WHAT’S NEW?

Gubernatorial Election Day
Nov. 6
Vote from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

City offices & facilities closed
Veteran’s Day, Nov. 12
Thanksgiving, Nov. 22 - 25

Trash holidays
Veteran’s Day Monday, Nov. 12
Yard waste collection canceled
Thanksgiving
No collection on Thursday, Nov. 22 or Friday, Nov. 23.
Thursday, Nov. 22 trash, food waste and recycling collected on Wednesday, Nov. 21.
Friday, Nov. 23 trash, food waste and recycling collected on Saturday, Nov. 24

November 2018

Inside

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland
Volume 57, No. 11

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By Sean Gossard

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Takoma Park Youth Council marks one-year anniversary with town hall

By Rick Henry

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Congressman Jamie Raskin, State Del-

Editor’s note

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Look for this icon next to newsletter articles that you can read online in other languages using the translation feature on the City of Takoma Park’s website. After clicking on the link for the article, look in the upper right hand corner of the web page next to the navigation bar, and select the language you want using the drop-down box.

Spanish:
Busque este ícono junto a los artículos del boletín que puede leer en línea en otros idiomas usando la función de traducción en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park. Después de hacer clic en el enlace del artículo, busque en la esquina superior derecha de la página web junto a la barra de navegación y seleccione el idioma que desee con el cuadro desplegable.

Amharic:

French:
Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que vous pouvez lire en ligne dans d’autres langues à l’aide de la fonction de traduction disponible sur le site Web de la ville de Takoma Park. Après avoir cliqué sur le lien de l’article, regardez dans le coin supérieur droit de la page Web à côté de la barre de navigation, puis sélectionnez la langue souhaitée à l’aide du menu déroulant.

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On September 19, 2018, the City Council adopted Resolution 2018-45 reappointing Carol Hotton (Ward 3) to the Tree Commission. The City Council adopted Ordinance 2018-37 on Sept. 26, 2018, amending Takoma Park Code, Ch. 3.04, Ethics, to conform to a change in the State Ethics Code. Ordinance 2018-40 was also adopted, authorizing the purchase of digital signage for the Community Center. The service line requirement will be permitted by Contract Video Specialists for $14,125. By Resolution 2018-46, the Council approved a settlement with Fairways Investment Fund for the preservation of Dorothy’s Woods. The City paid $250,000 in exchange for release of the prophecies in a lien and dismissal of the foreclosure action. Approximately $100,000 of the settlement amount was donated by residents to maintain the City’s ownership of the Woods. The Council adopted Resolution 2018-47 reappointing Ellen Maidman-Tanner (Ward 2), Arthur Gary (Ward 6), and Patricia Ann Murphy (Ward 2) to the Ethics Commission. By Resolution 2018-48, the Council appointed Kopal Jha (Ward 2) and Andrew Silton (Ward 1) to the Committee on the Environment, and reappointed Hellen Gelband (Ward 3) and Geoffrey Short (Ward 4) to the Committee. On Oct. 3, 2018, traffic calming for Hilltop Road, between Geneva Avenue and Mississippi Avenue, was approved by Ordinance 2018-38. A Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) agreement was approved for 126–128 Lee Avenue by Ordinance 2018-39. The properties will be operated by Lee Homes, LLC, affiliated with the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, and will provide affordable housing for low and moderate income residents. Also on October 3, Ordinance 2018-41 was adopted to authorize purchase of Adobe licenses at the cost of $34,183.
The Takoma Park Project Directory
What is going on in Takoma Park? The Project Directory can fill you in! The Project Directory lists all major projects currently being worked on or planned citywide and includes need-to-know information for each one. To check it out, visit takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory.

TP PRESBYTERIAN
From page 1

25 years ago during its 100th anniversary: “And in winter they would meet in people’s homes.”

In 1888, a few years after the creation of Takoma Park, the city’s founder Benjamin Franklin Gilbert donated land on what is now Maple Avenue for the congregation’s original church building. Several years after the original wooden church was built for non-denominational worship and the congregation began having trouble paying bills, the Presbyterians took over the mortgage and provided a minister.

By 1922, the congregation had moved the church down the road to the stone building that’s there now on the corner of Tulip and Willow avenues. “From the earliest days it was a place for people to go for lectures and plays and where the town council held its first meetings,” Feasley said. “And when the stone sanctuary was built that tradition continued on.”

The high-point of the church came in the early 1950s in terms of membership, when the congregation was around 1,500 people. And by the 1960s, the church began to change its focus and direction. “From the 1890s through the 1950s the church mission was very outward,” Feasley said. “They sponsored refugees and missionaries in other countries.”

But in the 1950s under Minister John Patterson, whose wife Katherine Patterson wrote the children’s book “Bridge to Terabithia,” the congregation took steps to integrate and become more diverse. The congregation now includes families and individuals from all over the globe, including Cameroon, the Congo, India, Jamaica, Russia and South Korea to name just a few.

The building is currently the headquarters of Community Mediation Maryland, which advances conflict resolution through education, training and research. And the Takoma Park Child Development Center, the county’s first day-care center, started there in the early 1960s.

The church also has a “Black Lives Matter” banner that it hangs prominently upfront, carrying on a tradition of speaking out on social injustice that dates back to the 1970s when the church spoke out on apartheid policies and racial discrimination.

