

WHAT'S NEW?

City Moves Forward with LED Lights

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Community Grant Recipient Brings Art to Local Elementary Schools

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TPVFD & TPPD Hold Toy Drives

Details, page 10

Understanding Your Property Tax Assessment Notice

Details, page 11

City offices closed

Christmas Holiday

City offices and facilities will be closed from 12:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 24 through Tuesday, Dec. 25. The regular schedule will resume on Wednesday, Dec. 26.

New Year's Holiday

City offices and facilities will be closed at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31 and Tuesday, Jan. 1. The regular schedule will resume on Wednesday, Jan. 2.

Trash holidays

Christmas

Tuesday trash, recycling and food waste collection will happen on Wednesday, Dec. 26.

New Year's Day

Tuesday trash, recycling and food waste collection will happen on Wednesday, Jan. 2.



Credit: Sheppard Ferguson/Washington Revels

Christmas Revelers perform in 2007, drawing from the Elizabethan era for the 25th anniversary of the show.

Revel in the spirit of the holidays

By Sean Gossard

Take a step back through time this holiday season with the Washington Revels for its 36th annual production. This season's Christmas Revels will bring the Elizabethan era to George Washington University's Lisner Auditorium over two weekends in December.

Music and drama fill the air as Shakespeare reigns supreme. The show will feature plenty of song, dance and drama for both children and adults. There will also be a performance of the Abbots Bromley horn dance — an English folk-dance dating to the middle ages — and the music of the Washington Revels Brass.

More than 100 performers from 8 to 88

will play courtiers, villagers and hopeful thespians to help to bring the year 1599 to life. This year, a few new and veteran members of the production hail from Takoma Park.

For David Potts-Dupre, 64, a longtime Takoma Park resident, this will be his first Christmas Revels show. Potts-Dupre, an avid singer-songwriter who practices law in D.C., was drawn to the more free-flow feel of the production. "It's scripted out to a degree, but it's not like we're given detailed instructions," he said. "We get a chance play with a little bit."

One piece that Potts-Dupre, who plays the town's butcher, is particularly excited

HOLIDAYS □ Page 3



A new deputy police chief's in town

By Rick Henry

Some people just aren't meant for retirement.

New Takoma Park Deputy Police Chief Antonio Williams is one of those people.

In 2017, Williams, 54, retired as Chief of Police for the University of Maryland, Baltimore (UMB), a well-earned reward after a 31-year law enforcement career.

"It was the first time in my life I had free time and no job," he said in an interview on Nov. 13, his first day on the job in Takoma Park. "It went great for the first few months."

While he said he appreciated the opportunity to spend time with his wife



Takoma Park Deputy Police Chief Antonio Williams

and family, he quickly grew restless and began exploring opportunities to re-enter law enforcement.

Enter the City of Takoma Park.

"I had a passion to get back into municipal policing (where he spent more than 20 years with the Baltimore City Police Department), and I saw Takoma Park had an opening for a Police Chief, so I applied," he said.

Though he did not get the position — current Police Chief Antonio DeVaul was selected — he was a finalist and came away impressed with both the City of Takoma

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Editor's note



English:

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:

በ « ታኮማ ፓርክ » ድህረገጽ ውስጥ የትርጉም ባህሪን በመጠቀም ሌሎች ቋንቋዎችን በመስመር ላይ ለማንበብ ከሚታተሙ የዜና ማተሚያ ጽሑፎች ቀጥሎ ያለውን ደህን ጸዱ ይፈልጉ. ለጽሑፉ አገናኙ ላይ ጠቅ ካደረጉ በኋላ, ከአሰሳ አመሌው ቀጥሎ ባለው የድር ገጽ የላይኛው የቀኝ ጠርዝ ላይ ይመልከቱ እና ተቆልቋይ ሳጥኑን በመጠቀም የሚፈልጉትን ቋንቋ ይምረጡ.

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.

Mayor & Council
7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912

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Inside



Takoma Park
Holiday Art
Sale
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2018 Safe Grow
Photo Contest
Winners
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Write
for Rights
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Have questions about your Property Tax Assessment Notice?

See page 11 of this issue.

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

CITY COUNCIL AND DISTRICT 20 JOINT PRIORITIES MEETING

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Monday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
TPCC Atrium Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, Dec. 3, 7:15 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

*All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. Schedule changes can occur after the *Takoma Park Newsletter* deadline. For the most up to date information, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on "Events and Meetings." Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue (TPCC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail can sign up at takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/agendas.

ADA Notice

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who 1) wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing; or 2) cannot attend a public meeting but would like to record an audio comment to be played during the public comment period of the meeting, is invited to contact Jason Damweber, Deputy City Manager, at jasond@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7202 at least 48 hours in advance.

City Council Action

All ordinances and resolutions are posted on the City's website.

On **Oct. 17, 2018**, the City Council adopted **Resolution 2018-49**, reappointing Michael Richards (Ward 1) to the Ethics Commission, and **Ordinance 2018-42** authorizing purchase of IT switches and firewalls from CDW-G for \$158,168.

On **Oct. 24, 2018**, the Council adopted **Resolution 2018-50** regarding conversion to LED street lighting. The resolution expressed support for replacement of streetlights on wooden poles with LED fixtures through the Pepco conversion program, set the lighting to be dark sky compliant 3000 Kelvin lights at wattages to be determined based on illumination needs on a block, provided for shielding of lights that shine directly into windows of houses or apartments, and established a mechanism to propose additional lighting where needed once the conversion is completed.

On the same evening, **Resolution 2018-51** was adopted, endorsing the FY 20 CDBG Program. The \$91,000 in capital funds

will be used for a targeted neighborhood initiative in Ward 5 to include projects such as streetscape modifications, ADA installations, stormwater management measures, street lighting, and other public improvements. The Council also adopted **Ordinance 2018-44**, authorizing purchase of police body worn cameras and in-car camera systems for \$77,800.

On **Nov. 7, 2018**, **Ordinance 2018-43** was adopted, approving a contract with Pepco for conversion of all city streetlights on wooden poles to LED fixtures. The anticipated cost to replace all existing streetlights is \$372,000. Of that amount, \$260,000 will be paid with a grant from the Empower Maryland program.

Also on **Nov. 7**, the Council appointed the 2018-2019 Youth Council by **Resolution 2018-52**. The resolution also increased the number of members that can be appointed to the Youth Council from nine

CITY COUNCIL ACTION □ Page 3

New Commemoration Program begins in January

The Takoma Park Commemoration Commission now offers three options for families or friends to honor or commemorate an individual:

- **Install a commemorative plaque on an existing bench** - There are over 60 designated benches in the City that are eligible to have a bronze plaque installed as a commemoration.
- **Install a commemorative plaque in front of an existing tree** - There are designated City parks where you can honor a loved one with a commemorative plaque.
- **Purchase an honor gift tree** - Make a donation to have a tree planted on public property to honor or commemorate an individual.

These programs begin Jan. 15, 2019. For complete information, pricing, and an application, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/commemoration.

VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

The City Council is seeking applicants for a number of boards, commissions and committees. Takoma Park residency is required unless noted below. If you are interested in appointment, please submit the online application: bit.ly/committee-application. Feel free to drop by to observe a meeting. Meetings are listed on the City Calendar on the website. Additional information is available at takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees.

The **Arts and Humanities Commission** advises the City Council on ways in which the City might best serve the public with regard to matters involving the arts; encourages and aids the appreciation and awareness of, and participation in, the arts among all Takoma Park residents; encourages cooperation and coordination among individuals, organizations and institutions concerned with the arts in Takoma Park; and facilitates employment opportunities for artists and the development of self-sustaining arts programs. The Commission meets every other month on the fourth Thursday. Up to one-third of the members may be non-residents. **(3 vacancies)**

The **Commemoration Commission** documents, maintains, and preserves past, present, and future memorials, commemoratives, and recognitions in the City; recommends to the City Council procedures and programs to honor and commemorate individuals, organizations and businesses that have made significant contributions to the social, cultural, historical, political, economic, or civic life of the City as a whole or to a neighborhood/local area as well as programs for individuals to honor others; implement such programs within its scope and budget; and decide on recognitions after opportunity for public review and comment. The Commission usually meets the third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. **(6 vacancies)**

The **Committee on the Environment** advises the City Council on all environmental issues, including, but not limited to, stormwater management, greenhouse gas reduction, tree protection, open space conservation, biodiversity, watershed functioning and restoration, energy use, transportation, energy conservation, and recycling. The Committee meets the first Monday of the month at 7:15 p.m. **(1 vacancy)**

