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**Takoma Park Dance Exchange celebrates 20 years**

*By Sean Gossard*

Dance Exchange is celebrating 20 years at its home studios in Takoma Park with programs that help promote local arts in dancers of all ages while extending the organization’s reach and social engagement worldwide. The internationally renowned organization has a year’s-worth of plans and performances to celebrate its time in the community.

“Work happens at the intersection of social relevance and community engagement and how it relates to us and our own bodies,” says Elizabeth Johnson, an associate artistic director and director of partnerships at the Dance Exchange. “Takoma Park is a community that is engaged, aware, questioning and progressive,” which she says makes it a perfect fit for the Dance Exchange and its history of social engagement.

Originally founded in 1976 by choreographer Liz Lerman, the Dance Exchange has helped cultivate a community of dance making and creative arts in the area. The Dance Exchange is celebrating 20 years of TPS for many immigrants.

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**City Council condemns the ending of TPS for many immigrants**

On Jan. 10, 2018, the Takoma Park City Council adopted a resolution (Resolution 2018-1) calling on Congress to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for current countries and establish a pathway to permanent residency for TPS and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients.

In November, the Department of Homeland Security announced its intention to end Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for persons from Haiti and Nicaragua, and last month announced the same for individuals from El Salvador.

The City Council resolution asserts that the second largest number of TPS recipients nationally live in Maryland, including 19,800 Salvadorans with 17,100 U.S.-born children and 1,900 Hondurans with more than 1,300 U.S.-born children.

Further, the City of Takoma Park condemns the ending of TPS for some 200,000 El Salvadoran immigrants throughout our region and reaffirms our values as a welcoming and inclusive community for all who call Takoma Park home.

During the 1980s, local churches became a safe haven for Salvadoran immigrants throughout our region and reaffirms our values as a welcoming and inclusive community for all who call Takoma Park home. The City Council resolution asserts that the second largest number of TPS recipients nationally live in Maryland, including 19,800 Salvadorans with 17,100 U.S.-born children and 1,900 Hondurans with more than 1,300 U.S.-born children.

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New Takoma Park Police Chief Anthony DeVaul was sworn in by Mayor Kate Stewart on Jan. 2.

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**What’s New?**

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- Welcome Coach Spencer Boyer
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- City offices & facilities closed
  - Sunday, Feb. 18 - Monday, Feb. 19
- President’s Day holiday
- Trash/recycling collection
  - No yard waste collection
  - Monday, Feb. 19

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**Coming Next Month: Hospital may leave fewer health facilities in City. See www.takomaparkmd.gov for more information.**
The City Council values the efforts of the volunteers who serve on City boards, commissions and committees and wants to ensure that the groups are successful. As such, the City Council will be considering different ways to interact with the various groups.

For example, the Council has held joint meetings with the Commissions on the Environment and the Tree Commission. Individual members of the City Council may occasionally or regularly attend meetings, work closely with a particular committee, or serve as liaison between the full Council and a committee.

Applicants should review the information on the City website (Board, Commission, and Committee pages) and consider attending a meeting to see if it is a good fit. You may want to contact the chairperson to discuss your interest or contact the staff member who works with the committee.

Apointments are made by the City Council. Apply by completing the online application and submit it along with a resume or statement of qualifications. Contact Jessie Carpenter (jessie@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267) or your City Councilmember with questions.

As of Jan. 17, the following positions are open:

Board of Elections: The Board of Elections has one vacancy for a resident of Ward 5. The next City Election will not take place until November 2020 unless a special election is necessary in the interim. The Board will be working on reviewing and recommending revisions to election-related content in the City Charter and Code, drafting procedures and regulations for elections, preparing for the 2020 election, registering voters, conducting voter education, and so on.

Commemoration Commission: There are five vacancies on the Commemoration Commission. Wards 4 and 5 are not currently represented on the commission, but there are vacancies for other wards as well. The Commission is presently developing a commemoration program for honoring members of the Takoma Park community and is gathering and maintaining a database of commemoratives and memorials in the City.

