Residents “workshop”
King’s legacy of nonviolence

By Helen Lyons

More than 50 people gathered at Historic Takoma on Martin Luther King Jr. Day to attend a workshop on Nonviolent Direct Action led by Takoma Park resident Nadine Bloch.

“This isn’t just an anti-Trump thing or anti-Fascist thing, but a way that we can actually transform how we live and take care of each other,” said Bloch, who described herself as “a neighbor, activist, educator, and artist.”

Participants honored Dr. King’s legacy of nonviolent protest during the Civil Rights Movement by coming together to learn about the various forms of peaceful resistance and their effectiveness in ushering in political change.

“I want to welcome people into the waking-up place,” Bloch said in her opening remarks for the workshop, “and I want to also remind us that we’re in a position right now that’s really different than my 35 years of being involved in the movement, where the masses of people are potentially woke and ready to take action.”

That action, according to Bloch, is more effective when it’s nonviolent. “Twice as effective when it’s nonviolent.”

City to hold community teach-in on its Sanctuary City status

On Saturday, Feb 4, the City of Takoma Park and several community organizations will host a public forum, “Takoma Park: Sanctuary City – Then & Now.” The event will explore the City’s 30-year-old Sanctuary City ordinance and its amendments while underscoring the City’s ongoing commitment to protect its immigrant residents under the letter and spirit of the law. Takoma Park is one of 300+ sanctuary jurisdictions throughout the nation.

The teach-in, co-sponsored by the City of Taloma Park, the Mayor Sam Abbott, and NDC has 18 months to find a new anchor tenant other than the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Co-op.

City Council votes unanimously to move forward with Takoma Junction Redevelopment

At its Jan. 11 meeting, the Takoma Park City Council voted unanimously (7-0) to move forward with the redevelopment of the City lot at Takoma Junction. The vote authorizes the City’s development partner, Neighborhood Development Company (NDC), to proceed with seeking a letter of intent with an anchor tenant other than the Takoma Park-Silver Spring Co-op.

While it was, and still is, the council’s hope that the Co-op would expand into a newly constructed facility at the site, NDC and the Co-op were not able to reach an agreement within the five-month window permitted by the development agreement between the City and NDC. As a result, the council was faced with the decision to either end the agreement with NDC and pay up to $75,000 for expenses incurred to date in preparation for redevelopment of the site or to allow the project to move forward without an agreement between NDC and the Co-op, which will allow NDC to seek a different anchor tenant if they are unable to come to agreement with the Co-op.

In such case, NDC will be required to make reasonable accommodations to allow the Co-op to continue its operations in its current space.

During its discussion, the council made it very clear to NDC representatives its hope that, although the deadline had passed, the developer would continue to work with the Co-op to facilitate its incorporation into the new development, and language to that effect was included in the final Council resolution. If they are not able to reach agreement, NDC has 18 months to find a new anchor tenant and must submit to the City a letter of intent and must make reasonable accommodations for the Co-op’s continued operation of its business, including access for loading of deliveries and customer parking.

As noted by residents during public comments as well as mem-
The City Council returned from winter recess on Jan. 11. That evening, the Council voted and adopted the following:

Resolution 2017-1 affirming the FY 2018 Green Team Priorities. The priorities were developed jointly by the Committee on the Environment and City Council. They will be incorporated into the City Council’s priorities for the next fiscal year.

Resolution 2017-2 appointing a replacement member (Janet Williams) from Ward 4 to serve on the Takoma Junction Community Consultation Process Advisory Committee.

Resolution 2017-3 authorizing NDC to seek another anchor tenant for the redevelopment of Takoma Junction. For complete information, see elsewhere in this newsletter or view the Takoma Junction page on the City’s website: takomaparkmd.gov/Initiatives/takoma-junction-redevelopment.

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.

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.

VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES


Then, attend a meeting to see if it is a good fit for you. If you have questions, contact the committee, or talk to your City Council Member or the City Clerk. Appointments are made by the City Council. Apply by completing the online application and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications.

The following groups have vacancies as of Jan. 14, 2017:

- 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 City 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 administering 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 Roadsways 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.
The primary goal of the council regarding the Takoma Junction project is to improve the aesthetic appeal of the commercial district in the interest of revitalization with a development that is contextually sensitive and environmentally sustainable. 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.

More information on the Takoma Junction Redevelopment project is available on the City’s website at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/takoma-junction-redevelopment.

*This is an edited version of a blog post on the City’s website on Jan. 12. takomaparkmd.gov/city/blog/council-votes-unanimously-to-move-forward-with-tj-redevelopment.

A workshop participant transforms herself into a sculpture representing nonviolent resistance.
A Message from the TPPD Chief of Police
Alan Goldberg - Armed Robberies

I want to warn community members, particularly our Hispanic community, of a recent crime trend. Many in the Hispanic community do not use credit cards, thus, they tend not to use licensed and insured ride services such as Uber or Lyft. There are a number of unlicensed ride companies operating in the Langley Park area. These drivers do not have company insurance or background checks. Additionally, it is a cash business. These drivers are people trying to pick up some extra money. Many of the drivers are undocumented, which increases their risk of being targeted as they are often reluctant to report crimes.

Last month, both Takoma Park and Langley Park, Prince George’s County, have experienced a number of armed robberies by Hispanic gang members where the driver is called to a secluded neighborhood. Generally, they commit several crimes in one night. We are aggressively working with Prince George’s County detectives on these cases.

Supporting these services creates the opportunity for crime against the drivers as well as a risk to the passengers. First, using these illegal ride services is risky to the consumer. There is no way to know the level or kind of insurance coverage, experience or background the driver has. The success of these services has created a real risk to the drivers. As a cash business, the drivers are very vulnerable to be victimized. Please be safe.

This article originally appeared on the Takoma Park Police Department’s Facebook page on Jan. 8. www.facebook.com/The-City-of-Takoma-Park-Police-Department-238446732028.

Takoma Park SEED

Working in partnership, Unity in the Community and the City of Takoma Park will host a series of Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity (SEED) seminars beginning in March and continuing through June.