The **Emergency Preparedness Committee** assists in reviewing the City's Emergency Operations Plan and other supporting emergency documents and recommending changes; explores the formation of volunteer teams that can assist City in carrying out emergency activities when called upon; coordinates with the City, County, and other agencies to educate residents on their individual responsibilities in preparing for emergencies; provides information on what residents can expect from the City and County during an emergency; collects and provides research and data and comments on emergency-related events for the Council; identifies and promotes volunteer opportunities in emergencies; and advises the City on strategies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of City preparedness activities. The Committee meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. **(2 vacancies)**

The **Ethics Commission** provides written advisory opinions; investigates, hears, and decides in ethics inquiries and complaints; conducts a public education program; recommends legislative changes and improvements to the Ethics Ordinance; and promulgates regulations to accompany the Ethics Ordinance. **(2 vacancies)**

The **Facade Advisory Board** helps to ensure that facade designs and their maintenance are harmonious and consistent with the intended quality and character of the commercial areas of Takoma Park and provides guidance and assistance to commercial building and business owners

seeking permits for facade alterations, signs, and new construction work. The Board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. **(1 vacancy for a business owner in Old Town or Takoma Junction)**

The **Noise Control Board** assists and advises the City on noise control issues, including administration and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance. The Board adjudicates noise disturbance complaints. Board members serve staggered three-year terms. **(1 vacancy)**

The **Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee** oversees implementation and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act and provides public information and issues related to the Ordinance. The Committee meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. **(1 vacancy)**

The **Recreation Committee** advises the City Council on how best to serve the diverse recreation needs of Takoma Park residents, including but not limited to reviewing and recommending policies and programs that concern recreational opportunities within the City, with a special emphasis on youth and seniors and broad and diverse participation. The Committee meets the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. **(4 vacancies)**

Tree Commission: The Takoma Park Tree Commission was established to preserve, protect and promote the urban forest of Takoma Park. The Commission's activities include proposing City policies and procedures that benefit the urban forest, providing public education and outreach, and adjudicating appeals of the City Arborist's decisions on tree permit applications by conducting evidentiary hearings and applying the criteria of the Tree Ordinance. The Commission is composed of five City residents appointed to three-year terms. The Commission generally meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. **(1 vacancy)**

HOLIDAYS
From page 1

about is "Pastime with Good Company," an English folk song written by King Henry VIII in the 16th century shortly after his coronation. "This is the one of his that stood the test of time," he said. "There are some very formal songs, but also some rowdy bar songs."
One the show's youngest members, 11-year-old Alma Wong, said her favorite part of the production has been rehearsing with her stage family. "It's a lot more fun to sing the songs with your family," said Alma, a 5th grader at Sligo Creek Elementary School. "My mother in the show, she's an alto, so we fit into two different ranges. And when we sing together, it sounds really great."
While this is Alma's first Christmas

Revels, it isn't her first time on the stage. "I've done a few plays my mother directed at theater camp and ... I've done a few class plays," she said. "I just really like when the people enjoy it, that makes me happy."
Maud Taber-Thomas, 32, another Takoma Park resident, is no stranger to the Christmas Revels. This will be the local artist's fourth production, and she's particularly excited about the Elizabethan theme this year. "I love early music, and this year for a solo, I'll be singing a really cool and mysterious medieval song in Latin about unicorns and other mythical and symbolic creatures," Taber-Thomas said.
And of course, with the period comes the period costumes. "The costumes are out of this world," she said. "One year I had a costume that was from a museum in, I think, Bulgaria."
Taber-Thomas will be playing a more

upper-class member of the cast whose mother in the play is close friends with Queen Elizabeth I.
This season will also showcase the contributions of women in the arts. The cast is led by Queen Elizabeth I, played by local actress Katrina Van Duyn, and Joan and her "Rude Mechanicals," played by Sabrina Mandell from Happenstance Theater. And it's all woven together by Artistic Director Roberta Gasbarre and Music Director Elizabeth Fulford. The period-accurate costumes are also designed and built by the women of the Washington Revels Costume Shop.
Previous Christmas Revels had themes on everything from French and Celtic music to early American and Andalusian Treasures. "Luckily it's in English this year with a little Latin," Potts-Dupre said. "But in other years there's been songs in Norwegian or Spanish."

"We've sung in Turkish and Greek and German," Taber-Thomas said. "We work hard on pronunciation and the different inflections."
There's also a lot of audience participation, including singing along with the cast and the giant conga line that makes its way through the Lisner Auditorium, both inside and out. No matter what you're looking for there's something for everyone at the Christmas Revels.
"The variety of music is very fun," Potts-Dupre said. "You may not like a particular song, but it changes up as the production goes on."
Shows run from Saturday, Dec. 8, to Sunday, Dec. 16. Ticket prices range from \$12 - \$60. For more information on the Christmas Revels, visit revelsdc.org.

NEW DEPUTY
From page 1

Park and its approach to policing.
So when the Deputy Chief position became available, Williams threw his hat back in the ring. This time, he was selected and he couldn't be happier. "Takoma Park is a nice city and a beautiful area," said Williams, who currently resides in his native Baltimore.
More important than the city's aesthetics, Williams said, is the relationship between the community and the department, a situation he said is different than his previous positions.
Prior to his stint at UMB, Williams served in a pair of other academic law enforcement positions, as Chief at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and for the Baltimore City School System. Because of their unique nature, those positions differ from municipal policing, he said.
"In a university setting, everyone wants to be there, and it is little more isolated," he said. "There is greater depth and breadth in municipal policing, and you are serving a much more diverse group of people."
"I worked with people who were under some very difficult circumstances," he said of his time in Baltimore.
Williams stressed that Takoma Park is known as a community that works in partnership with the police, one of the factors that most appealed to him about the position.
"I was attracted by the City's commit-

ment to community policing and the support of the community for the police as a whole. You don't get that everywhere," he said. The relationship between the community and police is fundamental to Williams. His basic law enforcement philosophy is embodied in a quote he shared from Sir Robert Peel, Chief of the London Police Department in the 1820s and the man responsible for many law enforcement innovations that are standard procedure today (rank structure, uniforms, communication systems). Peel said, "Police are the community and the community are the police."
Dipping into history isn't surprising given Williams's academic background. He holds an Associate's degree in Law Enforcement from the Community College of Baltimore, a Bachelor's degree in

Criminal Justice from the University of Baltimore, a Master of Science degree in Management from Johns Hopkins University, and is currently a candidate for a Master of Business Administration from the University of Maryland, University College, and a Master of Divinity from the Capital Seminary and Graduate School. He is also a 2005 graduate of the FBI National Academy.
This strong belief in lifelong learning is a key component that he plans to impart on other members of the department. Williams wants to encourage and support other officers in continuing their education.
Through his studies at the seminary, Williams has come to view law enforcement as a calling. "There is a spiritual perspective to the work, especially in the

capacity of reconciliation," he said.
As to the practical component of his position as Deputy Chief, Williams will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the department, overseeing patrol, criminal investigations and administration.
When he is not at the department or in class, Williams will spend time with his wife of 31 years, two adult daughters and a 3-year-old niece whom they are adopting.
Despite his school and family commitments, Williams is raring to go on the job. "I'm very excited to be here and I look forward to engaging and strengthening existing community partnerships and building new ones," he said.
Again, retirement just doesn't suit some people.

Important City Phone Numbers

Table with 2 columns: City Department, Phone Number. Rows include City Information, City Clerk, City Manager, City TV, Finance, Housing & Community Development, Library, Police, Public Works, Recreation/Facilities Rental.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER
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Assistant: Sean Gossard
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CITY COUNCIL ACTION
From page 2

members, to nine to 11 members. The term expiration for members was changed from October 31 to August 31. By the resolution, the Council agreed that at least one member should be appointed from each ward, and the Council committed to actively recruit and appoint members from the traditionally under-represented Wards 4, 5, and 6. The following young people were appointed to the Youth Council: George Ashford (Ward 2), Elliot Davey (Ward 1), Mintesinot Getachew (Ward 6), Adelaide Harris (Ward 2), Asha Henry (Ward 6), Jason Kaplan (Ward 1), Kiran Kochar McCabe (Ward 6), Eliza Van Camp (Ward 5), Kamilla Sorenson (Ward 3), and Rafayel

Charkoudian Rogers (Ward 2). With these appointments, there is still one vacancy for a resident of Ward 4.
Other appointment resolutions were adopted on Nov. 7: Resolution 2018-53 appointed Mark Dusseau (Ward 5) to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs; Resolution 2018-54 reappointed Sharon Cohen (Ward 3) to the Committee on the Environment and appointed Seth Maughan (Ward 2) and Elizabeth Thompson (Ward 3); Resolution 2018-55 appointed Simeon P. Tarawali (Ward 4) to the Grants Review Committee and reappointed Anand Parikh (Ward 1) and Susan Rosenblum (Ward 3); Resolution 2018-56 appointed Clifford Schwartz (Ward 2) to the Noise Control Board; and, Resolution 2018-57 appointed Nicholas Rozek (Ward 4) to the Ethics Commission.