“We’ve been using the space to speak out on issues,” Feasley said. “Before that in the 1960s, the sign just read ‘Welcome.’”

They’ve also hosted several Girl Scout troops and for nearly 100 years have been the home and sponsor of Boy Scout Troop 33.

TP PRESBYTERIAN
From page 1

In the past few years, the church renovated its kitchen area and is now working with Takoma Park Silver Spring Community Kitchen to support and empower low-income food entrepreneurs. Now those starting a food business can get training and work out of the kitchen to help cut start-up costs.

“Without the partnership between the church and Crossroads Community Food Network, we wouldn’t be able to offer this critical infrastructure, and many of the food entrepreneurs we serve would need to defer their dreams,” said Christie Balch, executive director of Crossroads, which helps run the kitchen.

Balch says that 11 businesses are now using the kitchen, with many sourcing their produce from farms in Maryland and neighboring states. “They produce food for farmers markets and catering gigs, and many users are low-income, so the space is made available for free,” Feasley said.

The church is also open to Buddhist and Jewish groups as well as meditation classes and Masons. The church’s gym is used by soccer and basketball teams in the winter and as a home court for a couple of nearby schools. “There’s something going on there every day,” Feasley said.

And what’s in store for the next 125 years for Takoma Park Presbyterian Church and its roughly 200 members?

The church currently has an interim pastor, and Feasley says part of that involves revisioning and thinking about what they want to do next. “We need to think about what kind of church we want to be,” Feasley said.

But it seems like its goals for social justice and inclusion will always remain, much like the spirit of Takoma Park itself. And like its mission says, it is a “Church for All People.”

The Newsletter does not necessarily reflect the views of the pastor, and Feasley says part of that involves revisioning and thinking about what they want to do next. “We need to think about what kind of church we want to be,” Feasley said.

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Register Your Owner-Occupied Group House

An Owner Occupied Group House is a single-family home:  
• Occupied by the owners or a family members as their primary residence; and  
• One or more unrelated individuals who pay rent or share the costs of utilities.

The ability to rent out a private bedroom or room and then share common space in single-family homes creates affordable housing opportunities in our terrific Takoma Park neighborhoods as well as providing income for homeowners.

These houses are not considered rental properties by the City, although they are required to be registered. This is the same registration that is required for homeowners who rent rooms in the homes they live in through short-term services, such as Airbnb. Registration lasts for three years, expiring December 31 of the third year.

Register in three easy steps
1. Complete a brief application, on the City web site at takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/rental-housing/owner-occupied-group-house.
2. Pay the $50 registration fee.
3. Pass an inspection conducted by City staff to ensure the home meets health and safety standards.

The inspector will test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, both of which need to be either hard-wired or the ten-year, tamper-proof type. They will verify that each bedroom has a key-operated lock on the exterior and a thumb turn on the interior and as well as a window that provides safe exit in case of a fire or other emergency. The inspector will also check that the cooking and sanitation facilities are in good working order. This inspection is repeated at the time the registration is renewed, every three years.

Do you have questions about the registration process or want to verify that your group house is already registered? Contact Housing and Community Development at 301-891-7119 or housing@takomaparkmd.gov.

New service for streaming and archiving meeting video

The City has contracted with Open Media for streaming and archiving of meeting videos, moving away from our previous service, Grancus. Open Media is an open source and nonprofit organization with a focus on government transparency. Municipalities of our size are eligible for a 50 percent matching grant from the Open Media Foundation to use the software. With the grant, we will be paying $3,000 per year, a savings of $12,000 per year.

Open Media partners with YouTube to provide high quality and flexible video streaming of meetings accessible from any device that can access YouTube. We expect this change to resolve issues our residents have sometimes encountered when viewing our meetings online.

As with our prior service, meetings can be indexed by agenda item to make it easy to jump to a particular point. With YouTube, closed captioning of archived meetings in multiple languages is available for free. The agendas and captions are searchable by keyword, and any search matches bring people to the relevant point in the video. Archived meetings can be replayed at slower or accelerated speeds. The City Council online video archive, which goes back to 2006, is being migrated to our Open Media site.

Although meetings can be viewed live on YouTube, we encourage people to access the video through the City’s website so that the meeting agenda and indexing will be available: takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/meetings-and-documents/city-council-video.

TOWN HALL

From page 1
gagists David Moon and Jhamell Wilkins, Montgomery County Councilmember Hans Reimer, Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart, Takoma Park Police Chief Antonio DeVaul, City Manager Suzanne Ludlow and student activists Sofia Flenn and Tiffany Missemba participated in the event.

Congressman Raskin gave a keypoint speech, while the others held small group roundtable discussions as members of the Youth Council and other guest youth rotated through, giving participants the opportunity to meet with each speaker.

According to the Youth Council Chairperson, 17-year-old Kiran Kochar McCabe, who represents Ward 6, the event sprang from responses to a survey of city youth. The Youth Council conducted shortly after assembling, “We asked if people would be interested in a youth town hall, and there were a lot of positive responses,” she said. Vice-Chairperson, 17-year-old Emma Morgenstern (Ward 1), said the goal of the event was “to make youth more aware of who is serving them and who is making the decisions that affect them.”

