



WHAT'S NEW?

Winter Weather Response Plan

Details, page 4

City offices & facilities closed

Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Sunday, Jan. 20 - Monday, Jan. 21

Trash/recycling collection

No yard waste collection
Monday, Jan. 21

Correction: The photo of the Cub Scout Pack 33 in a Veterans Day ceremony on page 4 of the December newsletter should have been credited to Selena Malott.



Dollars and Sense: Approaching Fiscal Year 2020

By Jason Damweber, Deputy City Manager

Developing an annual recommended budget is the single greatest responsibility of a City administrator. It is a complex and ongoing task involving many stakeholders that culminates in the Council's adoption of a document that reflects their priorities and the difficult decisions and compromises negotiated throughout the process. The annual budget is a tool used to plan for and reflect the balancing of resources with many competing needs.

As we gear up for the thick of budget season, we wanted to share information about the process, highlight challenges we expect to see, and begin engaging residents. After all, in the end, it is YOUR budget!

The Process in a Nutshell

While staff refers to late winter and early spring as "budget season," the budget process is really ongoing throughout the year. We wrapped up and submitted the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2018 in October, the same time as we entered the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2019 and began planning for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20).

In the past couple of months, staff committees have been meeting to review technology investment requests from departments and identify replacement needs of vehicles and other capital equipment. The City Manager and Deputy City Manager have been meeting

DOLLARS AND SENSE □ Page 3

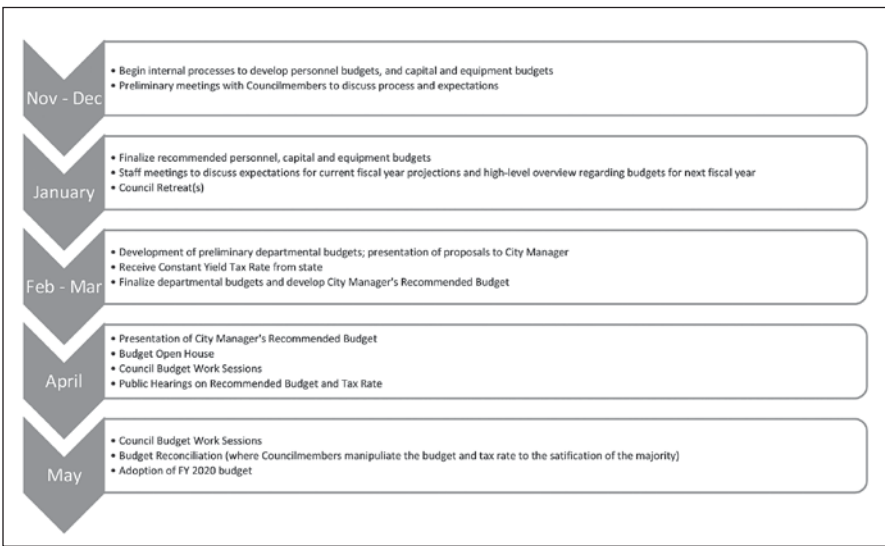


Figure 1: The Budget Development Process in a Nutshell



Tree Ordinance, tree canopy, and outreach improvements

By Takoma Park City Councilmembers Cindy Dyballa, Kacy Kostiuk, and Peter Kovar

When you ask what people think about Takoma Park, one of the attributes mentioned most often is our trees. A satellite image taken in spring or summer instantly reveals the intensity of our tree canopy. Some residents have trees in their yards dating back to before B. F. Gilbert began planning a new community that was "high up – near heaven" (reputed to be the translation of



TREE CANOPY □ Page 11

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 icono 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:

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French:

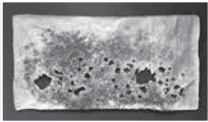
Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que vous pouvez lire en ligne dans d'autres langues à l'aide de la fonction de traduction disponible sur le site Web de la ville de Takoma Park. Après avoir cliqué sur le lien de l'article, regardez dans le coin supérieur droit de la page Web à côté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

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Decaying
with Beauty
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Helping
Hands
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Seizing
the Arts
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DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

CITY COUNCIL RETREATS

Thursday, Jan. 24, 6:30 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 29, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT GREEN TEAM MEETING