No matter how many advancements we make as a society, it seems we can’t escape prejudice. Of course, our first reaction to prejudice is usually to blame someone else. Our second reaction may well be to blame ourselves. Blame, shame and guilt don’t get us anywhere. However, Takoma Park SEED will help you understand what’s happening in your life and connect you to the lives of people around you. It will challenge you to push for change.

Takoma Seed is part of the National SEED Project, which entails a group of about 20 people coming together for a series of conversations twice a month for four months. The seminars are facilitated, but not lectured, by local residents who have been trained as SEED leaders. They will guide you in interactive activities and conversations often stimulated by films and readings.

Through personal reflection and testimony, listening to others’ voices, and learning experientially and collectively, SEED equips participants to connect their lives to one another by acknowledging systems of oppression, power and privilege—and challenges them to push for change. SEED values your voice so you can, in turn, better connect the lives of people around you.

Takoma Park SEED seminars are facilitated by local residents who have been trained as SEED leaders. They will guide you in interactive activities and conversations often stimulated by films and readings. Through personal reflection and testimony, SEED participants connect their lives to one another by acknowledging systems of oppression, power and privilege—and challenges them to push for change. SEED values your voice so you can, in turn, better connect the lives of people around you.

Takoma Park SEED

New businesses open in Takoma Langley

Fiesta Laundromat opened at 7601 New Hampshire Ave (a door down from ALDI). It is a modern, clean facility with washers and dryers and a children’s play area. One can throw a load of quilts and bedspreads and then go next door to ALDI for grocery shopping.

J&K Mari opened in mid-December at 7603 New Hampshire Avenue (between ALDI and Fiesta Laundromat), relocating from Union Market in northeast DC. The family-owned business sells cookware, small appliances, African fabrics, bedding sets, CDs and DVDs and other housewares.

In addition to these new businesses opening, Taco Bell construction has begun at Holton Lane & New Hampshire Avenue with construction fencing installed and site preparations under way.

For more information, visit www.takomalangley.org

Takoma Langley Crossroads Transit Center begins operations

The Takoma Langley Crossroads Transit Center began operating on Thursday, Dec. 22. The Takoma Langley Crossroads Transit Center provides bus service to more than 12,000 customers daily, making it the largest non-Metrorail station transfer point in the Washington region. The center features a large well-lit canopy, ADA-accessible bus loading areas and real-time bus arrival screens. The center also provides an off-street location for safe bus boarding and transfers and decreased vehicular-pedestrian incidents.

The much anticipated opening has resulted in a number of route changes that could impact Takoma Park Metrobus and Ride On riders:

- Metrobus stops for routes C2, C4, F8, J4, K6 and K9 near the new transit center at New Hampshire Ave. and University Boulevard have moved to the transit center.
- Ride On routes 13, 16, 17, 18 and 25 will service the new transit center along with 111 of the UM Shuttle.

For more information, visit www.wmata.com/service/bus/upload/takoma-langley-brochure.pdf

Photo: Selena Malott

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February 2017
Get ready to be an armchair tourist. On Thursday, Feb. 9, Docs in Progress presents Vintage Movie Night with Richard Hall. This month, Hall takes audience members to distant lands long ago through his selections of short, fun archival films.

Richard Hall began presenting Vintage Movie Night with Docs in Progress in 2015, and February 2017 will be his fifth screening. Hall is a volunteer with Docs in Progress. He and his wife, Simone Fary, moderate the organization’s monthly WIFVDIP Documentary Roundtable.

We Are Takoma wanted to know more about Vintage Movie Night, so we reached out to Richard Hall via email. This is the interview in its entirety.

WAT: What got you started doing Vintage Movie Night?
Hall: I was inspired, in 2013, by meeting and interviewing Rick Prelinger in San Francisco at the Prelinger Archives and learning about his public programs of home movies, industrial and educational films. He has collected thousands of films since 1982, and many are available for free download. I’ve used them for many years, but didn’t know about his screenings.

WAT: What is your goal for the event?
Hall: To have an audience experience educational films in a setting the films were designed for, a small group in a classroom with undivided attention and no multi-tasking with YouTube and smartphones. The films are time machines to faraway places that are sometimes just like the present.

WAT: Where do you find the vintage movies? What are your sources?
Hall: The U.S. National Archives YouTube channel and Prelinger Archives and sometimes the random YouTube channel devoted to educational film. I also use several books, such Rick Prelinger’s The Field Guide to Sponsored Films, which is free online, and Learning with the Lights Off.

WAT: Just how vintage are these films?
Hall: The earliest film I screened was set in Washington, D.C. - 1901, President William McKinley’s inauguration. There are many films from the 1970s, but I tend to stop at the point videotape took over the educational market around 1980. The industry was surprisingly big early on, with thousands of films being produced between 1910 and World War II, and it exploded more thereafter.

WAT: Where were these films first shown?
Hall: Most of the films are designed for the classroom, but some were shown widely in civic clubs, libraries, churches and movie theaters as fillers. Many public and school libraries had collections of 16 mm films.

WAT: If a person is attending Vintage Movie Night for the first time this month, what can he/she expect?
Hall: I usually show a variety of eight to 10 short films, never longer than fifteen minutes each and some as short as five minutes. I generally show the films chronologically—oldest to youngest—to give a sense of how society and the style of film change through time. The theme this time will be travel films. I am selecting films that profile Haiti, Cuba, and the Middle East, and I'm still deciding, but there also may be a trip to North Carolina in the 1950s.

An auditorium seat awaits you, your friends and family members for Vintage Movie Night on Thursday, Feb. 9 at 7:30 pm. Join us for this fabulously unique free event.

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**Psychic Hold of Slavery:**

**Why Slavery Still Matters**

Thursday, Feb. 9, 7:30 pm. Free.