Mayor Stewart said the event benefited the officials in attendance just as much as the youth participants. “The Town Hall was an excellent opportunity to hear from young people about their concerns and what they would like to see in the City,” she said. “Conversations I had ranged from addressing climate change to property taxes to housing issues.”

Police Chief DeVaul echoed the Mayor’s sentiments. “I commend the Youth Council for putting this event on because it is a great way to connect with youth, and one of our most important initiatives at the department is to develop trust with the youth of the city,” he said.

Another issue uniting both the Youth Council and the elected officials present is the importance of voting. Because Takoma Park allows 16-year-olds to vote in local elections, it is especially important for youth to be engaged, said Kochar McCabe.

“One of the values the council holds dear is youth engagement,” she told the crowd in her opening remarks. She then shared evidence that engagement is taking place, noting that 48 percent of 16-17-year-olds voted in the last local election, compared to 22 percent of the other eligible voters.

In his closing remarks, Congressman Raskin also spoke about the importance of youth engagement in government, specifically pointing out the significance of the movement to lower the voting age to 16 in different parts of the country.

Building momentum for that movement has been one of the key focuses for the members of the Youth Council, and they have provided testimonials regarding youth voting to other municipalities across the country.

The Town Hall represented a great opportunity for the Youth Council members and City officials to look back on the first year and look ahead to the future. “The Youth Council has been terrific over the past year. Members have engaged with other young people, City staff and elected officials at the City, County, State and Federal levels, and they have provided feedback to the Council on a number of projects,” said Mayor Stewart. “I look forward to working with them in the upcoming year.

For Kochar McCabe and the other Youth Council members, the town hall validated their efforts and success. “I think the event went really well”, she said. “It was a great opportunity for youth to learn more about various topics and people, and for our guests to connect with youth. Having so many officials attend represented how far we’ve come as a Youth Council in one year.”

Elected Delegates Jhamell Wilkins and David Moon speak with local TPAS/PBreS students Henry Merril, 13 and Rosalind Merril, 10 about schools lunches.

Adelaide Harris (Council Member, Ward 2), Emma Morgensen (Vice Chairperson, Ward 1) and Kiran Kochar McCabe (Chairperson, Ward 6)
WHEN WORDS MEET ART
Opening Reception
Nov. 8, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event

The worlds of art and literature merge in WHEN WORDS MEET ART, a group exhibition with five artists who specialize in illustration or mixed media, exploring how ideas can be expressed through the head and the heart.

Eric Gordon pens comic strips loaded with amusing text about Binny the Recycling Ghost, a giant robot named Mega Tung and other crazy creatures. Inspired by his love for music and city living, Eric has created a new series of colorful mixed-media paintings featuring emotive musical musical phrases, recycled paint scraps, and other found objects. As a social worker, he shares his love for art at Art Enables, a vocational day program for artists with disabilities in Washington, D.C.

Martin Graff creates amusing illustrations with captions that revel in the lighthearted and absurd in his ongoing art project called Enter the Face Zone. “I create surreal daydreams to trip people’s imaginations,” he says. “I hope my art inspires us to notice the world through creative eyes, to ask deeper critical questions, and to enjoy the ride along the way.”

Esther Iverem has crafted doll-like figures from recycled jeans and other reclaimed materials in her suspended installation titled Olokun of the Galaxy. Olokun is an African spirit which protects the oceans and honors the millions of Africans who were forced into slavery during the Middle Passage to North America. Some of the figures wear medallions that read “Water is Life” or “Mni Wiwiconi” (Lakota for “Water is Life”) or carry small photos of African Americans killed by state violence, such as Eric Garner and Sandra Bland.

Growing up in a small fishing village in Iceland, Kolbrún Kristjansdóttir was shaped by the untouched natural beauty that surrounded her. After moving to the D.C. area, she felt overwhelmed by the last toxic presidential campaign and wanted to share some positive messages. In her Timeless Calendar, she paired inspiring quotes from every U.S. president with 365 of her photographs of famous D.C. landmarks, nature scenes and other locales.

Joan Waits is an award-winning author and illustrator, who has illustrated more than 45 children’s or educational books. A former adjunct faculty member at the Corcoran School of Art and Design, Joan has shifted from watercolor and colored pencil to a more stylized look rendered in gouache or painted paper collage. Some of her book covers and illustrations will be on display, including several books authored by Edward Allan Faine. He is the author of 19 books and is loved by kids as the “How-To Cowboy” children’s entertainer.

Community Stories Festival
Opening Night Documentary Shorts
Nov. 8, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event

See short documentaries about local people, places and happenings from across the D.C. area. Meet the filmmakers and celebrate community stories. Please join us at 7 p.m. for a joint reception for the screening and the opening for the WHEN WORDS MEET ART exhibition. The screening will start at 7:30 p.m. To see what is showing, go to www.docsinprogress.org/communitystories.

Puppet Slam!
Nov. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event with $10 suggested donation

Wit’s End Puppets returns to Takoma Park for another popular Puppet Slam bringing together some of the best local puppet makers and performers for a night of serious, abstract, silly and thought-provoking puppet theater. Puppet performances will be interspersed with live music in an entertaining event for audiences of all ages.

Wit’s End Puppets is an innovative and experimental puppet theater group that produces original work for adventurous audiences in the D.C. area, collaborating with local partners to stage performances that educate children and adults about the evolving craft of puppetry.