BUILDING COMMUNITY



**COLTA'S
CORNER**

**By Moses A. Wilds, Jr.,
Landlord-Tenant Mediation Specialist**

Mulugeta v. Terra Nova Enterprises/Mapleview Apartments LLC

Bravin v. Bae & Streamline Management LLC

The tenant filed a complaint with the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) on May 2, 2018, alleging that his landlord improperly failed to return a portion of his security deposit and all accrued interest. The tenant sought the return of the security deposit plus punitive damages. The landlord asserted that the tenant was responsible for damage caused during the tenancy. The landlord

also claimed that he/she attempted the timely return of the tenant's security deposit. COLTA heard the complaint on July 31, 2018.

On Sept. 28, 2018, COLTA issued a decision on the complaint, having made the following findings:

1. The landlord failed to send the tenant a written list of the damages to the tenant's last known address.
2. The landlord failed to send the tenant an accounting of his security deposit within 45 days of the end of the tenant's tenancy.
3. The tenant's punitive damages claim was denied since there was no evidence indicating that the landlord withheld the damages from the security deposit without a reasonable basis.

The landlord was ordered to refund \$896.57 to the tenant (The landlord had previously returned \$645.18 to the tenant.). The landlord complied with the order.

Rental Housing License Renewals Deadline: Dec. 31, 2018

Owners and managers of rental housing properties in Takoma Park with licenses expiring Dec. 31, 2018, should have received a letter to renew their rental licenses. The letter contains instructions for renewing online and information on how to pay the annual licensing fee.

The online renewal process takes a few minutes to complete. This process gives you the opportunity to review the information on file for you and your property and to provide updates for those items that have changed. If you do not have access to a computer and internet or just need a little help getting completing the process, you are welcome and encouraged to visit us in the Housing and Community Development (HCD) office located at 7500 Maple Avenue. We have a computer dedicated for use by owners and managers who are com-

pleting renewals. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Once your renewal application is submitted and licensing fee received, HCD staff will verify that your property has a successful inspection on record for the previous licensing period and that your landlord certification is current. If everything is in place, your new annual or biennial license will be issued right away. If there is an unmet requirement, we will contact you so that you can complete the missing item(s).

If your license is due for renewal and you have not yet received the reminder, or if you have questions about the renewal process or rental housing licensing in general, please contact HCD by email at housing@takomaparkmd.gov or by telephone at 301-891-7119.

LED streetlights approved: City taking its biggest step yet to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

After many years of extensive research, pilot projects, expert consultations and public discussion, the Takoma Park City Council voted unanimously at its Oct. 24, 2018 meeting to move forward with replacing 1,505 streetlights with new high-efficiency LED streetlights. The new LED streetlight fixtures will save the City up to \$100,000 per year while also significantly reducing light pollution and municipal carbon emissions.

Pepco has ordered the new fixtures, and installation is expected to begin this month. Due to the number of fixtures being replaced, it is likely installation will continue through the first few months of 2019. The City will post up to date information on the project and implementation timeline at takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/streetlight-update-project.

Mayor Kate Stewart said of the decision, "Today we take a huge step forward as a community in fighting climate change and reducing our energy consumption. Converting all of our streetlights to LED is the equivalent of eliminating 912,031 miles driven by car, each year. This project will also reduce our light pollution, increase public safety and save us money. Making this switch has been a community effort and is an example of our long-standing commitment to sustainability and innovation."

The City currently pays approximately \$233,000 per year for its streetlights; \$180,000 is paid to Pepco for maintenance and operation, taxes and fees; \$53,000 is paid to WGL for the electricity use (100% Wind). Based on Pepco's calculations, the reduction in energy use and maintenance



Hickory Ave. LED fixture

costs will result in annual savings of up to \$100,000. The overall cost of the conversion project is expected to be \$372,000, and the City anticipates a \$260,000 rebate from the Empower Maryland Program, leaving the total cost to the City at just \$112,000. Based on the projected annual savings, the program will "pay for itself" in less than two years.

Pepco, which owns and maintains the City's streetlights, is equally excited about the project.

"We are pleased to partner with Takoma Park in taking these important steps that will result in lower streetlighting costs and provide a safer environment for the local community," said Jerry Pasternak, Pepco Maryland Region vice president of governmental and external affairs. "LED streetlight technology is one of the many ways Pepco is advancing innovative technologies that are transforming the future energy experience for our customers."

The LED streetlight fixtures selected



Flower Ave. LED fixture

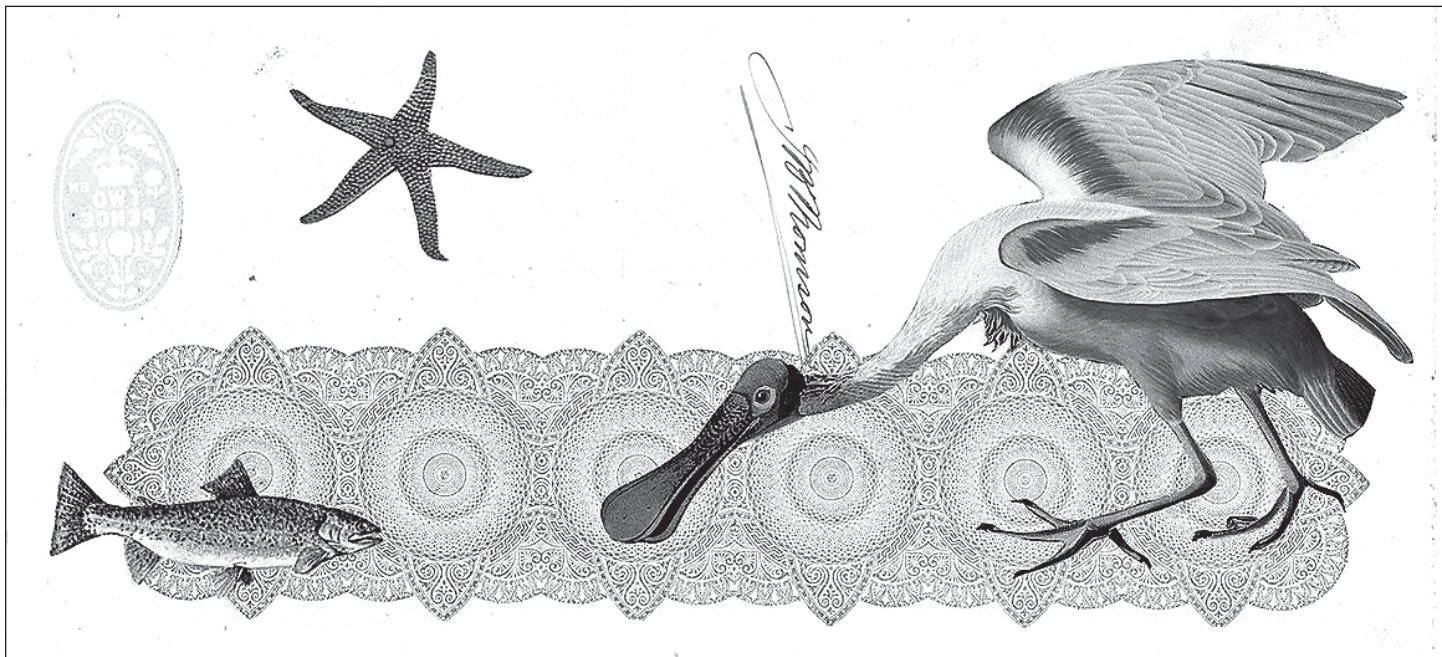
for Takoma Park's project are 3,000K and will range in wattage from 24 Watts for residential streets to 135 Watts in high

traffic commercial areas. All of the fixtures will be International Dark Sky Association certified, reducing light pollution in the City. The new LED streetlight fixtures were selected taking into account the Illumination Engineering Society of North American (IES) guidelines for illumination levels and will help create more uniform lighting at the street and sidewalk level, correcting areas that are currently over or under lit. Pepco is also providing additional field-installable shields to address instances where light from the new streetlight fixtures is found to shine directly into the windows of adjacent properties. Once installation is complete, if residents would like to request the additional shielding, they can contact Public Works at 301-891-7633 or publicworks@takomaparkmd.gov.



Lee Howard (pictured next to Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart) led Cub Scout Pack 33 in a Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 12 in the pocket park across from the library. The scouts laid a wreath and observed a moment of silence. Pack 33 was founded in 1939 and will celebrate 80 years in Takoma Park next year.

THE ARTS



Artwork by Alexandra Sherman

Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale Returns for 13th Year

Dec. 8, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event

Why shop for holiday gifts in a mall or on Amazon when you can support local artists and our creative community?