Monday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
TPCC Azalea Room

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Monday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m..
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.
TPCC Rose Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, Jan. 7, 7:15 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

COMMUNITY GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Thursdsay, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Jan. 31, 7 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

LEGAL SERVICES REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Monday, Jan. 7, 6 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
TPCC Atrium Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

YOUTH COUNCIL

Monday, Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 28, 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 **Nov. 28, 2018**, the Council recommended approval of the subdivision application of 430-434 Ethan Allen Avenue by **Resolution 2018-58**. The City Council indicated its intention to proceed with a land exchange with Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission by **Resolution 2018-59**. The land exchange would transfer the residentially zoned parcel at 922 Jackson Avenue, which functions as part of Long Branch Stream Valley Park, in exchange for the New Hampshire Avenue Recreation Center property. Jessica Landman (Ward 1) was appointed to the Safe Roadways Committee by **Resolution 2018-60** (Councilmember Dyballa voted against). The City Council reappointed Denis Borum (Ward 6) to the Committee on the Environment by **Resolution 2018-61**.

That same evening, the City Council adopted **Ordinance 2018-46**, FY 2019 Budget Amendment No. 2. By **Ordinance 2018-48**, the Council approved a contract for \$70,000 with New Ecology for Multifamily Energy Efficiency Services. The services to be provided include monitoring and optimization of central hydronic system services for multifamily buildings in Takoma Park. **Ordinance 2018-49**

authorized execution of a grant agreement with Takoma Park Folk Festival, Inc., in an amount up to \$20,000.

On **Dec. 5, 2018**, The Council adopted **Resolution 2018-62** to set forth its goals regarding regulation of the installation of wireless telecommunications facilities in City rights-of-way. **Resolution 2018-63** recommended approval of the Mandatory Referral application, with provisions, for the Montgomery College Math and Science Building. **Resolution 2018-64** adopted the City Council's Legislative Priorities for the 2019 Legislative Session. The priorities are: Support for Redevelopment of New Hampshire Avenue (MD 650); Bond bill funding for the expansion and renovation of the Takoma Park Maryland Library; Legislation prohibiting the Maryland Department of Transportation from spending any funds for the construction of Maryland Route 410 through the City of Takoma Park that would involve the addition of a new through lane for motor vehicles; Protection of small businesses and housing affordability during and after Purple Line construction; Legislation mandating coordination and cooperation between utilities, the State Highway

Administration, and municipalities in order to minimize impacts on residents and businesses resulting from infrastructure construction and repairs; Support for expanded opportunities for municipalities to raise revenues without increasing dependence on property taxes; Support for building community resiliency and mitigating the impacts of climate change; and, Montgomery County Public School construction funding.

Also on **Dec. 5, 2018**, the City Council adopted the City of Takoma Park Cultural Plan (Empowering a Creative Community: A Vision for 2018-2023) and its implementation plan, by **Resolution 2018-65**. **Resolution 2018-66** set the dates of the Council winter recess to extend from December 6, 2018 through January 8, 2019. Jennifer Rodriguez was appointed as the Youth Council Advisor by **Resolution 2018-67**.

By **Ordinance 2018-47**, the City Council dedicated revenues from the Takoma Junction Ground Lease to the City's Affordable Housing Reserve. Purchase of a portable police dispatch console was approved by **Ordinance 2018-51**. The console is to be purchased from Motorola Solutions for \$109,417.

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: <http://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. **(4 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 for commemoratives and recognitions; and implements such programs within its scope and budget. The Commission usually meets on a Monday at 7 p.m. **(5 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 usually 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)**

The **Youth Council** provides an opportunity for youth to learn and appreciate local government, helps the City Council address problems by working directly with the representatives of youth, serves the youth of Takoma Park by providing information to and planning and implementing activities for youth, and providing leadership opportunities for youth in Takoma Park. Members must be Takoma Park residents in 7th to 12th grade. **(1 vacancy for a resident of Ward 4)**

DOLLARS AND SENSE

■ From page 1

with Councilmembers to gather feedback and ideas in preparation for both the upcoming Council Retreat meetings (where the Council establishes their priorities, including what they'd like to see in the upcoming budget) and the budget development process.

