things so that people don't have to be in three places at once.”

When past Mini Fest schedules have included 300 performers, this can be quite a juggling act. Even with such a robust program, Blum said that the Fest is always affordable. “FSGW was founded 50 years ago at the height of the



Aimee Curl and Morgan Morrison playing old time American Roots songs

folk music revival. There's a certain philanthropic idea that making music and dance available to the community at large and paying musicians for their talents is an important thing for a society to do,” Blum said. “Our ticket prices are low so that people can afford to come.”

Experiencing art and kinship is more vital in such dark winter days, too. “When you dance down the line at Contra and someone swings you, it's like getting a hug every time,” Blum said. “We're primates — we need to be touched, but most of us sit at computers all day, so dancing brings us together.”

Livingston echoed Blum: “It's also true, as Abe Joyner-Meyers [of fiddle ensemble Maelstrom] has pointed out, ‘In dark or difficult times, we need to put some energy into our culture, and the arts and humanities create community and promote inclusiveness.’”

The 2017 Mini Fest is on Feb. 4 and runs from noon until 10:30 p.m. with a break from 6 - 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices range from eight dollars to 55 dollars, varying based on group size, time frame of attendance, and FSGW membership status. To learn more about Mini Fest, visit fsgw.org. To inquire about volunteering or becoming an FSGW member, contact April Blum at president@fsgw.org.

Morgan's resolution for the New Year is to do a cartwheel really casually, and to not make a big deal out of it. Although, she wants to know in her heart that everyone saw it — just one stunning, gorgeous cartwheel.

JANUARY '17

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 February issue is January 13, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning January 27.

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, Jan. 11, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Martin Luther King Day - City Offices Closed

Monday, Jan. 16
All City offices and facilities will be closed Monday, Jan. 16, for Martin Luther King Day. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

First Saturdays, noon — 3 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.educare-supportservices.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Circle Time

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.
A beloved local tradition, the 30-minute program of songs, fingerplays, rhymes, movement exercises and stories teaches early literacy concepts in a fun way. The program is geared for infants through preschoolers and their grown-ups.

Takoma Park Maryland Library

Spanish Circle Time

Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Join Senora Geiza for a 30-minute program highlighting basic Spanish vocabulary through songs and rhymes.

Takoma Park Maryland Library

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

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

Summer Camp Expo

Saturday, Jan. 28, 10 a.m. — 1 p.m.
TP Community Center
Come discover all of the camps that the Recreation Department will be offering this year for tots, youth and teens. Meet the instructors and learn what your child(ren) will be participating in. You will receive a 20 percent discount if you register in person

Village Rides Volunteer Orientation

Monday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m.
TP Community Center Rose Room
Orientation session for those interested in driving Takoma Park seniors once a month or more. Please call 301-646-2109 to register.

Aging Well Network

Tuesday, Jan. 31, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
TP Community Center Azalea Room
The Aging Well Network meets the last Tuesday of the month to provide information and activities on a variety of topics. Free and open to all; registration not required. For more information, visit villageoftakomapark.com

during the expo. All other forms of registration will begin Monday, Jan. 30.

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

Docs in Progress Film

Thursday, Jan. 12, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
Encore screening of Community Stories Student Showcase featuring films by 13 film makers.

U-Liners

Saturday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
U-Liners perform a wide repertoire of original and classic Americana and roots-rock music. The band favors songs that have something to say about the world we live in and how to make it a better place.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, Jan. 19, 7:30 — 9:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Featuring Donald Ilich, Gray Jacobik, Chris Llewellyn, and Patric Pepper with host Merrill Leffler.

Writing a Village

Monday, Jan. 23, 7 — 9 p.m.
TP Community Center Lilac Room
Led by Anne Becker, poet laureate emerita of Takoma Park, this monthly poetry workshop is for those who love words.

Photo Salon

Monday, Jan. 23, 7 — 9 p.m.
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room
A monthly salon for photographers to show and critique work. Professional, fine art, and amateur photographers are welcome.

Psychic Hold of Slavery: Why Slavery Still Matters

Thursday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
This lecture examines contemporary moments in American culture, including the Black Lives Matter Movement, police brutality, economic (dis)empowerment, and political enfranchisement, to analyze both the material and psychic legacies that American chattel slavery has imprinted on our society.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Seventh Annual Mid-Year Play Day

Sunday, Feb. 12, 1 — 4 p.m.
TP Community Center
Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present to you the Seventh Annual Mid-Year Play Day. Come join Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department for a fun afternoon of indoor play. Free fun for all. To see a full listing of activities and performances, please visit www.letsplayamerica.org. See you there! Also, this year there will be transportation for the seniors to and from Play Day. Free

Unity in the Community Initiative Update

In weeks since the initiative kick-off in September, Captain Tyrone Collington, Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart and Meaghan Murphy have been actively working to strengthen relationships between the Takoma Park Police Department, city-elected officials and community residents. Since youth are at the heart of the initiative, Captain Collington, Mayor Stewart and Meaghan have focused a lot of their efforts on creating opportunities for the youth to have positive interactions with TKPK po-



Mayor Stewart and Meaghan Murphy recently met with Blair High School Principal Renay Johnson.



One recent example of the initiative in action was Captain Collington's speaking engagement at Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School's awards ceremony. Principal Savoy invited Collington to be a guest speaker and share his journey to becoming a police officer with the students.

lice officers and city-elected officials outside the law enforcement arena. By working hand-in-hand with school principals, the Unity the Community initiative has been a great tool in assisting in efforts to create continuous opportunities for directly connecting the youth with the police department and city-elected officials.

RENTAL HOUSING

■ From page 11

of bedrooms.

- All areas and components of the housing (interior and exterior) are free of visible health and safety hazards, and in good repair. (Specifics range from ensuring there is no mold, that emergency escape route(s) have been identified and are accessible, windows and outside doors have working locks, heat, ventilation, lighting and hot and cold running water are adequate. There is no evidence of current rodent or insect infestation.)
- The kitchen should be equipped with a stove, oven and refrigerator in good repair, and bathrooms should be equipped with sink, flush toilet, and shower or bath in good repair.

If your home is not licensed to rent but meets the criteria, please let us know and we will work with you to coordinate that need with the City of Takoma Park. Please also note that the resettlement agency offers financial support to be used for housing as well. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please contact Takoma Park City Councilmember Terry Seamens (terryss@takomaparkmd.gov) or Shruti Bhatnagar (shruti_bhatnagar@yahoo.com).