The 13th annual Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale makes that goal easy and affordable with more than 30 local artists and artisans gathered at the Takoma Park Community Center on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Unlike some art



Jewelry by Kate Gibney

sales, there is no admission fee, and you will find a broad array of creative gifts for your friends and family (and yourself!), including paintings, pottery, photography, handmade clothes, jewelry, toys and more.

The Holiday Art Sale has become a tradition in Takoma Park that has expanded into a juried competitive event featuring vendors from across the D.C. area, according to photographer Rob Ru-



Pottery by Susan Woolen

dick, who started the art sale 13 years ago with Sara Daines, director of the City of Takoma Park's Housing and Community Development Department. "I like getting all of these great artists together," Rudick said. "It's really exciting when everyone is in the community center and their work is up."

The City of Takoma Park's Arts and Humanities Commission hosts the art sale each year to support the local artist

community. City staff also organize many events throughout the year at the Takoma Park Community Center in the *We Are Takoma* series, including art exhibitions, film screenings, lectures, poetry readings, concerts, and theater. There is more information about our upcoming events at www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts, and you can sign up for the weekly *We Are Takoma* e-newsletter at bit.ly/2B5YRRu.

The art sale represents as many different mediums as possible. "We have some vendors who come back every year, but we also look for new vendors so there is something new every time," Rudick said. "I talk it up all year long."

During the Holiday Art Sale, the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library will hold their fundraiser where people can support the library by buying new or used books at low prices.



Artwork by Hannah Root

At the Intersection of Race, Sports, and Law Lecture

Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event

Sports are both a pastime and obsession for many Americans and an arena for athletes that dangles the lure of fame and fortune at the risk of injury and obscurity. Sports are a mirror of our society that reflects beyond the playing field into politics, race, and other hot-button issues.

In a lively discussion, American University law professor Jeremi Duru and local poet and political activist Ethelbert Miller will talk about exploitation of athletes, physical trauma, taking a knee during the national anthem and the economics of sports in the context of race and youth athletics. George Washington University law professor Ralph Steinhardt will moderate the event organized by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

The Liberation

Documentary Film Screening

Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event

In the Culinary Training Program of D.C. Central Kitchen, 25 recovering addicts, former drug dealers, recently released felons and homeless people are working through a three-month program in pursuit of a new life. Follow the transformative stories of three trainees who put everything on the line for the chance to turn knife skills into life skills.

Film director Christoph Green will lead a Q&A with the audience after the screening. He has co-produced and directed many music-related films for artists such as Pearl Jam, Eddie Vedder, The Shins and Wilco.

RECREATION

YOUTH



Summer Day Camp registration begins February 4 for City residents.

Be sure to check out our
Summer Camp brochure
for details.

DANCE



Pre Ballet

Pre Ballet for ages 5–6 emphasizes learning basic ballet vocabulary, movement patterns and musicality in a creative movement. By introducing students to the basic shapes, positions, postures & traditions of classical ballet, the Pre-Ballet curriculum enhanced both cognitive and physical development at this important time. Instructor: Edurama

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
3–6 years
8 Week Session
Sundays, 3–3:45 p.m.
January 6–March 10
(No class 1/20)
Resident: \$85 / Non-resident: \$95



Creative Dance

Students will learn the importance of creative movement and choreographic tools in order to create their own dance. Students will participate in routine warm ups and stretches. Students will participate in student-led performances. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Takoma Park Community Center
Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
5–12 years
12 week session
Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.
January 10–March 28
Resident: \$85 / Non-resident: \$105

TRIPS

Fun Day to Sky Zone

Join us for a day of fun while school is closed for a trip to SkyZone to jump on trampolines. Space is limited, sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of program. Participants must pack a lunch, snack and water bottle.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Azalea Room
5–12 years
Monday, January 28
8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
Resident: \$40 / Non-resident: \$50



For a complete list of offerings, check out the Winter City Guide inserted in this issue of the Newsletter! Program Registration for Winter programs begins Dec. 14 at 8:30 a.m. for Residents and Dec. 21 at 8:30 a.m. for Non-residents.

Look for the star symbols to find all of our new classes!



TEENS

ART

Nail Flare

Have you ever wanted to be able to do your nails and have them look like they were professionally done? If so, this is the class for you. There are a number of different nail art techniques you can use to create unique designs on your natural nail. This class will teach you proper nail maintenance as well as design techniques, such as stamping, sponging, dotting, decals and drawing. Registration is required.

Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Fridays, 3:30–5 p.m.
January 17–March 7
Free

DROP-IN

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
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
Friday, 5–7 p.m.
December 21
Free



Class Review

Ariel Rothman with Crossroads Food Network was our instructor for the Healthy Cooking Class. Zion Frost, Zoie Frost and Samantha Frey had a great time each week learning a variety of healthy recipes and tasting their masterpieces. Watch for more great classes in the Winter season. Program registration opens Dec. 14 for Takoma Park residents.

Teen Lounge

This special room is for TEENS only (Middle School and High School students). You are welcome to watch two 50-inch and one 70-inch LED SMART TVs. We also have X-Box One and Wii Games, workstations, board games and comfy sitting areas for socializing with friends. Come join us after school for fun and laughs and on special events for an amazing time.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Ongoing
Monday–Friday: 3–7 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed
Free

Xpression Tuesdays

Allow your imagination and creative juices to come alive on Tuesdays in the Teen Lounge. Join the Teen Division Staff as you express yourself through art. Create pieces that you can take home or give as a gift. We are always

looking for more ideas of ways to create and express ourselves.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Ongoing
Tuesdays, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
Free

MULTI MEDIA



Photography 101

We are constantly taking photos, but they don't come out the way we imagined. In this class, learn the intros to photography as an art form that will help you step up your photography game. The class will cover the following topics: shooting manual on your DSLR, rules of composition, portrait photography, object photography, landscape photography, posing 101, editing your photos, using natural light vs. non natural light, composition and turning your phone into a camera. Instructor: Vinny Mwano

Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
12–18
8 Week Session
Tuesdays, 6–7 p.m.
January 8–February 26
Resident: \$75 / Non-resident: \$85

TRIPS

Dave N Buster's and Movie Trip

Join the Teen Program as we head to the movies, and afterwards we'll go over to Dave N Busters in Downtown Silver Spring for a little healthy competition.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge (meeting location)
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Monday, January 28
11 a.m.–4 p.m.
Resident: \$10 / Non-resident: \$20

Snow-Tubing Trip

Grab your hat, scarf and gloves and join us for an evening in the snow as we head to Liberty Mountain in Pennsylvania to go snow tubing. Race down one of ten tubing lanes solo, or link up with a friend. During a break from snow tubing, hang inside the lodge and have a hot cup of cocoa. It's your day, so have fun the way you like. No experience necessary. Bus will depart from Takoma Park Community Center.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge (meeting location)
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Friday, January 25
2–8 p.m.
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35

Teens - Save the Date
Black College Expo • March 16
Bowie State University • Pre-registration required.

ADULTS

DANCE

Mindful Movement
What happens when you combine meditation, dance and yoga together? Mindful Movement! This class is for dancers and non-dancers alike. Using creative movement and principles from different dance styles, we will explore and observe, through sensing and moving, our mind-and-body connection to bring awareness and creative freedom to the wonderful world of your body. Expect free dancing, some technical elements of dance (e.g. African, jazz, contemporary, modern), breathing techniques, meditative stretching and lots of insight and fun. Whether you want to view your body with more compassion and understanding, learn to properly stretch and tone or you want to gain dancing insight and creativity, this class is for you. Instructor: Beth Mwano
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
16 years and older
6 Week Session
Saturdays, 12:45–2 p.m.
January 12-March 2
Resident: \$85 / Non-resident: \$95

FITNESS

Total Body Tabata
A form of high intensity interval training (HIIT). It consists of eight rounds of ultra-high-intensity exercises in a specific 20 seconds on, 10 seconds off interval. This class encompasses upper body, lower body, balance, core and flexibility. Just a short workout will leave you sweaty, full of energy and ready to take on your packed schedule. Instructor: Kimberly James



Instructors needed
(to teach Grades 6–12)

Seasonal, Year Round, Flexible, Afternoon/Evening Preferred
The Recreation Department is seeking instructors to facilitate a variety of classes for Grades 6–12. Current instruction is needed for drama, SAT Prep, STEAM, job training, dance, art, etc. For more information, please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
16 years and older
6 Week Session
Sundays, 1–2 p.m.
January 13-March 3
Resident: \$85 / Non-resident: \$95
(No class 1/20 & 2/17)

MULTI MEDIA
Photography 101

We are constantly taking photos but they don't come out the way we imagined. In this class, learn the intros to photography as an art form and help you step up your photography

game. The class will cover the following topics: shooting manual on your DSLR, rules of composition, portrait photography, object photography, landscape photography, posing 101, editing your photos, using natural light vs. non natural light, composition and turning your phone into a camera. Instructor: Vinny Mwano
Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
19 and older
8 Week Session
Tuesdays, 7:15–8:15 p.m. January 8-February 26
Resident: \$75 / Non-resident: \$85

Photography- Intermediate
It's time to pick up the camera you gave up on and learn how to improve your DSLR Skills. How do we take better photos using your DSLR? We are taking photos but they don't come out the way we imagined. In this class learn how to master your DSLR. The instructor will give you a set of formulas that will allow you to use photography as an art form and help you step up your photography game. The class will cover the following topics: shooting manual on your DSLR, staging, editing, night and action photography, studio lights photography, including backdrop; portrait photography and product photography. Instructor: Vinny Mwano

Check out Fitness classes at the Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Avenue

Karate Self-Defense
Ladies Boot Camp
Pilates
Zumba


Look at the Winter City Guide for more details!

Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
19 and older
8 Week Session
Mondays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.
January 7-March 11
Resident: \$75 / Non-resident: \$85

Video Production and Editing
From pre-production techniques to properly videotaping with any device and techniques of editing, learn the art of video production. Instructor: Isaac Asare
Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
16 years and older
5 Week Session
Thursdays, 6–8 p.m.
January 10-February 7
Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$180

Bingo & Blood Pressure Screening!

Tuesday, Jan. 22
Starting at 11:30 a.m.
TPCC, Senior Room



あ Exercise classes at the recreation center

Now that the weather is becoming less than ideal, exercising outside will be more of a challenge. Here are a few options you may want to consider: Karate, Zumba, Ladies Bootcamp or Teen Fitness. Each of these classes is held at the Takoma Park Recreation Center on New Hampshire Avenue.
The practice of martial arts not only boosts physical fitness and teaches self-defense skills, it also improves discipline, focus, confidence and mindfulness. Classes typically cover basic kicking and punching techniques, kata and some sparring drills. Students can expect to be encouraged to challenge themselves while in class. You will have the opportunity to take advantage of more than 40 years of combined instructor experience. As a result of taking this class, students said they felt stronger, more agile and confident. You are welcome to observe the class. Stop by the Takoma Park Recreation Center on Mondays or Wednesdays between 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. The Isshin-Ryu Karate Club has been practicing at the center since 2008.
Looking for an upbeat exciting class that will get your heart rate going? You may want to try our Zumba class. Laura Stewart is a certified Zumba instructor with more than four years of experience. A combination of Merengue, Cumbia, Soca and Reggaeton dance moves, along



with some upbeat Latin style music, will move you through the class and make you forget you are exercising. "I love this class," said Debbie Gibbs, a long-time student. "The music, the instructor and the convenience of the location are the reasons I keep coming back." Laura will cue you through the workout, so you will know exactly which way to turn and travel. Bring your energy and feel free to sing along to the music and have fun while you burn calories and make new friends.

Ladies Bootcamp is one of the best classes at the Recreation Center. This class is led by a professional trainer, Tony Sharpe from KJ Fitness. Tony has been a trainer for more than 10 years. He will start you off with a dynamic warm up and some indirect stretching. Leg, core and upper body exercises will follow. Some exercises are body-part focused, and others will work the total body. Tony will finish the class with a cool-down session to bring your heart rate back down. Teri Tucker, a faithful

student said, "The comradery between classmates is the best thing about the class. It's like a family." She loves the way the ladies motivate and encourage one another through the challenging workout.
Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 years old are eligible to join our Teen Fitness class. Stop by the Takoma Park Recreation Center on Mondays at 6 p.m., and our staff will be happy to assist you through a workout. If you are trying to be a part of your school or community team, this class will help you get in shape, improve your footwork and build strength. Exercises using your own body weight by doing pushups, sit ups and dips is a staple of this class along with other challenging exercises that include our floor ladder and hurdles.
Please feel free to stop by the Recreation Center and take a class or sign up for our Fitness Room. Just stop by the front desk, and a staff member will be happy to assist you. There is a complete listing of classes in the enclosed Winter City Guide. Registration for most classes begins Friday, Dec. 14 for Takoma Park Residents and Friday, Dec. 21 for Non-residents. We look forward to seeing you at the Takoma Park Recreation Center located at 7315 New Hampshire Avenue.

LIBRARY



Photo: Bill Jenkins World of Music (billjenkinsmusic.com)

Bill Jenkins interacts with young musicians during one of the many programs he facilitates in the community.

A trio of holiday events

We've got three great holiday-themed events in December. First up is the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library's Holiday Book Sale on Saturday, Dec. 8. See the article on this page for more information.

Next, on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 3 p.m., local musician Wendy Lanxner and her guitar students will lead our annual Holiday Sing-a-Long. As always, we'll be singing songs of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. All ages welcome!

Finally, on Thursday, Dec. 20, we'll host

our yearly celebration of the Winter Solstice. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. when local musician Bill Jenkins leads everyone in a drumming circle. He provides the drums, and the audience provides the beat! Then, at 7:30 p.m., the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will swoop in with the songs, dances and high spirits. Our program is great for all ages, and you can feel free to come for some or all of it. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring our program.

Holiday Book Sale

Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library (FTPML) will hold its annual holiday book sale from **10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Dec. 8** in the Takoma Park Community Center. Gift-quality children's and adult books will be on offer. These are just published, never-read books that you will want for holiday giving. Come early for best selection.

The sale will coincide with the city's Holiday Art Sale, also in the Community Center. For more book sale information, write to ftpml.org/contact.

All FTPML sale proceeds benefit the Takoma Park Maryland Library and are dedicated entirely to library programs and resources. When you shop the FTPML sale, you win, the library wins, and so does the Takoma Park community. See you there!



A young reader enjoys the FTPML annual holiday book sale.

CALENDAR

Circle Time

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

Spanish Circle Time

Thursdays, 10:15–10:45 a.m. OR 11–11:30 a.m.
Led by Senora Geiza

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Saturday, Dec. 1, 10:30 a.m.
Madame Marie leads songs and rhymes in French.

LEGO Club

Sunday, Dec. 2, 1:30–3 p.m.
Building fun for ages 3–10.

Caldecott Club

Monday, Dec. 3, 7 p.m.
Join us for a look at some possible contenders for the 2019 Caldecott Medal. Lemonade and cookies served.

Bedtime Stories & a Craft

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.
Join Ms. Kati for some bedtime fun.

Friends "Big Book" Club

Wednesday Dec. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Discussion of *The Biblical Book of Genesis*
Takoma Park Community Center

Sports, Law & Race: A Conversation

Thursday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Join us for a wide-ranging, provocative discussion on sports by a panel of leading literary and legal voices. The program is sponsored by the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library and We Are Takoma.
Takoma Park Community Center auditorium

Holiday Book Sale

Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Come purchase some gift-quality children's & adult books.

Picture Book Author Dave Engledow

Monday, Dec. 10, 7 p.m.
Engledow, a Takoma Park resident, will present his newest picture book, *The Little Girl Who Wanted to Be Big*.

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Dec. 11, 4 p.m.
Join Dave Burbank for our fun comics book club.

Holiday Sing-a-Long

Saturday, Dec. 15, 3 p.m.
Join local musician Wendy Lanxner and her guitar students in singing songs of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa.

Kids Art

Sunday, Dec. 16, 2–3 p.m.

WinterQuest Kick-Off

Monday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
Spice up your winter reading by registering for our annual WinterQuest reading program!
Note: You can register anytime over the holidays; we'll have a WinterQuest wrap-up party on Monday, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Thursday, Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m.
Our program begins with a drumming circle led by local musician Bill Jenkins. At 7:30, the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will swoop in with songs, dances and high spirits. Come for some or all of this fun yearly tradition! Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring our program.

Alternative Games

Sunday, Dec. 30, 2–4 p.m.
Join Library Associate Dave Burbank for our monthly games program for ages 8 up. Registration required; to register, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

Coming Up....

- **Mock Caldecott for Adults, Sat. Jan. 12, 1–4 p.m.** Join us for a discussion of some great possibilities for the 2019 Caldecott Medal.
- **Drawing Fantastic Beasts & Magical Hogwarts Creatures, Sun. Jan. 13, 2–4 p.m.** Led by local artist Kate Lanxner and open to kids ages 9–14. Spaces are limited, so registration is required for this program; to register, go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

- **WinterQuest reading program:** Get ready to do some great reading over the holidays! Our fifth annual WinterQuest reading program will kick off on Monday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. At our kick-off, Library Associate and WinterQuest creator Dave Burbank will introduce this year's story and reading challenges, and audience members can register for the program. If you can't make it that night, no worries – you can register anytime. Our WinterQuest program will conclude with a wrap-up party on Monday, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m., complete with lemonade, cupcakes and free books. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring WinterQuest.
- **Dave Engledow's latest book:** Picture book creator Dave Engledow will present his newest book, *The Little Girl Who Wanted to Be Big*, on Monday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. Engledow, a Takoma Park resident, illustrates his



books with cleverly manipulated, humorous digital photographs starring his young daughter Alice, who also starred in Engledow's first book, *The Little Girl Who Didn't Want to Go to Bed*. In its review of the newest book, *Kirkus* called it "big on visual appeal." Politics & Prose will be selling copies of Engledow's books, but our event is free, and no purchase is required.