Ethics Commission: The Ethics Commission administers the City’s Ethics Ordinance to ensure that public officials perform their duties with only the best interests of the City and its residents. The Commission provides advisory opinions, hears and decides on inquiries and complaints regarding alleged violations of the Ethics Ordinance, recommends legislative changes and improvements to the Ethics Ordinance, and provides public information about the purpose and application of the Ordinance. There are three vacancies on the Commission.

Noise Control Board: The Noise Control Board assists and advises the City on noise control issues and conducts hearings on two-party noise complaints. Two positions are available on the Board.

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee: The Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee oversees implementation of and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act.
Pillar Three: Technology & Social

Century Report on Policing”

implementing the six pillars of the “21st

city, I am fully

community policing already in place here

with compassion and empathy are key

proaching issues, such as immigration,

Takoma Park a “Sanctuary City.”

From page 1

POLICE CHIEF

We are much stronger as a community

improve our operations and relationships.

The officers, staff and community mem-

members I met with thus far were not lacking

in great ideas. The members of the City

Council has set out clear expectations for

in great ideas. We are united as a city and

what we expect from our police depart-

I look forward to continuing the great

tradition of the Takoma Park Police De-

artment and finding innovative ideas to

This article is based on the remarks Chief

DANCE EXCHANGE

organization has created more than 250
dance works based around social issues

and other themes and has travelled ex-

sively in the U.S. and abroad to help

promote dance and build partnerships.

In 1998, studios were opened in a former

Takoma Park post office for dancers and

other creative types of all ages.

Since 2011, the Dance Exchange has

been under the art direction of Cassie

Meador, who last year was awarded the

2017 County Executive’s Emerging Lead-

er Award for Excellence in the Arts and

Humanities. “Montgomery County, a

place where arts and culture thrive, has

offered an incredible home to grow and

contribute to as a leader,” Meador said in

an interview with the Arts and Humani-

ties Council last year.

Over the years, the dance studio on Ma-

plo Avenue has evolved into a space

boxed with offices and studios for in-house pro-

grams and areas to rent to local artists and

and groups. “The building has become a

community cultural hub,” Johnson says.

“On any given day, we’ll have Dance

classes for children as young as 3

and Taiko drummers in another room. So,

it’s a really vibrant source of cultural con-

nections.”

As part of its 20-year anniversary, the

nonprofit dance organization will perform

Growing Our Own Gardens, which was

created and directed by associate artist

director Matthew Cumbie. According to

the Dance Exchange’s website, this community-driven performance project uses “dance, spoken word, drag

and local engagement [to] reflect on queer

history and future in Washington, D.C.”

The project will explore themes of safety,

resilience and liberation through stories of the LGBTQ movement’s past.

Evening-length performances will be

held at Dance Place in D.C. (3225 8th St.

NE) Feb. 24 – 25. A workshop will also

take place Saturday, Feb. 17, at 2:30 p.m.

at the Dance Exchange.

The Exchange will hold spring camps

week of March 26 in partnership with the

city of Takoma Park and the Brook-

side Nature Center that will use art to

help teach about the environment. Cre-
Community Grants Program:
Call for Preliminary Applications

The Takoma Park Grants Review Committee is accepting preliminary applications from organizations seeking funding through the City of Takoma Park’s FY19 Community Grants Program. Funding is available for STEM, Arts, or STEAM-oriented projects, programs or events that will occur between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019.

The City of Takoma Park’s Community Grants Program provides financial support for specific programs, projects and events that improve residents’ quality of life by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences.

All applicants are required to submit a preliminary application, which may be found on the City’s website (takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/grant-programs/community-grants). If selected for further consideration, organizations will be contacted by the Grants Review Committee and invited to submit a full application for funding.

To be considered for funding, preliminary applications must be submitted electronically via an online form found on the City’s website at the link listed above on or before 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26, 2018.

Prior to submitting a preliminary application, organizations are encouraged to review the Community Grants Program Guidelines, available on the City’s website, also at the link listed above, to verify eligibility for funding.

Information sessions for prospective applicants will be held in the Hydrangea Room at the community center on Monday, Feb. 5 from 2–3 p.m. and on Thursday, Feb. 8 from 7–8 p.m.