Georgetown professors Robert Patterson, PhD, and Soyica Diggins Colbert, PhD. Photo Credit: Georgetown University

**Psychic Hold of Slavery: Legacies in American Expressive Culture** (Rutgers University Press). "In the new book, *Psychic Hold of Slavery: Legacies in American Expressive Culture*, Patterson and Colbert examine contemporary moments in American culture, including the Black Lives Matter movement, police brutality, economic (dis)empowerment, and political disenfranchisement to analyze both the material and psychic legacies that American chattel slavery has imprinted on our society. In addition, the lecture considers how a variety of artists have reimagined a future full of possibility for all Americans and explores what conditions are necessary to shape a future in which all individuals have both the opportunity and possibility to thrive. Patterson and Colbert are the authors of the new book *Psychic Hold of Slavery: Legacies in American Expressive Culture*, which is free online, and Learning with the Lights Off.

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**Third Thursday Poetry**

Thursday, Feb. 16, 7:30 pm. Free.

This month Third Thursday Poetry features poets Mary Anne Larkin, Jonathan Katz, Gary Stein and Bermadine Watson. Hear the poets read their own works and meet them afterwards during a reception.

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**Takoma Ensemble Peanut Butter and Jam Session**

Saturday, Feb. 18, 4 pm.

Clap, move, and play! Takoma Ensemble Peanut Butter and Jam Session returns to our stage with original music by Montgomery County composer Charlie Barnett, and the composer himself! This concert, designed for children ages 1.5 to 7 and their accompanying adults, encourages kids to become active and enthusiastic listeners through music, movement, and games. While the performance is free, a suggested donation of $10 per person is greatly appreciated.

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**Terrific Tuba**

A tuba mixed media on handmade paper, Cynthia Farrell Johnson

**The Human Element**

Exhibit on view through March 5, 2017

Enjoy works by artists Cynthia Farrell Johnson, Maria Simonsson, and Suzheila Reyes-Bunnag. Free.
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!

RECREATION

YOUTH

ART
Clay for Kids
In this class, children will receive instruction on how to utilize a variety of techniques (coil, pinch, slab work) to create one-of-a-kind sculptures and vessels out of clay. Caregiver participation required for children 4 – 5 years old. There is a $15 materials fee (per child) due to the instructor on the first day of class. Instructor: Carelene Mackinnon.

TP Community Center Art Studio
Ages 4 – 8 years
Six-week sessions
Mondays, March 6 – April 10; 2:30 – 3:30 p.m. or 4 – 5 p.m.
Wednesdays, March 8 – April 12; 4 – 5 p.m.
Registration: $130 / Non-resident: $150

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 due to space available and/or budget limitations. So sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp.

TP Community Center Azalea Room
Ages 5 – 12 years
Monday, April 10 – Friday, April 14; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Registration: $125 / Non-resident: $145

On Stage: Spring Break Workshop
In On Stage: Spring Break Workshop, students get on the stage and get to work acting, singing and dancing. We’ll start each day with physical, vocal, imagination and focus building warm-ups. We will work on group scene-work from the musical “The Wiz.” On Stage: Spring Break Workshop will end with a performance so parents can see what we’ve been working on.

TP Community Center Auditorium
Ages 7 – 14 years
Tuesday – Thursday, April 11 – 12; 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Registration: $130 / Non-resident: $150

DRAMA & THEATER
Dungeons and Dragons
Use your imagination and storytelling ability in this classic fantasy role-playing game. Roll dice to cast spells and battle monsters. Creativity and cooperation help the group “survive.” Taught by the library’s own Dave Burbank.

TP Community Center Auditorium
Ages 9 – 18 years
Five-week sessions
March 6 – 20; 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Registration: $55 / Non-resident: $65

MARTIAL ARTS
Kung Fu for Kids: Beginners
Kung Fu helps with our health and mental state of mind. Students will learn meditation, stretching, strengthening and forms. There is a one-time, non-refundable fee of $50 paid to the instructor at the first class for uniform. Instructor: Master Thompson.

TP Community Center Dance Studio
Ages 4 – 12 years
10-week sessions
Saturdays, until March 18
Session 1: 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.
Session 2: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Registration: $129 / Non-resident: $149

Taekwondo
Taekwondo is comprised of three parts in the English spelling, which loosely mean the way of discipline of foot and fist. Martial arts are studied for various reasons, including combat skills, cultivation (meditation), mental discipline and character development and building self-confidence. There is a one-time, non-refundable $40 uniform fee paid to the instructor at the first class.

TP Community Center Dance Studio
Ages 6 years and older
14-week session
Mondays, until April 17; 6 – 7 p.m.
Registration: $165 / Non-resident: $185

SPORTS
Flag Football League
This is a non-competitive, instructional, community league. The goal is to teach the fundamentals of flag football in a safe environment. Registration opened Jan. 15.

Practice begins: March 27
First game is on Saturday, April 8
Ed Wilhelm Field
Divisions: 6 – 8 years, 9 – 11 years, 12 – 14 years
5-week session
Saturdays, April 8 – May 3; noon – 3 p.m.
Registration: $40 / Non-resident: $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.

Optional 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.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Grades 6 – 12
One-week session
Monday, April 3 – Friday, April 14; 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Registration: $100 / Non-residents: $120

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 are available to assist and can review the completed assignments. Upon completion of work, students are invited to lounge, play games, and/or participate in activities. Registration is not required.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Grades 6 – 12
Ongoing Tuesdays; 4 – 5 p.m.
Free

Teen Night
The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides high quality, affordable, safe and fun activities for teens. Come out for a night of games, activities and more. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium
Ages 12 – 16 years
Ongoing second and fourth Fridays; 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership

Valentine’s Day Party
Come join us as we celebrate Valentine’s Day in the Teen Lounge with Valentine-themed games, crafts and food. Play V-Day Bingo and win prizes for your sweetheart or keep them for yourself.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Grades 6 – 12
Tuesday, Feb. 14; 4 – 7 p.m.
Free

MARTIAL ARTS
Karate Self-Defense
Promote physical fitness, self-defense, leadership and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style Shitoryu (which means One Heart Way). Beginners are welcome. This program is a partnership between the Takoma Park Recreation Department and the Penn State University Karate Club. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Instructor: Penn State University Karate Club.