Looking forward, we'll have the Council Retreat Meetings, staff work of developing preliminary departmental budgets, revenue projections, and development of a Capital Improvement Plan budget. Using this information coupled with the Constant Yield Tax Rate (more on this later), which we usually learn from the State in mid-February, we develop the City Manager's Recommended Budget. The Recommended Budget reflects the costs of providing services and programs aligned with the Council's priorities and the tax rate necessary to fund the work. In other words, where the money comes from and how it will be spent.

From there, Council will have a series of budget work sessions, a budget open house, a public hearing on the Recommended Budget and tax rate, and ultimately will adopt the FY20 budget and tax rate.

What We Know and Expect

Even if we "held the line" on the services and programs the City provides and did absolutely nothing new, the process to develop the budget would still be a challenge. In addition to expected increases in personnel and operating costs we have to project and account for, we also have to respond to changing assessments of home values and what those changes mean for the tax revenue that the City uses to provide services and programs. Additionally, we have to account for potential changes in revenues from sources other than property taxes, like funds received through the County or State. On the expenditure side, there are always changes that must be accounted and budgeted for. More on all of this below!

Revenues and the Budget

Revenues to the City come from a variety of sources, including but not limited to:

- Real property taxes: the taxes paid by property owners on the assessed value of their property
- Utility fees: taxes paid by public utilities on their property within the City
- Intergovernmental payments: payments to the City from different levels of government or government agencies, such as grants or reimbursement payments for services provided by the City that would otherwise be provided by the County
- Income taxes: the City's portion of State-collected taxes applied to taxable income