Workers’ Poetry Fest
Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event

Wit’s End Puppets is an innovative and experimental puppet theater group that produces original work for adventurous audiences in the D.C. area, collaborating with local partners to stage performances that educate children and adults about the evolving craft of puppetry.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading
Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event

Please join us for the next Third Thursday Poetry Reading where local poets Kateema Lee, Sunil Freeman, J. Morris and Lily Scialom-Herman will read their original work. Visitors can meet the poets at a reception following the reading.
Taekwondo. Taekwondo emphasizes kicking techniques and is a fun way to achieve fitness and focus. There is a one-time, non-refundable $40 uniform fee paid to the instructor at the first class. Instructor: Felix Lindeire
Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
6 years and older
Mondays, through December 3
(No class on 11/12)
6–7 p.m.
Resident: $165 / Non-resident: $185

Various Local Schools
Gymnasiums
Kindergarten-8th Grade
8 Week Season
Games on Saturdays, starting January 12
Resident: $70 / Non-resident: $80

TEENS

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 TVs. We also have X-Box One and Wii Games, workstations, board games and comfy sitting areas for socializing with friends. Come join us after school for fun and laughs 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 review the completed assignments. Upon completion of work, students are given snack and invited to lounge, play games, and/or participate in activities. Registration is not required. Free for residents and non-residents.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Ongoing during the school year
Monday-Thursday
3:30–4:30 p.m.
Free

Smashing Smoothie and Movie Rap Night
Round up your friends and join us as we enjoy smoothies while watching movies. After the movie, teens will participate in a discussion designed to stimulate positive and informative conversation to assist in developing respect for themselves and others. A raffle will be drawn at the end of the discussion.
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Sunday, December 23
5–7 p.m.
Free

Yoga (Iyengar): Intermediate
Practice and persistence brings transformation! After achieving a firm foundation in the beginner’s class, a student wishes to go forward in her/his exploration of the discipline of Yoga. This intermediate level 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: Tehseen Chettini
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
18 years and older
Wednesdays, through December 19
7:30–9 p.m.
Resident: $180 / Non-resident: $210
Drop-In: $15 (check or credit card only)

ADULTS

Instructors needed
(to teach Grades 6–12)

Seasonal, Year Round, Flexible, Afternoon/Evening Preferred

Teen Programs is seeking instructors to facilitate a variety of classes for Grades 6–12. Currently instruction is needed for Drama, SAT Prep, STEAM, Job Training, Dance, Art, etc. For more information, please contact Ms. Leicia at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.

FITNESS
Qi Gong - 12 Postures
The exercises of Lang Ye 12 Postures Qi Gong enhance flexibility, core strength and alignment, prevent stiffness and help to relieve back/neck pain. Learning these standing and seated movements will bring relief, joy and energy to your mind, body and spirit. If your vital life energy has been blocked by illness or injury or you are just “low energy,” then this class will revitalize you. No experience is needed. Instructor: Joann Malone
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 years and older
Tuesdays, through December 4
7–8 p.m.
Resident: $85 / Non-resident: $105
Drop-In: $15 (check or credit card only)

Taekwondo
Taekwondo is not only a combat sport, but it is also a way of life for enthusiasts around the globe. Taekwondo itself is made up of three Chinese/Korean words: Tae meaning to kick or jump; Kwon meaning first or hand; and Do which means “the way.” Taekwondo benefits include enhancing self-esteem by heightening your physical and mental powers. It builds confidence by encouraging you to succeed and to take control of your life. Develop discipline by thoroughly training your body and mind in the tenets and techniques of
Walking in a Winter Wonderland

By Michael Kurland, Recreation Supervisor

The weather outside may be frightful, but the Winter Break Camp for the Takoma Park Recreation Department will be delightful. During the winter, kids have visions of snowy days with sledding and hot cocoa. They dream of staying home from school for snow days. Most parents are looking for something to do with their children during winter break. When children are out of school for winter holiday breaks, it’s important to keep them busy.

Every winter, the Takoma Park Recreation Department holds the Winter Break Camp for kids ages 7–12. This year’s camp will be from December 26–28 at the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Avenue). Winter Break Camp offers parents a place to bring their kids as well as keep them active and off the couch. This camp is not just a place to send the little ones until school resumes in January, but it connects kids to real-life skills and experiences they are not going to find anywhere else.

Winter Break Camp is mostly an indoor camp, but it is still very active with great activities, such as arts and crafts, indoor games and other recreational activities. Deborah Jackson says, “We sign our two kids up every year for the Takoma Park Recreation Department’s Winter Break Camp. It gives them a chance to get that energy out in a structured setting.

A well-deserved break from academic life, Winter Break Camp with the Takoma Park Recreation Department will allow your child to feel accomplished and entertained. Creative play will be encouraged, and imaginations ignited. Don’t get left out in the cold. Be sure to register soon. Staff members are eagerly waiting to have some fun and holiday joy with your little ones. Courtney McQueen, Recreation Department staff member says, “We really enjoy the kids warming up our cold winter season with their enthusiasm and energy.” Before you know it, the school break will be here. Come on out and join the fun!