TP Recreation Center Back Room
Grades 6 years and older
Ongoing Mondays and Wednesdays; 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership card

TRIPS
Teen Snow Tubing Trip
Join us as we hit the slopes at Boulder Ridge Snow Tubing located at Liberty Mountain Ski Resort in Carroll County, PA. Snow tubing is so much fun and no experience is necessary. Space is limited so sign up with a friend today.

The bus will depart and return to Takoma Park Community Center. Please bring money to purchase food and beverages. Remember to dress accordingly since the temperature drops in the afternoon and the resort is extremely cold.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge
Grades 6 – 12
Saturday, Feb. 4; noon – 6 p.m.
Registration: $20 / Non-resident: $30

ADULTS
ART
Encasutic Collage Weekend Workshop
Encasutic collage uses bees wax as an adhesive and allows for layering of papers and lightweight found materials as a base for painting with oil and encasutic paint.

This workshop will cover collage layering processes using translucent and opaque papers and sculptural effects that can be created with the wax with stencils, stamps and incising. All materials will be provided for the $50 materials fee. A letter outlining optional collage materials to bring will be sent out after you register. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman.

TP Community Center Art Studio
Grades 6 – 12
Two-day session
Saturday, Feb. 5 – Sunday, Feb. 6; 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Registration: $225 / Non-resident: $285

FITNESS
Cardio Kickboxing
Tuesday, Feb. 7; 7:45 – 8:45 p.m.
Free with Recreation Center membership

Jazzercise
Jazzercise is the art of jazz combined with the science of exercise physiology. Each 60 minute class includes easy to follow fun aerobic-dance routines, weights for muscle strength and stretching exercises all to the beat of great music. For more information and to register, contact 301-351-4575.

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium
16 years and older
Ongoing; Saturdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.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: J.K Total Fitness.

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium
16 years and older
Tuesdays and Thursdays; 8:30 – 7:30 p.m.
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. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Students are required to bring their own mats and hand weights.

Instructor: Nancy Nickell.

TP Recreation Center Front Room
16 years and older
Six-week sessions
Wednesdays, Feb. 15 – March 22; 6 – 7 p.m.

O’Gong Moonlight
O’Gong Moonlight enhances the quiet, gentle, peaceful Yin side of our energy in the fall months, balancing the warm, active, bright sunlight yin energy. These six beautiful movement forms strengthen and align the body, focus the mind, reducing stress and tension while bringing body and mind together in the breath. No experience necessary.

Instructor: Patrick Smith.

TP Community Center Dance Studio
16 years and older
Eight-week session
Tuesdays, until March 7; 7 – 8 p.m.
Drop-in: $15 (credit card only)

Iyengar Yoga: Beginners
Yoga is about awareness and alignment. In this class you will start with the foundation poses, spread your awareness throughout the body and develop the connection between the body and the breath and the body and the mind. Mats and props will be provided to make each pose accessible to all levels of flexibility.

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium
16 years and older
Ongoing; Saturdays; 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Drop-in: $5

Jazzercise
Jazzercise is the art of jazz combined with the science of exercise physiology. Each 60 minute class includes easy to follow fun aerobic-dance routines, weights for muscle strength and stretching exercises all to the beat of great music. For more information and to register, contact 301-351-4575.

TP Recreation Center Gymnasium
16 years and older
Mondays and Wednesdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Drop-in: $10

EFT Pass $45 month /12 month minimum + Joining Fee
S50 month / 6 months + Joining Fee
Drop-in: $15

Register through Jazzercise

Ongoing, Saturdays; 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Drop-in: $5

Ongoing, Saturdays; 7 – 8:30 p.m. Drop-in: $5

Ongoing, Saturdays; 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Drop-in: $5

Register through Jazzercise
They Shoot ... They Score!

The Takoma Park Recreation Center is offering its annual Dribble Pass and Shoot spring break basketball camp for youth ages 5 – 12. The Dribble Pass and Shoot Camp is one of our most popular camps and has a lot of returning kids. Campers will be provided with excellent coaching that allows each participant to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit the individual needs of each participant. This fun-filled camp will focus on fundamentals: experienced co-ed counselors with positive attitudes will be on hand to provide fun basketball related games that will keep the participants enthusiastic and engaged while getting them in shape.

Participants love this camp because of the professionalism of the staff and the fun activities they provide. Ryan Bobb, one of our returning campers said, “I really liked the three-point contest and the pizza on Friday.”

Romel Williams, our camp director, will be returning for his fourth year with this camp. Coach Williams has put together a fun-filled curriculum that includes games that allow the campers to use their brains as well as their physical skills. Coach Williams said, “I love coming back to this camp year after year because the campers are eager to learn and I love sharing my passion for the game of basketball with them.”

Campers will have an opportunity to play full-court basketball games with a referee and scoreboard. Teams will be divided evenly by age and skill set. This is a great opportunity for kids to make new friends or spend time with classmates during their spring break.

Camp will be held from April 10 – April 14 at the Takoma Park Recreation Center Gymnasium. Camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. We ask that you bring a non-perishable lunch Monday through Thursday. On Friday, lunch will be provided by the recreation center. For parents that need additional activities beyond the regular camp hours, we are offering before care as well as after care for an additional fee. During before and after care, kids can take advantage of this time with staff improving their dribbling or shooting skills. For more information or to register for camp, visit takomaparkmd.gov.

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. at 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!
**Books to Action: A Social Justice Book Club for Kids & Adults**

Join us on Sat, Feb 18 at 2 p.m. as we launch Books to Action: A Social Justice Book Club for Kids & Adults at the Library. We'll meet every other month to read and discuss some kids' books about inspiring people, who helped make important social justice changes in our country and our world. To conclude each program, we'll do some type of simple community service activity.

Our book club is designed to be a place where families can gather and discuss social justice issues as we read about some people who truly changed the world. While we will be reading children's books as a way to include young readers in our community, the book club will hopefully be inspiring for people of all ages.