- **Caldecott's coming:** Mark your calendars for two Caldecott-related events in January! First, our monthly Caldecott Club will choose our "winner" for the 2019 Caldecott Medal on Monday, Jan. 7. We'll re-read each of our nine previous monthly winners and then vote on our favorite. Lemonade and cookies will be served, as always. Then, on Saturday, Jan. 12, from 1–4 p.m., we'll host our fifth annual Mock Caldecott for Adults. At this event, we'll read and discuss 12–15 books that are Caldecott possibilities and then vote on our favorite. We'll have snacks, lemonade

LIBRARY BRIEFS

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2018 Safe Grow Photo Contest winners announced

Congratulations go out to the 2018 Safe Grow Photo Contest Winners Alan Henney (first place), Cynthia Terrell (second place) and Joe Edgell (third place)! They were recognized by the City Council at its Nov. 14 meeting. The photo contest, first launched last summer, challenges Takoma Park residents to submit pictures, which best represent what it means to live in a Safe Grow city.

More than 30 photos were submitted, 15 moved on to the public voting, and these three ultimately captured the beauty of having a Safe Grow community. The winners all received Safe Grow Zone yard flags to display in their yards to raise awareness of Takoma Park's Safe Grow Zone.

Stay tuned for more information about the 2019 Safe Grow Photo Contest, which will be available on the City's website and social media channels @TakomaParkMD.



Above, Alan Henney - First Place
Below left, Cynthia Terrell - Second Place
Below right, Joe Edgell - Third Place



CREATE Arts exhibited at the Takoma Park Street Festival.

CREATE Arts brings art to schools, joy to kids

By Kevin Adler

It's a cliché to say that art can change a person's life. But that's exactly what CREATE Arts has been doing for more than 30 years, both through its programs in Silver Spring and by bringing arts education into local schools.

This year, CREATE's smART Kids program is being offered at four area elementary schools, including Takoma Park Elementary, where the program is supported by a \$5,000 grant from the City of Takoma Park.

smART Kids is an after-school program for 8-10 students, who are supervised and by art teachers in a series of projects over 2-3 months. "We take at-risk kids as identified by the school's teachers and counselor, and we bring them together," said Linda Marson, executive director of CREATE Arts. "They benefit from developing critical thinking skills, working together in a group, and the success of completing something. It's an attainable success, and it's also just fun for them."

Art class is one day per week after school, usually for 90 minutes. CREATE Arts brings in all the supplies, whether it's for scrapbooking, self-portraits or ceramics (which are fired back at the CREATE Arts Center). Some projects are highly collaborative, such as building miniature theaters and holding performances. Designing a t-shirt is a perennial favorite.

The teachers have flexibility in the projects they lead, but they have well-defined plans for the life lessons they are delivering—along with the clay mug for grandma. "This is a carefully thought-out program," Marson said.

The impact is measurable, said Takoma Elementary ESOL teacher Donna Moran, who said staff and parents see the students' work at the end of each program. "We select kids who might otherwise not have a chance

to take an after-school class or club," she said. "They get to see another side of themselves, where they can excel. They gain confidence. And teachers tell us that they notice it often translates into the classroom."

smART Kids also is at East Silver Spring Elementary and Arcola Elementary and soon will be at Highland Elementary. "We'd love to expand it," Marson said.

But she and three colleagues (Lauren Lay, Gwendolyn Short and Allie Berg) already have a lot on their plates. CREATE was launched to provide the elderly and people with mental disabilities (ranging from autism to depression) with art therapy, and that's still its core mission. Six art therapists work with individuals and groups on projects in the brightly lit art space and gallery that CREATE moved into this summer. "It's people of all ages, and they come for all reasons," Marson said.

At other times, CREATE fills up with its popular No School Day Camps and summer programs, or families come for special events. "We had a Halloween Art Spooktacular with pumpkins and decorating supplies. It was a full house – just great," said Marson.

This fall CREATE added evening art classes for adults. "We have true teaching artists leading these classes," Marson said. Plus, she partnered with The Pearl Apartments in Silver Spring for an adults-only "sip-and-paint evening" that was so popular they've been asked to do it at another apartment complex.

Sometimes, CREATE goes on the road, such as to the Takoma Park StreetFest in Takoma Park, where it offered children a chance to make paper "leaves" for a tree (see photo). As Marson noted, "We're all about reaching out to the community and building partnerships."

LIBRARY BRIEFS

■ From page 8

and seltzer to keep us going, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Kids are welcome to observe, but this event is for adults only. Registration strongly encouraged as those registered

for the program by Dec. 15 will be able to participate in a poll where we choose the 12-15 books that we will discuss.

To register, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents. For more information, please contact Karen MacPherson, children's & teen services coordinator at karenm@takomaparkmd.gov.

RECREATION

■ From page 7

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Computer Basics

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

Takoma Park Community Center
Computer Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
55 years and older
3 Week Session
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 pm.
January 30-February 13
\$10 (Plus a Takoma Park Library Card)

Computer Extras

Take your computer skills to the next level. In these three classes, experiment with social media and master the calendar and other computer/smart device apps. Learn what to do with all those pictures in your mailbox. Bring your questions! You need a Takoma Park Library card to access the computers. Registration with the Recreation Department is required. Instructor: Anne Leveque

Takoma Park Community Center
Computer Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
55 years and older
3 Week Session
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 pm.
March 6-March 20
\$10 (Plus a Takoma Park Library Card)



CHECK OUT ALL THE GREAT FITNESS & SPORTS CLASSES WE OFFER:

- Bone Builders
- Cardio Groove
- Enhanced Fitness Training
- NEW ★ Full Body Flex
- Full Body Fusion
- Gentle Yoga
- Heart and Core
- Line Dancing
- Tai Chi Strength (Morning or Afternoon)
- Zumba Gold
- Table Tennis Skills (Ping Pong)
- Tennis Fun & Fitness

Look at the Winter City Guide for more details on these classes!



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Oct. 31, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Montgomery County Fire and Rescue personnel assigned to the station have responded to 507 fire-related incidents in 2018. The department also addressed or assisted with 2,520 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 3,027. Totals for 2017 were 438 and 2,532, representing an increase of 57 incidents.

During October, Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 11,800.5 hours of standby hours in the station compared to 14,897.5 in October 2017, a decrease of 4,038 hours.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of Nov. 28, 57 people have died in fires compared to 64 in 2017.

Safety tips for a safe Christmas & New Year

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut one to two inches from the base of the tree.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source.
- Add water in the tree stand, and be sure to check the water level daily.
- Discard lights with bare wires, frays or kinks.

- When the tree starts losing the needles or drying out, it's time to take it down and move it outside away from the house until pick up time.
- **New Year's Fire Safety Tips**
 - Have working smoke alarms on all levels of the home, including occupied bedrooms; test them monthly.
 - Create a family fire escape plan and practice it on a monthly basis.

TPVFD needs toys

The Takoma Park VFD will start its 38th year collecting toys for needy children. TPVFD will be collecting toys until Dec. 22. If you have new or like-new toys, you may drop them off at the fire station or tree lot. Families needing assistance with toys (10 and under only), please contact the fire station at 240-773-8954.



TPVFD Christmas Tree Sale

The hours for the tree lot are: Mon. – Thur., 12 to 8 p.m.; Fri - 12 to 10 p.m.; Sat - Sun 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. The tree lot is located in the TPSS Co-op parking lot at Carroll and Ethan Avenues.



"Stop the Bleed": Be the help until help arrives

By Claudine Schweber, co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC)

Having Happy Holidays could mean you helped someone stay alive. Did you know that you have the power to help someone from bleeding to death? Yes, you can stop the bleed.

Uncontrolled bleeding is the number one cause of preventable death from trauma. Therefore, the sooner severe bleeding is controlled, the greater the chance someone has of surviving. The "Stop the Bleed" training program was created by the American College of Surgeons, federal agencies and military personnel in the aftermath of the 2012 Sandy Hook shooting to train community members to enhance survival after mass casualties and active shooter events.

This training has been attended by emergency preparedness persons, police and fire departments, high school students, and community members. The

campaign to spread the awareness and training about basic actions to stop life-threatening bleeding continues so that the members of the public can take action and make a difference in the case of every day emergencies, shootings, and natural and man-made disasters. Advances in military medicine and research in hemorrhage control provide the basis of the information in the training course. For more information, visit www.bleedingcontrol.org.