RECREATION

From page 6

MARTIAL ARTS

Karate Self-Defense

Promote physical fitness, self-defense, leadership, and cultural exchange through the practice of traditional Okinawan karate style, Isshinryu, which means “one heart way.” This program is a partnership between the Takoma Park Recreation Department and the Penn State University Karate Club. This program requires a recreation center membership. Instructor: Penn State University Karate Club

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Back Room

7315 New Hampshire Avenue

16 years and older

Is My Class Canceled Due to Weather?

The City of Takoma Park has several ways to let you know if City facilities are closed and Takoma Park Recreation programs are canceled; get notices via Takoma Park Alert (www.takomaparkmd.gov/alert); check the City’s website; or call the Recreation Department’s Inclement Weather Line (301-891-7101, x5606). In general, if the Federal Government closes or has a delayed opening in the morning, the City does the same. Classes that begin before a delayed opening are usually canceled. Morning and Afternoon Addition and After the Bell programs follow the Montgomery County Public Schools declarations. If there is a two hour delay in the morning, Morning Addition starts at 9 a.m.

RECREATION Special Events

55+

DROP-IN

Game Room Open Play

The game room is available for adults age 55 and older to play pool, table tennis, basketball arcade and other active games. The game room is a great place to join friends for lively conversation, and just to “hang out” before, in-between and after classes during the day.

Game Room not available during Table Tennis Skills Class fall session, Thursdays 9/6-11/8.

12-1 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center

Game Room

7500 Maple Avenue

55 and older

Ongoing

Monday-Wednesday: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Thursdays: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Fridays: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturdays: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Free

9th Annual Mid-Year Play Day

Attention! Attention! Yes, that’s right. Let’s Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department has teamed up to present to you the Ninth 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.letsplayamerica.org. See you there!

Takoma Park Community Center

7500 Maple Avenue

All ages

Sunday, February 10

1–4 p.m.

Free
In search of more American Indian voices

By Karen MacPherson

November is American Indian Heritage Month. One way that we’ve celebrated for almost two decades is by hosting Eaglebear, who shares stories, songs and dances from his Xicano and Apache heritage. This year, our program featuring Eaglebear will take place on Monday, Nov. 5 at 7 p.m.

Another way we celebrate each year is by putting up a display of books by and about American Indians and encouraging young readers to check them out. In the past few years, we’ve put more emphasis on finding and purchasing books by American Indians as opposed to books about them by authors of other races or cultures. This is both a reflection of the Library’s effort to mirror our local community’s wonderful diversity as well as the larger push for *#OwnVoices* within the children’s literature world.

The *#OwnVoices* movement calls for more cultural authenticity in children’s books, which means, for example, having more books about American Indians written by American Indian authors – not by authors of other races or cultures.

There’s a good reason for this effort. One example: two of the best-known children’s books featuring American Indians are the 1979 and 2017 Caldecott Medal winners, *Arrow to the Sun*, written and illustrated by Gerald McDermott, and *Became a Ghost*, written by Latin author Traci Sorell, a children’s literature scholar and member of the Nambe Pueblo in New Mexico. Using Reese’s lists of recommended books, we are building our Library’s collection of *#OwnVoices* American Indian books.

Among our newer books by American Indians are picture books such as *We Are Grateful: Otsaliheliga*, by Cherookee author Traci Sorell and *Bunny and Prowow*, by Red Lake Ojibwe author Brenda Child; the award-winning kids’ novel, *How I Became a Ghost*, by Oklahoma Choctaw author Tim Tingle; and *Not Your Princess: Voices of Native American Women*, a collection of stories, poems and artwork by women authors of various tribes. These are just a few of the new books we have by American Indian authors. Come browse our collection and check some out!

decades of steps and starts – now clearly making a determined effort to search out more authors of color and publish more culturally authentic books, there’s still a long way to go.

The latest statistics from the University of Wisconsin’s Cooperative Children’s Book Center show that, of the 3,700 children’s books the Center received from publishers in 2017, only 72 had “significant” American Indian/First Nation content or characters. And, of those 72 books, only 38 were by American Indian/First Nations authors and/or illustrators. However, there are some wonderful children’s and teen books by American Indian authors that have been published in recent years, and we are happy to purchase them for the Library. One great source of information about the best American Indian books for kids is the blog American Indians in Children’s Literature, created and maintained by Debbie Reese, a children’s literature scholar and member of the Nambe Pueblo in New Mexico. Using Reese’s lists of recommended books, we are building our Library’s collection of *#OwnVoices* American Indian books.

Sports, law and race: A conversation

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) will host a wide-ranging, provocative conversation on sports by a panel of leading literary and legal voices on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center. FTPML is partnering with “We are Takoma” for this special evening.

N. Jeremi Duru and E. Ethelbert Miller will discuss political activism, historically and today, the NCAA and exploitation of collegiate sports, head trauma in football and soccer and its implications in relation to race.

N. Jeremi Duru, a human rights and international law expert, who has served as board chair of the Institute for Policy Studies. His most recent book of poetry is *If God Invented Baseball*. Duru is a sports law expert and professor at American University, who wrote *Advancing the Ball: Race, Reformation, and the Quest for Equal Coaching Opportunity in the NFL*. He is a Takoma Park native and Blair High School graduate.

Takoma Park resident Ralph Steinhardt is a human rights and international law expert, who will moderate the discussion.