For more information, contact the City of Takoma Park’s Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7119 or grants@takomaparkmd.gov.

Sometimes that support takes the form of raising money, like when volunteers banded together to collect funds to help immigrants pay fees after the Trump administration rescinded DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) and gave those eligible for final extensions one month to complete an application and pay $495.

Takoma Mobilization joined forces with Ayuda to help local immigrants meet the deadline and make the payment. “So many people donated that we ended up raising more money than there were clients eligible to renew,” said Belanger.

Other times supporting their cause means marching in D.C. or participating in civil disobedience on the steps of the Capitol— or even getting arrested, as Belanger was. Not that it’s affected his passion for the cause. “I feel like getting arrested is less of a stretch for me than for people who are less connected,” said Belanger. “The dreamers have more at stake.”

Like many of Takoma Park Mobilization’s volunteers, Belanger is utilizing his professional skills in his activism. “I’ve been working on immigration policy for basically all my time in Washington,” he says. “Immigration is very important to our country. Immigrants are an important part of our future workforce. They provide new ideas and revitalize our culture. Our previous attitude and policies towards immigration have kept us vibrant. What’s going on now is disturbing.”

As for so many others in Takoma Park, the effort has provided a framework for taking organized action in regards to such sentiments. “It’s very important at this time, when many members of our immigrant community...”
Calling All Artists And Poets!

The world needs more artists and poets and so does the City of Takoma Park. The We Are Takoma arts and culture series is seeking submissions from artists and poets for future art exhibitions and poetry readings at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Superheroes, calligraphy, flowers and the threshold between art and science. Those are just a few of the themes of past art exhibitions and poetry readings at the Takoma Park Community Center. In six bimonthly exhibitions each year, the City of Takoma Park features diverse artists to showcase their work in the five gallery spaces in the Community Center. The deadline for submissions is March 2, and the application form is available online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

The Third Thursday Poetry Reading series also has been a vibrant part of the We Are Takoma cultural series for more than a decade. Readings are held on the third Thursday of most months in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, and video recordings of the readings are available on Takoma Park’s City TV and Youtube. Featured poets are selected by a committee including Takoma Park Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler.

“The poetry reading series has called attention to how much the City of Takoma Park supports the role of the arts in the community. Poetry is one dimension of the City’s cultural series that focus,” Leffler said. “We want to hear some new voices from a diverse mix of poets with different viewpoints.”

Poets don’t have to be Takoma Park residents or have published work, and they are selected primarily based on the strength of three poems included in their applications. “If we’re taken by the poems that someone submits, that’s all that really counts,” Leffler said. The deadline for poetry submissions is May 4, and the application form is available online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts.

**Film Screening of For Choco and Spirit Painter**

**Thursday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.**
**Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium – Free event**

Be part of the creative process by watching two not-quite-finished documentaries and provide feedback to the filmmakers in this screening organized by Docs In Progress. For Choco by director Ray Whitehouse features a story of love and loss set against the backdrop of the 2016 presidential election. Frankie Gonzales is following in the footsteps of her godmother Choco who is a key campaign organizer for Hilary Clinton in Texas. After Choco dies unexpectedly, Frankie redoubles her volunteer efforts for the campaign while also encountering difficulties in her transition from male to female.

In Spirit Painter, director Brian Pascale profiles a painter who emigrates from Cote d’Ivoire (Ivory Coast) to Baltimore where his artwork attracts the attention of patrons, but he also faces challenges from the economic downturn and life in a new country.

**Third Thursday Poetry Reading**

**Thursday, Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m.**
**Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium – Free event**

The Third Thursday Poetry Reading series is pleased to present the original poetry of Anne Dykers, Melanie Figg and Bonnie Naradzay. Anne is a poet and book artist whose poetry has appeared in Green Mountains Review, Ashen Meal and other literary journals. Melanie is an award-winning poet and 2017 poetry fellow with the National Endowment of the Arts who teaches creative writing and poetry workshops. Bonnie is a Harvard University graduate, who has read her poetry at the Library of Congress and other venues. Her poems have been featured in Salt River Review, Convergence and other journals.