What can we in Takoma Park do? Take the one-hour training course on how you can control severe bleeding offered by The Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee. This course offers a video plus hands on experience in the ABC's of bleeding control: A – Alert, B – find the Bleeding injury; C – Compression (apply pressure). And of course, call 911.



Controlling Severe Bleeding

Dec. 15, 2.30–4 p.m.

Instructor: Satchel Kornfeld, EMT
TP Community Center Azalea room
English language

Additional classes will be offered beginning March 2019.

Sign up at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov, or call 301-891-7126 and leave your name, Takoma Park ward number, email address and phone number. You must be 16 or older to participate.

This training includes practice in cleaning a wound, using a tourniquet, stuffing a wound and using of gauze. The course includes information on personal safety and protection for the helper, use of gloves and the protections via the Good Samaritan Law. The course is taught by Satchel Kornfeld, a volunteer EMT in Montgomery County for five years, an EPC member and a qualified instructor. Class members receive certificates of completion at the end of the session.



As you know, we have had too many shootings recently in addition to accidents and other injuries. Don't wait. Be the help until help arrives.

Questions about Emergency Preparedness? Contact us at the above email address or phone number. Listen at WOOD-LP/94.3 "Talk of Takoma" on the first Sunday of the month at 1 pm. Find other columns online at takomaparkmd.gov/news/newsletter about fire safety, high rise preparedness, technology security and more.



EMT Master Jorge Alfaro was promoted to EMS Lieutenant on Nov. 7. Chief Tom Musgrove presented him with his certificate of promotion. Congratulations!



HELP LOCAL FAMILIES IN NEED
PARTNER WITH THE TAKOMA PARK POLICE FOR
PACK THE PATROL CAR!

FROM TODAY THROUGH DECEMBER 24, WE ARE COLLECTING UNWRAPPED TOYS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS BETWEEN 2-12 YEARS OLD. WE ARE ALSO ACCEPTING MONETARY DONATIONS TO SHOP FOR KIDS IN NEED.



PLEASE DROP OFF TOYS AND/OR MONETARY DONATIONS AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, 7500 MAPLE AVENUE, TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND 20912

IF YOU KNOW OF A FAMILY IN THE COMMUNITY IN NEED, PLEASE SEND THE NAME OF THE CHILD(REN), GENDER/AGE AND ADDRESS TO CATHYP@TAKOMAPARKMD.GOV FOR THEIR CHANCE TO RECEIVE A GIFT DELIVERED ON DECEMBER 25 FROM A POLICE OFFICER.

PLEASE VISIT THE ADMINISTRATIVE DESK TO DROP OFF GIFTS/DONATIONS TO A POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEE

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.

Understanding Your Property Assessment Notice

OMG – looks like our property assessment went up 40%, how will we pay our taxes?!

Quick Answer: It may or may not change the amount you owe in taxes because:

- Any increase in assessment is phased in over three years.
- There is a 10% increase cap for owner-occupied residential properties in Takoma Park after the first year of ownership if you have filed for the Homestead Property Tax Credit.
- The amount of tax to be paid depends on the amount of the combined tax rates set by the State, County and City each year in the spring; the rates for County and City taxes change each year, sometimes increasing and sometimes decreasing.
- There may be credits available to reduce the amount of tax owed for a particular property.

Owners of property in the Takoma Park area will be receiving updated property assessment notices from the State of Maryland in December. Assessments are done every three years. The full amount of the assessment is not necessarily the same amount upon which tax rates are computed, particularly for owner-occupied residential properties. Tax rates are not set until the City and County Councils adopt their respective rates next May. Frequently when assessments go up, tax rates go down, as Councilmembers consider the impact of tax payment amounts on their constituents. Read below for more info!

Q: What is an assessment notice?

A: The assessment notice issued by the Department of Assessments and Taxation informs the property owners of the relationship between the old and new market value. Of all the figures on the notice, the single most important figure is the total new fair market value. This is the new appraisal estimate of both land and buildings (improvements). The new fair market value shown on the notice may be appealed (see below for more in this). Appeal deadlines and instructions are provided with the notice.

Q: How is the assessed value determined?

A: An assessment is based on an appraisal of the fair market value of the property. An appraisal is an estimate of value. Assessors are the appraisers who estimate the value of the property for tax purposes. Assessors are trained to use standard appraisal approaches and techniques to determine the appraisal estimate. There are three accepted approaches to market value: (1) the sales approach, (2) the cost approach, and (3) the income approach. While differing in the method of calculation, each approach is designed to indicate the property's fair market value.

Q: How does my assessed value impact the taxes I pay?

A: Real property tax rates are set each year by the Montgomery County Council and the Takoma Park City Council. Property tax is an *ad valorem* tax, meaning it is ap-

plied to the assessed value of the property. The real property tax is levied annually on all taxable land and improvements. Real property tax is calculated by multiplying a property's assessed value by the established tax rates (per \$100). This must be done for both the County's tax rate and the City's to equal the total real property tax owed to each jurisdiction.

All property in the County is subject to taxation, except that which is specifically exempt. Each property is assessed every three years by the State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT) and certified to the County for tax billing purposes. For more details about your assessment visit SDAT at dat.maryland.gov or call 240-314-4510.

Q: How do I contest my assessment if I think it is incorrect?

A: If the estimated value of your property does not accurately reflect what you believe to be its current market value, you can initiate the Assessment Appeals Process available through SDAT. Appeals may be filed on three occasions: (1) upon receipt of an assessment notice; (2) by a petition for review; and (3) upon purchase of property between January 1 and June 30.

There are three options for an appeal: (1) personal hearing, (2) phone hearing, and (3) written appeal. Appeals made in writing eliminate the need to attend a scheduled hearing or to call in by phone; SDAT attempts to prioritize appeals made in writing. If you decide to file an appeal, the first step is to file it either online or by replying to the Notice of Assessment by signing and returning the appeal form. Appeals must be filed within 45 days of the notice date. Please note: Obligation to pay taxes is not stayed or suspended pending an appeal.

Q: Where can residents look for tax credits?

A: The State, County and City offer many tax credits and exemptions against the real property tax for which you may be eligible. Here is a quick summary of some of the credits for which you may be eligible.

- **Homestead Property Tax Credit** - To assist homeowners who are affected by large assessment increases, the State of Maryland, Montgomery County, and Takoma Park limit the annual taxable assessment increase to 10% for principal residential properties. This limit, called the Homestead Credit, is not applicable the first year following the purchase of a home, and therefore the taxable assessment may be higher than it was for the previous owner. Property owners are required to file an application with SDAT which administers this credit. To learn more about the program, visit SDAT at dat.maryland.gov/realproperty/pages/maryland-homestead-tax-credit.aspx or call 866-650-8783.
- **Homeowners Property Tax Credit** - Maryland Homeowners Property Tax Credit and Montgomery County supplement are administered by SDAT. These tax credits are granted to eligible homeowners of all ages, with the exception that taxpayers age 70 and older may file three years retroactively. Applications must be filed by Sept. 1. The program provides tax credits for homeowners who qualify on the basis of their household income compared to their tax bill. State and County programs use (1) a maximum property assessment of \$300,000 to compute the credit and (2) require net worth not to exceed \$200,000 excluding the value of the primary residence and

qualified retirement assets. For more information or to obtain an application, visit SDAT at dat.maryland.gov/realproperty/pages/homeowners%27-property-tax-credit-program.aspx or call 800-944-7403. The City also provides a supplement to this credit.

- **Senior Property Tax Credit** - The County offers a property tax credit for senior residents, based on 50% of the combined State and County Homeowners Tax Credit. This credit is available to residential property owners when one of the owners is at least 65 years of age. If you applied for the Homeowners Tax Credit, SDAT has the age information to determine eligibility, and there is no need to apply for this credit separately. However, you must apply for the Homeowners Property Tax Credit to be considered. For specific questions about this program, call SDAT at 800-944-7403.
- **Elderly Individual / Military Retiree Tax Credit** - For property owners aged 65 and over who either (1) have owned and lived in their home for the last 40 consecutive years or (2) are retired from one of the United States' armed forces, including military reserves, the National Guard, and the uniformed corps of the Public Health Service and the uniformed corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. For information about this five-year tax credit, call 240-777-0311.

Helpful info:

www.montgomerycountymd.gov/propertytaxcredits

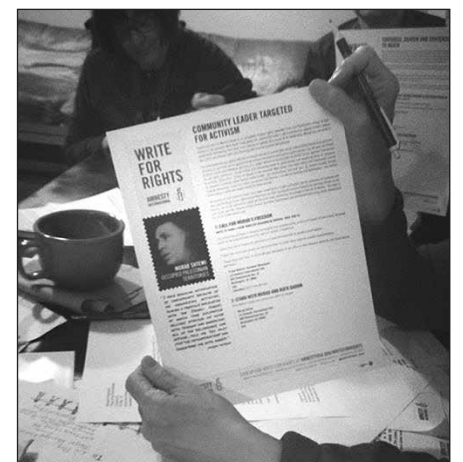
www.dat.maryland.gov/realproperty/pages/HomeOwners-Guide.aspx

Write for Rights

Takoma Park residents have a chance to send cards to political prisoners all over the world along with pleas for their release. The Takoma Park Amnesty International Local Group will host its an-



Residents write to political prisoners



nual "Write for Rights" event on Dec. 15 from 3–5 at Mark's Kitchen, 7006 Carroll Avenue.