Registration is optional. We hope you can join us at the kick-off of an innovative book club where we hope to turn books into action. Include the first two books in the Bad Books series, Bad Magic and Bad Luck, as well as the popular Secret series, which began in 2007 with The Name of This Book Is a Secret. Our final author event will take place on Tuesday, May 23 at 7 p.m., when author/illustrator Chris Van Dusen showcases his newest picture book, Hattie and Hudston. Van Dusen, the illustrator of the Mercy Watson chapter books by Kate DiCamillo as well as numerous picture books, is known for his humorous, vibrantly colored illustrations. In Hattie & Hudston, Van Dusen tells the unlikely friendship between a girl and a lake monster.

At all of these events, Politics & Prose will be selling copies of books by the authors and illustrators. But the events are free, and no purchase is required. So please plan to join us for these wonderful and inspiring programs where kids get to meet “real” authors and illustrators.

**A Conversation with Cuba**

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/tpbraryevents or call 301-891-7259.

**Kids Art**

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2 – 3 p.m.

**Comics Jam**

Tuesday, Feb., 14, 4 p.m.

Come read comics with Dave Burbank

**Author Emily Jenkins**

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 7 p.m.


**Books to Action: A Social Justice Book Club for Kids & Adults**

Saturday, Feb. 18, 2 p.m.

Read and discuss some kids’ books about inspiring people.

All ages welcome.

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**CAFE LIBRARY**

**Politics & Prose author line-up**

By Karen MacPherson

Mark your calendars for another stellar season of visits by top children’s authors and illustrators, courtesy of our partnership with Politics & Prose bookstore.

First up is children’s author Emily Jenkins, who will present her new picture book, Noisy Night, a picture book written by Mac Barnett and illustrated by Brian Biggs. This will be Barnett’s third visit to the Library, and he is a crowd favorite! Barnett is best known as the author of two books illustrated by Caldecott Medalist Jon Klassen, Extra Yarn and Sam & Dave Dig a Hole. Biggs, meanwhile, is popular among young readers for his trio of Everything Goes picture books focused on various modes of transportation as well Timesville Town.

At the March 10 program, Barnett and Biggs will read from Noisy Night, in which the occupants of a high rise apartment building try to figure out just who is making so much noise. In its review, The Horn Book said: “The high energy and bright contrasts from the bold cartoon drawings, along with the call-and-response question-and-answer format of the text, create a wild and interactive read aloud.”

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**LIBRARY**

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Registration is optional. We hope you can join us at the kick-off of an innovative book club where we hope to turn books into action.

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**CALENDAR**

**Circle Time**

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

**Spanish Circle Time**

Thursdays, 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. OR 11 - 11:30 a.m.

Led by Senora Geiza

**Bedtime Stories and a Craft**

Wednesday, Feb. 1, 7 p.m.

Join Ms. Anne for this fun monthly program.

**LEGO Club**

Sunday, Feb. 5, 1:30 – 3 p.m.

Building fun for ages 3-10.

**Caldecott Club**

Monday, Feb. 6, 7 p.m.

All ages welcome, lemonade & cookies served!

**Petites Chansons/French Circle Time**

Saturday, Feb. 11, 10:30 a.m.

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**A Conversation with Cuba**

Sunday, Feb. 5, 4 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

The Takoma Park community has a rich history with Cuba and the Cuban people. Recent changes in the relationship between Cuba and the United States (namely, the reestablishment of diplomatic relations) have created increased opportunities for people-to-people exchange and government-to-government negotiations. Where
Clearing the way

By Helen Lyons

English Ivy, Wintercreeper, Porcelainberry, Bush Honeysuckle and Multiflora Rose - these are some of Takoma Park's most common and visible plants, climbing the sides of brightly painted bungalow and decorating the yards of 1930's brick homes. But they're also invasive, and some of the most aggressive non-native plants to dominate the neighborhood landscape.

"The invasive species, aggressive ones especially, don't let the native species grow," said botanist and Takoma Park resident Gorky Villa Muñoz. "There is a small threshold for change between animals, insects and plants. If insects use a plant to pollinate other plants and that plant disappears, the insect population can disappear."

Villa Muñoz is a staff botanist at Finding Species with over fifteen years of field experience identifying plants. He joined a group of volunteers from Friends of Sligo Creek, as well as nearby neighbors, in trying to clear some of these invasive plant species from Dorothy's Woods as part of Takoma Park's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

"Japanese honeysuckle, multi-flora rose, English Ivy or hederia helix - it's so invasive that it's more damage control than removal," said Luc Phinney, a volunteer who lives close to the woods and came to help with the project. He estimates that many of these plant species, while not native to Takoma Park, have been here for over a century.

"Some of them are long-term problems, things that came in with European settlement or trade with Asia - a hundred years ago, two hundred years ago," said Phinney. "Some of them are more recent, and sadly, some are even from people's gardens, [like] Bush Honeysuckle."

Flies on hand at the clean-up, produced by Friends of Sligo Creek, warned that "non-native invasives crowd out native plants and could be spreading from yard to yard."

Among the culprits are Mile-a-Minute, a vine with triangular leaves and bright blue-black berries in the summer; Nanny Maple, a tree with spiny leaf tips; Bittersweet, a vine with drip-tip leaves that gets orange berries in the fall; and the beautiful Bush Honeysuckle with its yellow flowers so often planted along the borders of Takoma yards.

Removing the plants isn't easy: Phinney used a special device called a Pullerbear Tree Puller Tool to give him the leverage needed to yank up the root of a Kudzu plant, which can get as thick as four inches according to the Forest Invasive Plants Resource Center. Vines on the ground will set roots at the leaf nodes, creating more Kudzu plants that are capable of growing a foot a day.

It's hard work, but if the invasive plants aren't controlled, they could take over the woodland and kill the native species. "Even a small break in the chain of what is natural can cause problems," Villa Muñoz said.