A reception with light refreshments will follow the reading with an opportunity to meet the poets and discuss their work.
DROP-IN

**Community Playtime**

Enjoy open playtime, read stories, work on craft projects, enjoy the playground and socialize. Organizers will provide toys, craft supplies, story time and snacks. Visit www.takomaplaytime.org for more information. This is a drop-in program; no registration is required.

Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Avenue
Newborn 5 years
Ongoing

**English:** Mondays
Spanish: Fridays
10 a.m.-12 p.m.
Free

YOUTH

**ART**

**Clay for Kids**

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

Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
4-13 years
6 Week Sessions
Monday-Session: March 5-April 30
Wednesday-Session: February 28-April 11
4-5 p.m.
Resident: $130 / Non-resident: $150

**MAKE/Shift Studio #1: Art Inspirations**

Elementary students create exciting two- and three-dimensional projects in this after school class. Lessons include drawing, painting, collage, assemblage and mixed media. Every class focuses on a different subject and medium. Children learn to express themselves and engage in visual problem solving while producing beautiful works using color, shape, line, texture and pattern. Contemporary and historical artists provide inspiration for this art program geared for 3rd through 5th graders. Beginning students welcome. Material fee included. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman

Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
8-11 years
6 Week Session
Thursdays, March 8-April 19
No class 3/29
(No class 3/29)
4-5:45 p.m.
Resident: $155 / Non-resident: $175

**MAKE/Shift Studio II: Drawing and Watercolor**

Have fun learning to draw with black and white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape and floral studies. Focus of class appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School. Materials/model fee of $25, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman

Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
11-14 years
6 Week Session
Tuesdays, February 27-April 10
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Resident: $145 / Non-resident: $165

**TEENS**

**Camps**

**Counselor in Training (CIT)**

Sign up now for a three day training to become a Certified CIT while becoming First Aid/CPR certified. Work with children ages 5-12 during our youth summer camps and earn your SSL hours while having fun!

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Ages 14-17
Tuesday, May 1 & Thursday, May 3
4-6 p.m.
Saturday, May 5
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Resident: $25 / Non-resident: $35

**Spring Break Documentary Filmmaking Camp: My Story**

In this one-week fun and educational day camp, participants work in small teams to plan, shoot, and edit short documentary videos about themselves, using original video footage, interviews, photographs, music, and narration. Campers will be provided access to and training with professional video cameras and Final Cut Pro editing equipment. Final projects will be shown in a mini-festival for family and friends, uploaded to YouTube, and may also be featured at the Community Stories Film Festival to be held in fall 2018. Don’t forget to bring a non-perishable lunch each day. Before Care and After Care are available for an additional fee. Instructor: Docs In Progress

Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
Ages 8-12
Monday-Friday, March 26-March 30
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Resident: $150 / Non-resident: $200

**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 big lunch!

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6-12
Monday-Friday, March 26 –March 30
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Resident: $100 / Non-resident: $120

**DROP-IN**

**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 TV’s. We also have X-Box One and Wii Games, workstations, board games and comfy seating 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-Friday**

3-7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed
Free

**Power Hour**

Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. We are the perfect balance of academics and fun. Students are given quiet time to complete homework or to read. Staff is available to assist and can complete the required 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

**Monday-Thursday**

3:30-4:30 p.m.
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

**Black College Expo**

Decisions, Decisions. Who has the best academics? Who has the best athletics? Should I stay on campus? How far is commute enough for me to travel? Jump on board as we visit the Black College Expo at Bowie State University. Register in advance space is limited. Transportation is provided. The bus will depart the TP Community center at 8:30am sharp!

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge (meeting location)
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 9-12
Saturday
March 3
8:30 a.m. –5 p.m.
Free

**Creative Cooking by Tiny Chefs**

Who loves cheeseballs, trifles, and other bite-sized snacks?! This spring get ready for some amazing “ball” shaped goodies. In this unique session, students will “round” em up! by creating popcorn balls, snowball trifles, and classic meatballs. There’s nothing square about class. Let’s get the ball rolling! No experience necessary.

Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Ave
Grades 6-12
Tuesdays
February 6-March 20
4-5 p.m.
Resident: $10/Non-resident: $20

**Youth Summer Employment Program**

Interest Meeting

Parents and teens come to the Interest Meeting and learn about this 8-week program which will begin June 25 and will end August 18, 2018. Is your teen in need of a summer job? The City of Takoma Park is pleased to announce the return of the City’s Youth Summer Employment Program. The purpose of the Youth Summer Employment Program is to provide young people with a summer-long adventure that is more than just a job, but a true learning experience. There are a limited number of meaningful employment opportunities available this year. To register for the Interest Workshop or to find out more information, please call Leicia Monfort at 301-891-7283.
Welcome to the Team: Coach Spencer Boyer

As the Winter Basketball League gets underway, it is a perfect time to show appreciation for the foundation of the program, the coaches! With more than 76 teams filled with excited young people from the community, the positive and dedicated adults that lead these teams are a major reason why young players return every year.

One of our newest coaches in the league is Spencer Boyer. Coach Boyer is a Washington Metropolitan Area native and has served the government in a variety of capacities. During the Obama administration, he was appointed as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and later as the National Intelligence Officer for Europe in the National Intelligence Council. Now that Coach Boyer has a bit more time available, he jumped at the opportunity to give back to the community while being able to engage with his five-year-old son in an area he loves.

While his energetic team of kindergartners is thriving this season, the enjoyment is definitely mutual for Coach Boyer. “I truly enjoy their enthusiasm and desire to learn. When you’re coaching kindergartners, it’s obviously mostly about having fun and teaching the basics. It’s terrific to be able to lay a foundation regarding both individual basketball skills and team play.”

At times youth sports can become overly competitive and zap the fun from the child’s experience. It is important to Coach Boyer and Takoma Park Recreation that we create an environment that allows the kids to learn, be active and make new friends. Coach Boyer echoes those sentiments as he discusses an ideal season, “A successful season for our team will be if the kids have had a ton of fun, have improved on where they were when they arrived, have basic understanding of teamwork and cooperative play, and want to continue doing active things (basketball or otherwise).”

With Coach Boyer’s commitment to the youth and “fun-first” philosophy, his kindergartners are in for an awesome season. All of the City of Takoma Park’s youth sports are powered by the great parent volunteers that coach. If you are interested in becoming a coach please reach out to tpports@takomaparkmd.gov.

RECREATION

From page 6

Takoma Park Community Center
Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Ages 16-21
Thursdays
6 p.m.–8:30 p.m.
Free

FITNESS

Teen Zumba
Join the Zumba craze! Zumba fuses easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program that will blow you away. Zumba participants achieve long-term benefits while experiencing an absolute blast in one exciting hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing, awe-inspiring movements meant to engage and captivate for life. The routines feature integral training sessions where fast and slow rhythms and resistance training are combined to tone and sculpt your body while burning fat. Add some Latin flavor and international zest into the mix, and you’ve got a Zumba class.

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 8-10
Thursdays
February 1-March 22
4-5 p.m.
Resident: $5 / Non-resident: $10

ADULTS

ART

Ceramics: Hand Building & Sculpture
This class focuses on basic hand-building techniques including pinch, coil and slab construction as well as surface treatment and glazing. Open to all levels of experience. Students can create functional items, such as vases, soap dishes and teacups as well as sculptures, including portrait heads and whimsical animals. All glazes are lead free and food safe. $20 materials fee due to instructor first day of class. Registration for Monday’s class includes studio time on Friday.