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The Takoma Park Library has an exciting variety of new books for adults in Spanish. They include fiction and non-fiction – both original works by Latin authors and translations of books originally published in English. Some fiction titles not to be missed are:

- *El día en que los leones comen enredadera verde* by Raphaële Giordano
- *Una novela criminal* by Jorge Volpi
- *En un Rincon del alma* by Antonia J. Corrales
- *Las Hijas del Agua* by Sandra Barneda
- *El Aroma del Tiempo* by Nuria Pradas
- *El Coro del Mar* by Mary Higgins Clark
- *Volveras a Alaska* by Kristin Hannah

**LIBROS NUEVOS**

**www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents**

**Comics Jam**

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 4 p.m.
Join Dave Burbank for our fun comics book club!

**Friends “Big Book” Club**

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 28 & Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.

**Takoma Park Community Center**

**Petites Chansons/French Circle Time**

Sat. Nov. 17, 10:30 a.m.
Madame Marie leads our half-hour program of French rhymes and songs.

**Kids Art**

Sunday, Nov. 18, 2–3 p.m.

**Caldecott Club**

Monday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m.
Join us for a look at some 2019 Caldecott Medal contenders. Lemonade and cookies served.

**Coming Up…**

- **LEGO Club**, Sunday, Dec. 2, 1:30–3 p.m.
- **Bedtime Stories & A Craft**, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.
- **Winter Solstice Celebration**, Thursday, Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m.
Creating less waste: Two Takoma Park women take action

One day while walking her dog through Sligo Creek Park, Takoma Park resident Lori Hill picked up some trash. It’s something she has always done, but this time she asked herself, “How can I inspire my neighbors to pick up trash, too?” She quickly realized, however, that trash was the side effect of a much bigger problem. She then asked, “How can I inspire my neighbors to stop creating so much waste in the first place?”


Rini Saha was in the audience. A few years before as a high school teacher, Saha wanted to teach her students about recycling. From that research sprung a passion for living zero waste. She “was elated to see the talk Lori was putting on. It was the thing I was looking for,” Saha particularly appreciated Hill’s practical advice, such as how to avoid plastic when doing laundry or storing food.

Since the workshop, Saha was inspired to start a Zero Waste/Minimalist Lifestyle Support Group, which held its first meeting Oct. 12.

“It’s not easy to be zero waste. It’s the opposite of how we are raised as Americans these days,” Saha said. “There is very little infrastructure that supports someone who does not want to create trash. I would like to gather like-minded people, so we can become a resource and support each other. This group is open to anyone who does not want to create trash. I was looking for.”

Hill particularly appreciated Saha’s zero waste story. “I was elated to see the audience. The average person in our society creates greenhouse emissions in our landfills and incinerators (where we get rid of our trash). Recycling in many ways has been a failure. Only 10 percent of plastic gets recycled. It’s important that we reduce our trash by avoiding single-use plastics.”

For information about Rini Saha’s Zero Waste/Minimalist Lifestyle Support Group, email her at rinisaha@gmail.com.

Lori Hill will present her low waste living workshop again on Saturday, November 17 at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center. This free, hour-long workshop will include low-waste living tips for your kitchen, laundry, grocery shopping, bathroom, entertaining, gift giving, wardrobe, and travel.

There will also be door prizes from companies that help you live low waste. Each attendee will receive an electronic resource guide as well as a free copy of The Sister Eden Citizen Action Plan: 31 Daily Tips to Take Care of Yourself and Take Care of the Planet.

Registration is required. For more information about the workshop, visit www.sistereden.com/lowwaste.

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LIBROS NUEVOS

From page 8

Casa de Espías by Daniel Silva

Hijos de Hombres by P.D. James

Non-fiction titles offer advice on child-raising, self-care and ways to deal with life’s challenges:

El Cerebro Afirmativo del Niño: Ayuda a tus Hijos a Ser Mas Resiliente, Autonomo y Creativo by Daniel J. Siegel and Tina Payne Bryson

La Dieta del Cuerpazo: Correr Como una Filosofía de Vida by Jason R. Karp

El Camino de la Diosa Guerrera: Un Programa Practico Para Comentar en la Mujer Que Quieres Ser by Heather-ash Amara.

This is just a sampling of the new Spanish titles on display in the library. Come and check them out!

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Street Festival Snapshots

Quinn Taylor, 4, enjoys every carefree second of her moon bounce experience.

Above, Wicked Sycamore - String Quartet

Below, Carolina McCandless owner of Takoma’s newest restaurant, Cielo Rojo, serving up her delectable tacos to festival goers.

The spirit of the day was all around high-fives.

Locals get their groove on as they undoubtedly feel the rhythm and musical sounds of The Night Hawks.

photos by Selena Malott

November 2018

Takoma Park News Page 9
High-Rise Living… Being Prepared

By Claudine Schweber, Co-Chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

What do you call someone who lives on the 12th floor and gets up at 5 a.m. each day? A high-riser. All kidding aside, what makes a building a high-rise? That’s the designation for buildings with seven floors or more. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a high-rise building is higher than 75 feet (23 meters) or about 7 stories (www.fireline.com).