"Prisoners benefit emotionally and physically when they and their captors know that people care about them, and sometimes they are released," said event organizer Randy Marks.

Residents are invited to just drop by and participate. For more information, visit write.amnestyusa.org.

DECEMBER '18

Do you have an item for the city calendar?

Do you have an item for the city calendar? Let us know if you have a nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the January issue is Dec. 14, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Dec. 28. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov. "TP Community Center" is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park or Takoma, D.C., unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC MEETINGS OF NOTE

City Council

City Council is currently on break until Wednesday, Jan. 9
TPCC Auditorium
Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Christmas - City Offices Closed

Tuesday, Dec. 25
All City offices and facilities will be closed Dec. 25 for the Christmas Day holiday. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services. Yard trimming collection for that week is canceled. Trash, recycling and food waste collection will take place Wednesday, Dec. 26.

New Year's - City Offices Closed

Tuesday, Jan. 1
All City offices and facilities will be closed Tuesday, Jan. 1, for the New Year's holiday. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

Fall Leaf Collection

Through Dec. 21
The Public Works Department will notify residents in advance about the collection. Details can be found at takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

First Saturdays, noon – 3 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families
240-450-2092 or educare_ss@yahoo.com
www.educaresupportservices.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Circle Time

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

Spanish Circle Time

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

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/neurologic challenges. For more information, contact Jared Ciner at jciner@spiritclub.com or 303-883-4364.

Kid's Night Out

First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Fun and games for kids

Teen Night

Second and fourth Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Games and activities just for teens

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Year-round
Laurel and Carroll avenues in Old Town
Every Sunday in the historic business district of the city, local, seasonal produce, breads, pasture-raised meats, artisan cheese, 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.

Community Self Defense

Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
6836 New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park
Certified Gracie Jiu Jitsu Black Belt instruction
Free and open to all

Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA)

First Thursdays
TP Community Center
This support and advocacy group of parents and other loved ones of adults with special needs including autism, Down's syndrome, and severe chronic psychiatric challenges usually meets the first Thursdays of every month. For more information, contact Mary Muchui at muchui@aol.com.

Pajamarama

Sunday, Dec. 2, 8 – 11 a.m.
Various locations
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.

Preschool Time!

Mondays, Dec. 3 & 17, 10 – 10:45 a.m.
Takoma Park library
Introducing a new early literacy program. Help your kids with school readiness. We will have fun learning and strengthening key concepts (shapes, counting, colors, etc.) and skills (scissor practice, name writing, taking turns, etc.) through songs, stories, fingerplays and activities. Register online or call 301-891-7259.

Bedtime Stories and Craft

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 7 p.m.
Takoma Park library
Wear your PJs and bring a favorite lovey as we read some stories and sing some songs. After our stories and songs, we will do a simple craft. Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers, and their grown-ups.

Humanities Lecture: The Intersection of Race, Sports, and the Law

Thursday, Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
American University law professor Jeremi Duru and poet Ethelbert Miller will examine how sports creates both a sense of unity among fans and bitter divisions over recent scandals and controversies. They 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. Ralph Steinhart, a human rights and international law expert will moderate. More information? Write to ftpmf.org/contact.

FTFML Holiday Book Sale

Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library will sell brand new, gift quality books for adults and children at low prices. All proceeds benefit the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Come early for best selection.

DC Arts Studios Holiday Open Studios

Sunday, Dec. 9, 12 – 5 p.m.
Downtown Takoma Park
This is the studio's festive holiday tradition when over thirty artists open their doors to the public. Purchase original artwork and handmade gifts directly from the artists and artisans themselves — it's a perfect opportunity to find one-of-a-kind gifts for holiday gift giving. Artwork/gifts will include photography, paintings, mixed media, fiber art, sculpture, weaving, jewelry and much more.

Let's Play America's Monthly Meetingy

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
The play events in Takoma Park require coordination and planning. If you are interested in being involved, attend a monthly meeting. Teens can receive community service for doing behind the scenes work, and adults of all ages are welcome. Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center. They usually last an hour. For more information, email (theplaylady@gmail.com) or call (301-928-9962) Pat.

Winterfest2018: Arts and Craft Show

Takoma Park Middle School
Saturday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Our holiday event features over 50 handmade artisans and vendors, free kids crafts, a visit with Santa, music, food, a free raffle with items generously donated by our artisans, and much more. All proceeds benefit Difference Makers (www.difference-makers.org) and Small Things Matter (www.smallthingsmatter.org).

Takoma Cocoa Crawl

Saturday, Dec. 15, 3 – 5 p.m.
Bring your Takoma Mug and enjoy cocoa at area restaurants and cafes during the Takoma Cocoa Crawl. Make one stop or many. Adult versions available too. Get your Takoma mug at Old Takoma Ace Hardware, 7001 Carroll Ave or Artspring, 7002 Carroll Ave. Mugs from previous crawls welcome.

Write for Rights

Saturday, Dec. 15, 3 – 5 p.m.
Mark's Kitchen, 7006 Carroll Avenue
The Takoma Park Amnesty International Local Group will host its annual "Write for Rights" event, giving residents an opportunity to send cards to political prisoners all over the world along with pleas for their release. Just drop by! For more information, visit write.amnestyusa.org.

Rhizome DC Fundraiser Concert

Saturday, Dec. 15, 8 – 11 p.m.
6950 Maple St. NW, Washington, DC
Celebrate three years of Rhizome and support our fund-raising efforts with a night of amazing collaborations from some of our favorite artists: Daniel Bachman, Ian McColm, Forrest Marquisee, Sarah Hughes, Jenny Moon Tucker, Thomas Stanley and Khalid Thompson.
Tickets: \$20
For more information: www.rhizomedic.org

Winter Solstice

Thursday, Dec. 20, 6:30 p.m.
Join the Takoma Park Library's annual celebration of winter's arrival. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. when local musician Bill Jenkins leads a drum circle. Then, at 7:30 p.m., the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will swoop in with their dances and songs. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring our program.

Let's Play America event: Indoor Splash and Play Pool Party

Thursday, Dec. 27, 2 – 4 p.m.
Piney Branch Elementary School indoor pool (Entrance on the side)
The city of Takoma Park and Let's Play America are partnering to bring this fun, free play event. People of all ages, abilities and backgrounds are welcome. Children 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Interested in volunteering? Contact Pat, The Play Lady at 301-928-9962, theplaylady@gmail.com or at www.letsplayamerica.org

ARTS AND LITERATURE

People's Open Mic

Sundays, 9 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Takoma Park Community Band

Mondays, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Heffner Park Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave.
Join the Takoma Park Community Band for weekly rehearsals at the Heffner Park Community Center.

No audition required, just plenty of enthusiasm.

Drum for Joy! with Jaqui MacMillan

Mondays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St.
Learn hand drumming

Blues Mondays

Mondays, 7:30 – 10:30 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6939 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Open Mic Night

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

Jazz Jam

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

Wednesday Night Drum Jams

Wednesdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m.
The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St. NW
Hosted by Katy Gaughan and friends

Carroll Café: Phil Wiggins with The Chesapeake Sheiks

Friday, Dec. 14, 7:30 – 10 p.m.
Carroll Cafe at Seekers Church
Phil Wiggins is a versatile traditional harmonica player, continuing the Piedmont blues tradition, a gentle and melodic blues style of the mid-Atlantic region. Phil is joined by the Chesapeake Sheiks — Matt Kelly on guitar, Marcus Moore on violin, Ian Walters on piano, and Steve Wolf on bass.
\$18 in advance, \$20 at the door
Tickets & info at carrollcafe.org

Photo Salon

Monday, Dec. 17, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room
Professional and amateur photographers can show and critique their work in this free monthly workshop led by photographer Rob Rudick.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, Dec. 20, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
The popular "Third Thursday" poetry series features the work of a wide range of poets from across the region. Held in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, the free readings are followed by a light reception and an opportunity to meet the featured poets.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Takoma Park's 9th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day

Sunday, Feb. 20, 1 – 4 p.m.
7500 Maple Avenue Takoma Park
Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present to you the ninth annual Mid-Winter Play Day. Come join Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department for a fun afternoon of indoor play. Free fun for all. To see a full listing of activities and performances, visit www.letsplayamerica.org. See you there. Volunteers contact Pat, 301-928-9962, theplaylady@gmail.com.