After hours of back-breaking work at Dorothy's Woods, the flora was visibly improved and children set off to play in the forest, which was officially christened on Oct. 23 last year and named after long-time Takoma Park resident Dorothea Barnes, 94, who has lived next to the woods for most of her life.

But beyond the stretch of woods at the intersection of Woodland Avenue and Circle Avenue, invasive species are still running rampant in Takoma, stifling the growth of native plants and killing trees that have stood for decades or longer. Friends of Sligo Creek offers assistance in plant identification, removal techniques, and ideas for native replacements. Residents seeking help in removing the invasive non-native plants from their yards can visit www.fosc.org for more information.

RECREATION

TP Community Center Game Room
55 and older
Ongoing
Mondays – Fridays, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. – noon
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Adventist Healthcare Diabetes Self-Management
Six-week workshop for those who want to learn to better manage and maintain an active life with Type 2 Diabetes, Type 1 Diabetes or Pre-Diabetes. This is a free workshop; however, registration is required directly with Adventist Healthcare. For more information and to register, please call Michele McBride at 301-315-3129.
TP Community Center Ulic Room
55 and older
Six-week session
Wednesdays, March 1 – April 5, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Free

Resources for Family Caregivers and Older Adults
Learn about online resources for locating reliable health information relevant to family caregivers and older adults. Online or in-person registration with the Recreation Department is required. Instructors: Joelle Mornini and Michael Honch from the National Library of Medicine.
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room
55 and older
Three-week sessions
Thursdays, March 2 – March 16; 5 – 6 p.m.
Free

FITNESS

Cardio Groove
High-energy and fast-paced, low-impact aerobics that get the heart pumping and feet moving quickly. Followed by a cool down and stretch. Instructor: Nancy Nickell.
TP Community Center Dance Studio
55 and older
10-week session
Thursdays, until March 9; 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Free

Line Dancing
Line Dancing is a great physical and mental exercise and an enjoyable social activity that leads to meeting new people and making new friends. Learn how exercise can be fun with music. No experience necessary. Limited availability remaining. Instructor: Barbara Brown.
TP Community Center Dance Studio
55 and older
12-week session
Wednesdays, Jan. 11 – March 29 (No class Feb. 1 and Feb. 8)
Late Session: 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.
Free

Zumba, a Gold
A Latin-inspired dance fitness program designed for the active senior, the Zumba Gold workout provides participants with the opportunity to improve balance, flexibility and cardiovascular strength. Due to the popularity of the Zumba classes, you may only register for one class per week. Instructor: Yesika Flores.
TP Community Center Dance Studio
55 and older
10-week sessions
Thursday Session: Through March 16; 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Saturday Session: Through March 18; 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Free

FAMILY

SPECIAL EVENTS

Seventh Annual Mid-Year Play Day
Attention! Attention! Yes, that's right ... 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. It's time for you to let your hair down, put on your comfy clothes and get ready to play. To see a full listing of activities and performances, please visit www.letsgoplayamerica.org. Also, this year there will be transportation for the seniors to and from Play Day.
TP Community Center
All ages
Sunday, Feb. 12; 1 – 4 p.m.
Free

Table Tennis Tournament
Sunday, May 28
Reserve your spot today – limited spaces
The Firehouse Report
In 2016 the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 810 fire-related incidents. The department addressed or assisted with 3,067 rescue or ambulance related incidents for a total of 3,677. Totals for 2015 were 627 and 3,300, representing a decrease of 250 incidents. During 2016, Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 15,376 hours of standby time at the station compared to 15,687.5 hours in 2015, a decrease of 311.5 hours.

Maryland fire death totals
The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported that the total for 2016 was 67 people that died in fires compared to 61 in 2015. As of Jan. 30, 2017, 10 have died compared to 11 in 2016.

TPPD cares for residents
Caring About Residents Everyday (CARE) is a program directed at Takoma Park residents who live alone with special needs or just need to be checked on each day. To be a part of CARE, residents who need to be checked on register with the Takoma Park Police Department. They will call TPPD once each day between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. If they don’t call, TPPD will call them. If they do not answer, patrol officer will be sent to check on their welfare. This program is designed to protect those in need and bring a sense of peace to those friends and relatives who care, but who are not close enough to check themselves. CARE is another way we can give back to the community and take care of those in need. Please contact Cathy Plevy at 301-891-7142 or cathypp@takomaparkmd.gov to register for this program.

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.

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

• Visit takomaparkmd.gov, where you can access information on upcoming Council meetings and agendas, City news, and the status of City projects
• Like the City of Takoma Park on Facebook or follow us on Twitter at @TakomaParkMD
• Sign up for Public Safety notifications on Takoma Park Alert takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert
• Stay up to date with city news and blogs from City Staff, the Mayor and Council at takomaparkmd.gov/news
• Make a service request or report an issue using “My TkPk,” an online and application based reporting tool takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkp

Winter preparedness check-up: Tuning up for safety
By Claudine Schweber, Co-Chair Emergency Preparedness Committee

Just like the annual medical check-up, it’s time for the annual Winter Preparedness Check-Up. How well prepared are you to manage the snow, icy roads, freezing temperatures and rain, or power outages? Can you contact kids in school or have them reach you? Can you help elderly relatives, neighbors or someone who doesn’t speak English?

So just like checking your blood pressure, heart rate, weight and medications with the doctor or getting your car tuned up, here’s your winter emergency preparedness checklist focusing on four areas: shelter in place, communication and contacts, caring for the elderly, the disabled, and non-English speakers, and school contact.