Do you live on the 8th floor of a building or know someone who does? What would you do if there’s a fire? Where would you go if you needed to get out of the apartment or if you are ill and need to call for help? Do you have flashlights nearby in case the electricity is out? NOTE: Most firetrucks ladders only reach to the 7th floor.

Basic safety
- Whether you just moved in or have lived in a high-rise for years, make sure you have and read the emergency plan for your building.
- Learn about your building’s safety features, including smoke alarms, sprinklers, voice communication, and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Identify all the exits near your apartment.
- Know the evacuation plan. If you will need help, tell management in advance.
- When calling 911, be sure to clearly identify the complete address, since the one closest to you may be blocked. Make sure you can open the front door. Get on the stay-in-place list if you are not mobile.
- In cases of evacuation, go outside away from the building. Do not return until the firefighters say it’s ok. If you think someone is still inside, tell the firefighters or other emergency personnel.
- Stay away from windows, glass exteriors or walls, or things that might fall, such as file cabinets or book shelves.
- Have emergency contact and medical information posted in plain sight.
- Don’t use the elevators!

Fire safety
- Unattended cooking is the #1 cause of home fires. Surprised? Stay in the cooking area until you’ve turned the heat off completely. If a fire does start, get out, close the door, and call 911.
- If you need to test heated doors, use the back-of-hand technique. Instead of touching a door with your palm, gently use the back of your hand to test for heat.
- Check if your apartment has sprinklers. New building codes require all residential buildings above 100 feet to have working sprinklers by 2019.
- “Close before you doze.” Keep bedroom doors closed when you are inside. This could prevent smoke from entering the room and give you time to call 911.
- When calling 911, be sure to clearly give the apartment number. If you cannot get out, make sure to tell the 911 operator immediately.
- If you cannot evacuate, go to a window if possible, wave a white sheet/towel to alert the firefighters. If you can open the window a bit, hang the white item on the window sill, and close the window. Do not keep window open since that may feed the fire.
- Thank you to Adam Bearne of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Jacqueline Davison at Victory Tower for your help with this article. And to the entire TPVFD for always being ready!
- Join EPC on WOWD radio for Dear Beatrice (Prepared) at 3 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month.

Passport Services
Passport services are available on first come, first served basis Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Takoma Park staff encourage calling the City’s main phone number at 301-891-7100 and checking if the office is open before departing for the Community Center for passport services.
For additional information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports.
The 20th Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair will be held on Saturday, Dec. 1 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church (310 Tulip Avenue, corner of Tulip & Maple, three blocks from the Takoma Metro Station). Sixteen locally based non-profit organizations working on local, national and international causes will talk with “shoppers” and explain their work.

**What is an alternative gift fair?**
- It’s a fun holiday bazaar where “shopping” means donating money to non-profit organizations in the name of your loved ones. For your donation you get a certificate to drop into a holiday card. Shoppers also give these certificates for birthdays, weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs and other events.
- It’s where you learn about locally based charities serving local, regional and international needs. There is a cause for everyone on your shopping list.
- It brightens the experience of giving at holiday time by supporting worthy causes about which you care deeply.
- All charities are represented by their own staff members and volunteers eager to share their mission and message. Gifts are priced from $10 to $100. Here’s a sample of the gifts available this year:
- A poetry-writing workshop for incarcerated youth in the DC jail.
- Food basics for a week for a needy immigrant family in the DC area.
- Education for girls at a school in Central America.
- You can bring the whole family. A supervised Kids Corner with special staff will entertain your children while you shop.
- At the “Eat One/Share One” cookie booth run by Girl Scouts, kids can decorate and donate cookies for the home-bound.
- The event also features live music appropriate for the season and great raffle prizes contributed by local businesses. Enjoy sweet and savory delectables at the AGF bake sale.
- 100% of the gifts you purchase go to the charities, no matter how you pay: cash, check or credit card. Prices start at $10. All gifts are tax-deductible and include a certificate to drop into a holiday card.

This year’s event is sponsored by the Alternative Gifts of Greater Washington (www.aggw.org), the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, and Crossroads Community Food Network, with the participation of the Takoma Park Child Development Center and Girl Scout Troop 1456.

For information or to volunteer, contact Mimi Ikle-Khalsa, fair director, at 301-891-8891 or aggw_inc@yahoo.com.

Takoma Park Alternative Gift Fair: Celebrating 20 years of holiday generosity

**Art takes over the town**

Credit: Sam Kittner

Takoma Park is more than 100 miles away from the Atlantic Ocean, but a 17-foot-long octopus somehow found its way here and wrapped its giant tentacles around the downtown clock tower.

In a public art project commissioned by the City of Takoma Park, fiber artist Stacy Cantrell crocheted the huge octopus in the City’s colors of orange, yellow, green and blue. With help from her husband and a friend, she installed the creature recently on the clock tower in Ward Sinclair Plaza at the intersection of Laurel Avenue and Carroll Avenue. Then she watched the smiles and dropped jaws from surprised people walking by.

“I’ve always been in love with the ocean and sea creatures,” Cantrell said. “I also like crocheting things that are the exact opposite of what people would expect. People are used to seeing a crocheted afghan lying on their couch but not a humongous yarn octopus eating a clock tower.