Instructor: Carolin Mackinnon
Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 and older
7 Week Session
Mondays, March 12-April 30
10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Resident: $75 / Non-resident: $85

Collage
Have fun working with found, purchased and altered papers, while learning how collage methods can enhance your art making process, whatever medium you use. You will be introduced to a variety of collage techniques, work with elements and principals of design, and explore creative two- and three-dimensional assembly. Instruction will be given in surface preparation, adhesives, color theory and composition and is suitable for beginners as well as more experienced students. Basic materials (adhesives, supports, papers and paints) will be available (Some personal or found collage elements may be desirable in addition to materials provided). A materials fee of $30, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman
Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 and older
6 Week Session
Tuesdays, February 27-April 10
11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Resident: $250 / Non-resident: $280

Make a Teapot Workshop
Learn how to make a teapot in this three-day workshop. Clay and tools will be provided by a $30 materials fee, which is due at the first workshop. The teapot will be made, assembled and glazed. Participants must attend all three days. Instructor: Art for the People
Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 and up
3 Day Session
Saturday, March 10
Sunday, March 11
Saturday, March 17
4 p.m.
Resident: $100 / Non-resident: $120

FITNESS

Cardio Kickboxing
Don’t miss out on the fun! We have a class that is in full swing. Join us at Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue. Cardio Kickboxing is a great class to help you maintain your summer beach body. This class will improve your strength, aerobic fitness, flexibility, coordination and balance. Great music and a professional instructor will move you through the workout.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 years and older
March 8-March 29
Thursdays: 7:45-8:45 p.m.
Saturdays: 9:15-10:15 a.m.
$45

Yoga (Iyengar): Intermediate
Practice and persistence brings transformation. After achieving a firm foundation from the beginner’s class, a student wishes to go forward in her/his exploration of the discipline of yoga. This intermediate level class offers a deeper penetration of the consciousness from the periphery towards the core. The more advanced postures are introduced, and inversions are included. The practice of pranayama (breathing) is included in the session. Mats and props are provided. Instructor: Teseehn Chettri
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
18 and older
13 Week Session
Wednesdays, through March 28
7:30–9 p.m.
Drop-in: $15 (Check or credit card only; No cash)

MULTI MEDIA

Video Production and Editing
Learn to create high-quality video using professional software. Come learn the structure of video production from preproduction to production and postproduction and learn to create your own story. This class is designed for all levels of expertise and teaches the basic techniques of videotaping and editing. Instructor: Isaac Asare
Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
16 and older
3 Week Session
Thursdays, February 8-February 22
6-9 p.m.
Resident: $100 / Non-resident: $120

SPORTS

Takoma Park Adult Softball League
Dust off your glove and warm up your swing, the Takoma Park Adult Softball League is back! This is a fun and exciting co-ed recreational program for adults of all skill levels. Gather some friends to enjoy the spring season on the softball field! Team registrations must contain a minimum of 50 percent Takoma Park residents to qualify for Resident Team entry fee. Roster limit 15. Top 4 teams advance to the playoffs. No Games on Mother’s Day or Memorial Day weekend.

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RECREATION
A decade ago, the Library of Congress joined with two other children’s book organizations to create a new post, National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature. The idea was to highlight the importance of books for kids and teens by appointing a top author to a two-year term during which they would travel the country touting the importance of books and reading.

(For the other two sponsoring organizations are the Children’s Book Council and Every Child a Reader.)

Jon Scieszka, author of The Stinky Cheese Man and among many other books for kids, was the first National Ambassador, appointed in 2008. He was followed by Newbery Medalist (and former Takoma Park resident) Katherine Paterson, critically-acclaimed author Walter Dean Myers, Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo, and, most recently, novelist Gene Luen Yang.

Jacqueline Woodson has been named in a ceremony at the Library of Congress attended by previous ambassadors, Scieszka and Yang, dozens of local school children and a number of children’s librarians and children’s literature lovers. At the ceremony, Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden presented Woodson with her official ambassadorial medallion, which hangs on a red, white and blue sash: “I have admired Jacqueline Woodson’s work for years, especially her dedication to children’s and young adult literature. The Library of Congress looks forward to Jacqueline’s tenure of encouraging young readers to embrace reading as a means to improve the world.”

Woodson’s work ranges from picture books to non-fiction to poetry to novellas for kids, teens and adults. Four of her books, including her memoir-in-verse Brown Girl Dreaming, have been chosen as Newbery Honor winners, and she’s also won the Coretta Scott King Book Award. In addition, Woodson served a term as the Young People’s Poet Laureate.

For her platform, Woodson has chosen “READING = H3PE x CHANGE (What’s Your Equation)?”. The idea, Woodson said, is to encourage young readers to think about the power they possess and the impact that reading can have on helping to change the world.