Shelter-in-place
• Three days of supplies if you must remain inside:
  • Water (about a gallon per person per day)
  • Non-perishable food that doesn’t require refrigeration or cooking
  • Can opener that’s hand-operated
  • Flashlight close by and working batteries
  • Portable radio (battery) or solar-powered, hand-crank radio

Health support:
• Prescription medication, sufficient for at least a week
• Medical professionals’ contact list
• Copies of health insurance information, medical records and other health related documents
• Contact information for nearest hospital and emergency personnel
• First-Aid kit

Communication and contacts:
• Emergency contact list, with identifier (such as family, neighbor)
• Out of area emergency contact list (Be sure to tell people they are on your list.)
• Cell phone charged before the storm, land-line or other back-up
• Notepad/paper and pen/pencil

Assistance for the elderly, the disabled and non-English speakers
• Support for caregivers as well as the elderly
• Mobility assistance for those needing wheel chairs and/or other special medical equipment
• If needed, contact information for sign language interpreters or language translators

School information
• Do you have the school emergency number?
• Do you know when the school becomes an overnight shelter?
• Do you have contact information for key school personnel?
• Can you contact your child, and can she/he contact you?
• If someone else picks up the student, does the school have the authorization?

Are you tuned-up for safety, and prepared for emergencies? Don’t wait. Being prepared prevents being scared. It’s easy to contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126.

CARE is another way we can give back to the community and take care of those in need and bring a sense of peace to those friends and relatives who care, but who are not close enough to check themselves. CARE is another way we can give back to the community and take care of those in need.

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Stay connected!
Put a frame on it
By Helen Lyons

While factories abroad mass produce low-priced picture frames by the thou-
sands using the latest in high-tech ma-
icinery, in Takoma Park some things are
done the old-fashioned way.

“It’s more work, a lot of labor, ragged
fingers and working late at night to make
what ends up being minimum wage, but
there’s something really gratifying about
it,” said Mark Howard of his chosen
profession. Howard of Takoma Picture
Framers has been at the helm of a fam-
ily business that dates back to the forties,
perfecting a craft even older than that.

“This is kind of an old world type of
shop,” he explained, standing before
shelves that seem to stretch on for miles
in the basement of 7312 Carroll Ave. Upon
them are countless cuts of wood, metic-
ulously organized and waiting to be as-
sembled carefully by hand into frames for
photos, prints and original works of art.
They come in seemingly every type and
color, from oak to gold-leaf, and some
were once the property of the National
Gallery of Art where Howard’s father Al-
den’s first frames were sold.

“He worked for a framers downtown on
Constitution Avenue,” Howard said, “and
at the same time was going to the Corco-
ran School of Art, and visiting the Na-
tional Gallery and doing sketches of the
oil paintings that hung there.”

His employer had a contract with the Na-
tional Gallery of Art, and in 1950 when
Alden Howard Jr. wasn’t learning the skill
of framing, he was flirting with a woman
at the coat check who would later become
his wife.

“Alden Howard Jr. wasn’t learning the skill
of framing, he was flirting with a woman
at the coat check who would later become
his wife.”

For twenty years he built frames,”
Howard recalled. “My earliest memories
are of my father and my uncle downstairs
in the basement sawing and sanding and
painting and clipping and wrapping and
creating frames for the National Gallery
that were sold in the gift shop.”

But in 1970, the end of that contract
brought the Howard family to Takoma
Park, where Willard and Katherine Ather-
ley owned and operated the first ever
framing store in all of Maryland out of
downtown row home that had once been
a bakery.

There were still commercial baking pans and cupcake trays in the home above
the storefront when Alden Jr. bought the
store from the Athersley’s, but soon they
were replaced with paints, putties, sand-
paper and pieces of wholesale used to
perfect the edging of a matte.

Not much changed when the business
switched hands, including some of the
help (Katherine stayed on as a part time
employee) and the name.

In the 1970s, Takoma Picture Framers
was still one of the only framing places
in town, and Mark Howard remembered
lines out the door. “We were open to nine
o’clock at night and we had lines of people
here and they wouldn’t leave. We’d be up
until ten, eleven o’clock taking orders.”

But business isn’t exactly booming to-
day, nearly 70 years after the shop first
opened. Mark Howard took over the busi-
ness from his father in the year 2000, and
now it’s only him behind the counter, in-
stead of the whole family and an appren-
tice or two.

But Howard still burns the midnight oil
from time to time, working past midnight
above the shop mixing paints and putties
and operating the same old pressing ma-
nachine that his father used in the 70’s
to fulfil his clients’ orders. He even has his
father’s old whalebone tool, well over half
a century old.

“It’s not really worth it monetarily,”
Howard admits, gazeeing around the shop
with its creaking stairs, sloping floors and
family of squirrels embedded in the walls
upstairs. “I had to find a way within my-
selves to say, well, I took over Dad’s busi-
ness. I’m doing it for him.”

And even on a freezing winter’s day, the
buzzer just outside the door rings. A cus-
tomer has arrived. She’s moved to Takoma
Park just recently and is looking to have
something framed for her new home.

While Howard gives her a short version
of his shop’s rich history, she notices a
book with her mother’s name as the title
amongst the collection of old keepakes
Mark has for sale at the front of the store
(this “yard sale,” he calls it). She’s delight-
ful.

There’s a CVS Pharmacy on Carroll Av-
enu and a new Walmart just six minutes
away on Riggs Road, but in Takoma Park,
these “old world types of shop” and the
dedicated people who run them still man-
age to charm.

Awaken Your Spirit: Celebrate
Black History Month with ZCAF

As part of its Schools Out Arts
Programs for preteens (grades 5-8),
the Zenith Community Arts Founda-
tion will host “Awaken Your Spirit”
on Friday, Feb. 17 and Monday, Feb.
20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at DC Arts
Studios (6925 Willow Street NW,
Washington, DC) located two blocks
from the Takoma Park Metro Station.

During the program, participants
will review and explore the artwork
and techniques of 20th Century Afri-
can-American artists Faith Ringgold,
Betye Saar, Jacob Lawrence, Alma
Thomas, Romare Bearden and Jean-
Michel Basquiat.

After the group reviews the work
of these artists (first half of each day),
participants will have ample time to
explore techniques and approach-
es as they create their own unique
works. Discussions will relate the
artistic technique to age-appropriate
science, English, history and math curricu-

TAKOMA PARK SEED
■ From page 4
value the voices of your neighbors, col-
leagues and children.
What happens at a SEED seminar? We
listen to each other’s stories, watch videos
and participate in interactive activities.
A few of the exercises might make you
smile, some, not so much, but all of them
are meant to make you look inward in a
safe environment.