The installation titled Oct O’Clock will be on view for several months before the colorful cephalopod is donated to a local school or children’s organization. Cantrell used more than 120 pounds of yarn to create the deep-sea beast with some intricate details, including 360 crocheted suckers on its tentacles. The octopus is stuffed with more than 100 pounds of recycled plastic, including bags, water bottles, etc.

The City of Takoma Park also commissioned Cantrell to install two giant crocheted caterpillars in the City’s colors on a fence at 7676 New Hampshire Avenue south of University Boulevard. One 80-foot-long caterpillar and its 65-foot-long friend are climbing down a hill past a bus stop in the installation titled Scoochin’ Down the Avenue, Two by Two!

After that installation is removed in a few months, Cantrell will wash and disassemble the pieces to make baby blankets that will be donated to local organizations serving families in need.

“I love bringing these creatures to life, but I also want to reuse these materials to help others,” she said. The City of Takoma Park commissioned the fiber installations as part of its commitment to support and promote the arts, including public art that can inspire or surprise people in their daily lives without visiting a museum or art gallery.

“Stacy’s work is so delightful. It really exceeded all of our expectations,” said Sara Anne Daines, director of the City’s Housing and Community Development Department.

Cantrell learned how to crochet when she was four years old and has displayed her work at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Arlington Arts Center, Torpedo Factory, and other locales.

“It’s been great working in Takoma Park where there’s a real love for the arts and a willingness to take some chances,” she said.

This article originally appeared on the City’s website: takomaparkmd.gov/category/giant-octopus-attacks-downtown-clock-tower.
opportunities for positive, supportive development are offered.

Improve your communication and leadership skills, and make a difference in your life.

Crossroads Farmers Market

Wednesday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., April 18 – Nov. 28

Anne Street at University Blvd. East (across from Rite Aid)

The market offers the season’s freshest fruits and vegetables, free-range meats and eggs, herbs, honey, local flour, locally-roasted coffee, fresh-cut flowers, and health supplements, as well as scrumptious lunch fare, live music, cooking demos, and health information and screenings.

Community Self Defense

Wednesday, 10:20 – 11:30 a.m.

6366 N. Earle Ave., Takoma Park

Certified Gracie Ji Jitsu Black Belt instruction Free and open to all

Parenting

First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

First Saturdays, noon – 3 p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.

Weekly and monthly food supplies for needy families

Takoma Park Library

240-450-2092 or educare_ssi@yahoo.com

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry is open 24/7 for emergency services. Yard trimming collection is canceled.

Thanksgiving – City Offices Closed

Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22-23

All City offices and facilities will be closed Monday, Nov. 27 through Sunday, Nov. 26, and for the Thanksgiving holiday. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

Small Business Saturday

Saturday, Nov. 24, All-day

Shop local around Takoma Park this holiday season. Choose cash over credit and make a point to spend at least $10 in a local business.

Various locations


COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Circle Time

Tuesday, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

A beloved 30-minute program of songs, fingerplays, rhymes, movement exercises and stories teach early literacy concepts in a fun way. The program is geared for infants through pre-schoolers and their grown-ups.

Takoma Park Library

Spanish Circle Time

Thursday, 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 Library

The Spirit Club

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center

Therapeutic recreation class for Takoma Park residents 17 and older

This class is designed for adults with developmental/behavioral challenges. For more information, contact Jared Ciner at jciner@spiritclub.com or 303-883-4968.

Kid’s Night Out

First and third Fridays, 7-15 – 8:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Fun and games for kids

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Year-round, Laurel and Carroll avenues in Old Town

Every Sunday in the historic business district of the city, local, seasonal produce, breads, pastured meats, urban cheese, fresh eggs, baked goods and more from farms located within 125 miles of Takoma Park are offered.

Top Notch Toastmasters

Second and fourth Tuesdays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

TP Community Center

Improve your communication and leadership skills. Top Notch Toastmasters meetings provide opportunities for positive, supportive development of personal and interpersonal skills that make you a better communicator, a better leader. Come to our meetings to sharpen your abilities, meet new friends, and make a difference in your life.

Village of Takoma Park Event

The Village of Takoma Park presents Emergency Preparedness for Seniors Friday, Nov. 30, noon – 2 p.m.

TP Community Center, Azalea Room

Join The Village of Takoma Park to gain knowledge about how to be better prepared for and safely manage two types of emergencies. Wolfgang Mengere, president of The Village, will address such personal emergencies as falls, illness, food and finances. Emergencies in the community, including natural disasters, power outages, sheltering in place or evacuations, will be addressed by Claudine Schneider, Senior Co-Chair of the Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee. This event is free and open to all, no pre-registration required. Refreshments will be provided. villageoftakomapark.com

Pajamarama

Sunday, Dec. 2, 8 – 11 a.m.

Join in this favorite Takoma Park tradition and shop in your pajamas to enjoy special promotions and discounts at Takoma’s locally-owned, independent businesses.

Upcoming Events

Sports, Law and Race: A Conversation

Thursday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.

TP Community Center

The Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library will host a wide-ranging, provocative conversation on sports by a panel of leading literary and legal voices. The event is part of the “We Are Takoma” series.

People’s Open Mic

Saturday, 7 – 9 p.m.

Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.

www.republiclakota.com

Jazz Jam

Tuesday, 7 – 10 p.m.

Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.

www.republiclakota.com

Outreach Services, Law and Race: A Conversation

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