“Martin Luther King Jr. said people should not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character,” Woodson said at the Library of Congress ceremony. “In that regard, I think the way books makes them think and feel. By the way it gives them hope. By the way it opens them up to new perspectives and changes them. I am excited to have these conversations with some of the best conversationalists in our country — our young people,” Woodson said.

Woodson’s books include the picture books Each Kindness, the Caldecott Honor-winning Coming on Home Soon and the Newbery Honor-winning Show Way. Her novels for kids and teens include the Newbery Honor winning Feathers and After Tupac and D Foster, Miracle’s Boys, Locomotion, Peace Locomotion, and Husk.

Woodson’s adult novel, Another Brooklyn, was a National Book Award Finalist.

The library has these books and others by Woodson. Come check one out and enjoy the literary talent of the newest National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature!
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.

8th Annual Mid-Year Play Day
Attention! Attention! Yes, that’s right. Let’s Play America is preparing for the Eighth Annual Mid-Year Play Day. Come join us 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.letsplayamerica.org. Brought to you with support from the City of Takoma Park.

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, Feb. 21, 10:30 a.m. in the TPCC. For more information or to RSVP, email leicamp@takomaparkmd.gov. “Empowering Youth through Employment”

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.

Celebrate Takoma Committee Volunteers Needed
The Recreation Department is beginning to plan the fourth annual Celebrate Takoma Festival for Saturday, May 18 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!
Fire safety message for the New Year

- Have working smoke alarms on all levels of your home as well as in each bedroom.
- Test them monthly.
- Check the date! Look inside your alarm for the manufacturer date. If it’s over 10 years old, replace it with a 10-year sealed alarm.
- Have a family escape plan and practice it on a regular basis with the entire family.
- At night when you go to bed, close your bedroom door.

More than 130 children received toys

Another successful year providing toys for children throughout the area for Christmas. Thanks to the following people for their assistance: TPVFD members Jorge and Kiki Allaro, Tina and Ashley Willey, Pam Vega and Steve Novik. From the Takoma Park Lions Club, Club President Kirk Seymarsi and the Bigler family, PDG Mike Bigler, wife Donna and daughters Beth and Hannah. Finally, to Tina Smith-Jackson, Jennifer Thompson and Ernesto Lara as well as the residents for donating toys. Thank you for all your help during 2017.

Have a happy & safe New Year!

—Jim Jarboe, Project Coordinator

The Firehouse

By Jim Jarboe

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Montgomery County Fire and Rescue personnel assigned to the station responded to 527 fire-related incidents and also addressed or assisted with 3,080 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a grand total of 3,607 incidents for 2017. Grand totals for 2016 were 610 and 3,067, representing a decrease of 70 incidents.

Takoma Park volunteers put in a grand total of 17,031 hours of standby time at the station during 2017, compared to 15,376 hours in 2016, an increase of 1,655 hours.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported that the grand total of fire deaths for 2017 was 70, compared to 68 in 2016.

Don’t be scared; be prepared: The Preparedness Action Test (PAT), Part 1

By Claudine Schwoebel, co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

What would you have done on Jan. 13 if you were in Hawaii and the emergency alert sounded about a missile threat? What belongings would you have taken as you moved fast and sought shelter? Who would you contact and how? Most people got out within 15 minutes. Here are five questions to test your knowledge of potential emergency situations and your preparedness for taking appropriate action:

1. If you are stuck in your car during a serious snowstorm or blizzard you should: A) get out of the car and seek shelter; B) stay in the car; C) turn on hazard lights; D) leave the engine running the entire time with heat; E) think about why you went outside when there was a snowstorm warning, and resolve to stop this behavior.

   Answers: B, C (and especially, E)

2. What should you wear when you go outside in very cold weather? A) bag with lots of games, so you can pass “go” in Monopoly; B) a bag containing critical medicine, phone numbers of medical professionals and family contacts; water; flashlight and fresh batteries and keep a working flashlight nearby; C) light candles; D) know where they look fashionable; E) none of the above.