SEED leaders Annie Mozer, Rachel Al-
exander and Shereece Millet will facilitate
the seminars for interested participants
on March 4 and 18, April 8 and 22, May 6
and 20, and June 3 and 17 from 9 a.m. to
12 p.m. Topics for the upcoming seminars
are listed in the shaded box.

If you are interested, please contact us
by Feb. 11 as space is limited. We hope
you will consider joining SEED as part of
your commitment to community engagement
and our commitment to diversity and
inclusion in Takoma Park. Please make
your applications online: https/docs.
google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevKZx
xCIoZm9F7TNHtRNwxcwvcmjhnOZNyWF
3ugPRVmpMt4kK8a/viewform
For more information or a paper
application, please email
tokomaparkseed@gmail.com.

CUBA
■ From page 8
is the relationship between Cuba and the
U.S. going? How do the elections and
the recent passing of Fidel Castro impact
this relationship? What does this all mean to
our local community?

Join Mayor Kate Stewart, County Ex-
necutive Isiah Leggett, and County Coun-
cilmember Marc Elrich in a community
conversation with Mr. Miguel Fraga, the
First Secretary for the Cuban Embassy.
During the conversation, Mr. Fraga will
share with us his thoughts on these ques-
tions and many others.
Do you have an item for the city calendar? Let us know if you have a nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we’ll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the March issue is February 10, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning February 24.

To submit calendar items, email tncalendardirector@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, Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, March 1, 7:30 p.m.
TPFC Auditorium

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

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

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

Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA)
This support and advocacy group of parents and other loved ones of adults with special needs including autism, Down’s Syndrome, and severe chronic psychiatric challenges usually meets the fourth Thursdays of every month at the home of a Takoma Park resident. For more information, contact Mary Muchuui at muchuul@aol.com or 301-646-2109.

S.T.E.M Night
Thursday, Feb. 2, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
7511 Holly Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912
This night promotes Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and ways parents, students and the community can incorporate it at home. This is a free activity and open to the community, we will have hands on activities for both parents and students, and ongoing presentations throughout the school.

Takoma Park: Sanctuary City – Then and Now
Saturday, Feb. 4, 3 p.m.
TP Community Center
A public-teach-in on how the city’s sanctuary ordinance protects all our immigrant neighbors. Panel Discussion moderated by Rizzy Gureshi, Ward 3 Councilmember, with City Manager Suzanne Ludlove, Police Chief Alan Goldberg, Montgomery County Councilmember Marc Elich, Gustavo Torres, Executive Director, CASA de Maryland; and Denyse Sabagh Esq., Partner, Duane Morris. Other Speakers include Mayor Kate Stewart, Maryland State Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez, and Ward 4 Councilmember Terry Seamans.

Public meeting on Memorial Scatter Garden
Sunday, Feb. 5, 4 – 5:30 p.m.
Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Avenue
The discussion will focus on the idea of creating a spot where people can scatter the ashes of their loved ones and recommendations for which park might be best. To learn more, visit takomasmcatter.com or contact Jennifer Beman at bemanwhite@gmail.com.

Takoma Park Middle School Used Book Sale
Friday, Feb. 10, 8 – 9 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 11, 9 a.m. – noon
Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road, Takoma Park, Md. 20912
Thousands of books available on all subjects and for all ages. All books priced at $1-$2.

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 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

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENTS

Friendly Visitors Volunteer Orientation
Thursday, Feb. 23, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
TP Community Center, room to be assigned.
If interested, please contact The Village of Takoma Park at 301-646-2109 or email sandye@ganjetirement.com.

Aging Well Network
Tuesday, Feb. 28, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Free and open to all; registration not required. For more information, visit villageoftakomapark.com

ARTS AND LITERATURE

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

Open Mic Night
Tuesdays, 9 – 11 p.m.
Busboys and Poets, 235 Carroll St. NW

Jazz Jam
Tuesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.
Takoma Station, 6914 14th St. NW
Open mic for jazz musicians

Wednesday Night Drum Jams
Wednesdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m.
The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St. NW
Hosted by Katya Gaughan and friends

Writing a Village
Monday, Feb. 13, 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.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading
Thursday, Feb. 16, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
The popular “Third Thursday” poetry series features the work of a wide range of poets from across the region. If you have not sat in one on the readings yet, stop by on any third Thursday of the month and check it out. Featuring Mary Ann Larkin, Gary Stein, and Bamardine (Dine) Watson with host Merrill Leiffer.

Photo Salon
Monday, Feb. 27, 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.

Feminist and Progressive “Doctor Who”
Thursday, March 2, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
The British television series “Doctor Who” focuses on a time-travelling wanderer and his stereotypical companion who’s young, female, attractive, and not very smart. Heather McHale, PhD in literature from University of Maryland, addresses this stereotype and finds that it has almost never been accurate, and that the show has, with a few notable exceptions, depicted strong, varied companions. Focusing mostly on the revived series beginning in 2005, McHale discusses how the show has made progressive statements about LGBTQ issues, disability, race, and economic class.
Suggested $10 donation

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friends of the TP Rec Center (FORC) Meeting
Wednesday, March 7, 9 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
The group will hold its second meeting. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Priscilla Labovitz at labovitz@earthlink.net.

Fitness Expo 2017
Saturday, April 1, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.
TP Recreation Center
Come join us for an exciting day that will include demonstrations from our fitness programs as well as presentations from our local community health and fitness organizations. The expo will kick off at 8 a.m. with our first 20-minute demonstration. For additional information or if you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Vincent Cain at 301-891-7289 or vincentc@takomaparkmd.gov.

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

Upcoming Community Coffees
Friday, Feb. 10, 8 a.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
7071 Carroll Ave

Friday, March 3, 8 a.m.
Capital City Cheesecake
7071 Carroll Ave

“Starting Friday mornings with coffee and conversations with residents is the best way to get things done in Takoma Park!”
—Mayor Kate Stewart

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