   Answers: B, C

3. If the power goes out in the evening, you should: A) wander outside looking for lighted area; B) know where there are flashlights, battery lanterns, and fresh batteries and keep a working flashlight nearby; C) light candles; D) search drawers and closets for flashlight batteries; you know you have them somewhere where you can pass “go” in Monopoly; E) keep a working flashlight on all floors, and make sure everyone knows where it is.

4. If you have to leave quickly, it’s important to have a “Go Bag.” What is it? A) bag with lots of games, so you can pass “go” in Monopoly; B) a bag that contains critical medicine, phone numbers of medical professionals and family contacts; water; flashlight and extra batteries, some underwear, and canned food for three days; C) a gold-colored bag so you can be visible and fashionable with some items inside; D) all of the above.

   Answer: B

5. When you are outside, wear several layers of loose-fitting, lightweight, warm clothing rather than one layer of heavy clothing.

   The outer garments should be tightly woven and water repellent.

Mastering the basics of vehicle maintenance

RS Automotive Inc. recently hosted a Teen Car Maintenance Workshop (Dec. 16) for Takoma Park teens. Limited to eight participants, the workshop is designed to empower teen drivers by showing them how to change tires or bulbs, check fluids, understand dashboard sensors, and charge a battery. Here mechanic Reinol shows Lauren Finlay, 16, how to change a tail light. RS Automotive also hosts workshops for adults. For more information, contact Nina Garfield at ninagarfield@msn.com.

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Two new businesses come to Carroll Street

The Old Takoma Business Association celebrated the openings of two new Takoma businesses, Yoga Heights and S & A Beads (Dec. 12). Yoga Heights was welcomed to the neighborhood and S & A Beads celebrated its 20th year in the community and its new location. For more information, visit yogalheightsdc.com or www.beadstore.com.

Seoul Food brings Asian-fusion to Takoma Park

By Sean Gossard

Takoma Park will soon be home to Asian-fusion café Seoul Food, which offers Korean- and Japanese-inspired specialties along with both vegan- and vegetarian-friendly dishes.

Seoul Food is moving from its current location inside a Silver Spring gas station to the former home of MAD Fitness at 7302 Carroll Ave. and expects to be open by the middle of March.

“We’re so overwhelmed right now and so incredibly excited to have it moving forward,” says Jon Goree, who, along with his wife Anna, opened Seoul Food in 2011 as a D.C.-area food truck before moving to a permanent location in 2013. “It’s like waiting for Christmas.”

Anna, who is from South Korea, graduated from L’Academie de Cuisine, interned as a pastry chef at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel and worked as a pastry chef at Whole Foods, where she met Jon, who grew up near Lake Superior and was working in the meat department. “That got us started in local and sustainable food sources,” Jon says. “And we’re really proud of that.”

Moving from the gas station location to Takoma Park seemed like a no-brainer for the owners.

“We have such a strong customer base in the area, and Takoma Park is such a great city that it seemed like a perfect fit,” Jon says.

Seoul Food’s menu includes bibimbap — Korean bowls with rice, vegetables and protein — maki rolls and kimchi quesadillas. The vegan section includes tacos, rice and tofu bowls, and a vegan croquette sandwich that’s made with a bean patty. There are also seasonal specialties, desserts and house drinks. The new Takoma Park location will also have alcoholic beverages available. Jon says the menu will mostly be the same as the old location with the addition of a few more seasonal specialties as time allows.

On its website, Seoul Food boasts about using local chicken and grass-fed beef along with 100 percent pole and troll-caught skipjack tuna. Seoul Food says its mission is “to serve the most delicious, wholesome, beautiful, local food available in the Washington metro area quickly, cleanly, and economically.”

And one of the best parts about moving to Takoma Park, Jon says: “It’ll be nice to have a farmers market nearby.” For more on Seoul Food D.C., visit www.seoulfood-dc.com or @SeoulFoodDC on Twitter.
Do you have an item for the city calendar? Do you have an item for the city calendar? Do you have an item for the city calendar? Do you have an item for the city calendar? Do you have an item for the city calendar? Do you have an item for the city calendar?