Total FY 2019 Budget Revenues: \$32,194,294

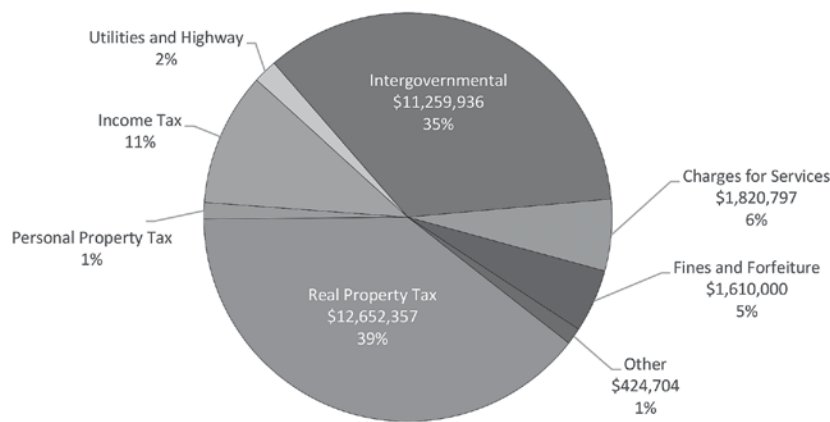


Figure 2: Fiscal Year 2019 Budgeted Revenues

Total FY 2019 Budget Expenditures: \$38,870,197

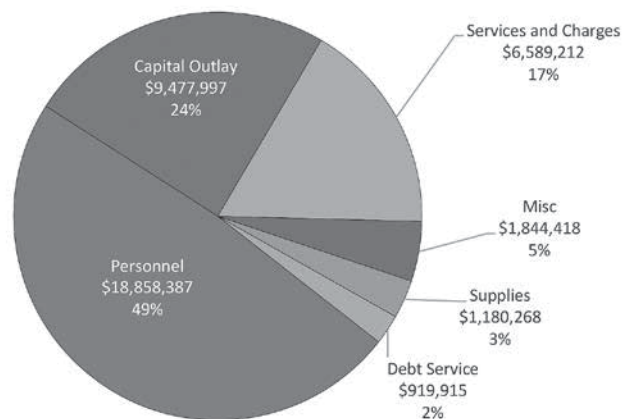


Figure 3: Fiscal Year 2019 Budgeted Expenditures

Total General Fund Expenditures: \$31,522,928

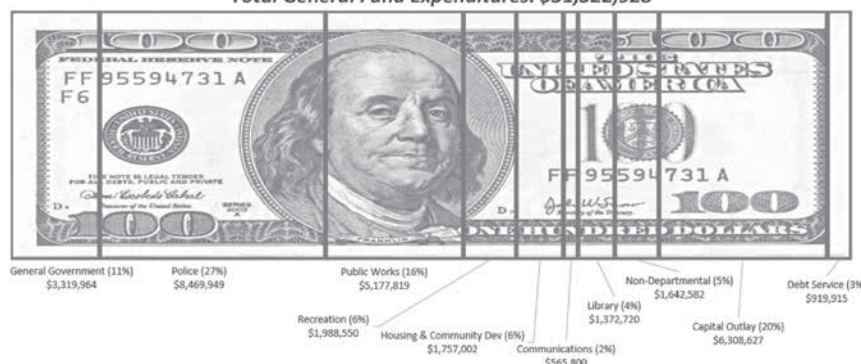


Figure 4: FY 2019 General Fund Expenditures by Activity

- Charges for particular services: charges for particular City services that are not taxes, such as inspection fees, fees for Recreation programs, passport services, etc.
- Fines and forfeitures: funds received when the City institutes fines or realizes funds through the sale of forfeitures (the vast majority of these revenues are from fines related to speed cameras)

Many people don't realize that real property taxes – the taxes paid by property owners on the assessed value of their property – make up less than half of the City's total revenues. In fact, only 39 percent of revenues

in the current fiscal year's budget are derived from real property taxes.

So what do we expect regarding revenues as we head into FY20? At this point it is difficult to say, but we should have a much better idea in late February. While intergovernmental revenues have been flat for some time (we believe we should be receiving *much more* from the County, but that's the subject of a different article!) and are relatively easy to project, the City does not receive information on the total impact of changes in assessed property values until February. Around that time, we receive notice of the Constant Yield Tax Rate from the State. The Constant Yield Tax Rate is the tax rate the City would charge in order to receive the same (constant) dollar amount in property tax revenue. In other words, if assessments increase then the Constant Yield Tax Rate would decrease to net the same amount of revenue.

Given the regional trends we have been seeing, it's probably pretty safe to assume that property values have increased. In fact, in the City of Takoma Park they have increased over 17 percent since FY14. If the trend holds true, then the Constant Yield Tax Rate will be lower than the current tax rate. However, pegging the City's tax rate to the Constant Yield also means that we wouldn't bring in enough property tax revenue to cover increased costs

to provide services and programs.

Expenditures and the Budget

So now we have a sense of where City funds come from, but how are they spent? A good place to see the types of services and programs the City provides is the page on the City's website called "City Services: Your Dollars at Work" (takomaparkmd.gov/about-takoma-park/city-services-your-dollars-at-work). If we look at the total budget as we did with revenues above, expenditures break down into the following key areas:

- Personnel: wages and benefits
- Capital outlay: costs for capital items like infrastructure and facility improvements, vehicle replacement, equipment replacement, technology improvements, park development, and stormwater management
- Services and charges: most operating costs other than those for personnel and capital outlay such as contracted services, licensing fees, non-capital small equipment, internal services (telephones, copying, postage), etc.
- Debt service: payments for the principal and interest on loans to the City
- Supplies: costs for office supplies, uniforms, vehicle fuel, construction and road repair materials, ice-melt, etc.
- Other: a catch-all for items that don't fit neatly into the other categories, such as costs to conduct elections, conferences and training for staff, professional association membership dues, employee recruitment, special events and programs, etc.

If we look at expenditures from just the General Fund (that is, removing special revenues/expenditures provided for a particular purpose, the speed camera fund, and the stormwater management fund), total expenditures drop down to \$31,522,928, and break down as indicated in Figure 4.

Something worth noting about these FY19 budgeted expenditures is that Capital Outlay does not typically make up such a large percentage of the budget. It can jump around a lot from year to year depending on what major projects are occurring or major equipment purchases are expected.

Personnel Costs

As noted above, even if we don't add any staff, services, or programs, we can generally expect our costs to go up some each year. At the time this article was being drafted, it was not clear whether there would be a proposal to add or eliminate any positions. We also were not yet aware of the changes to costs for benefits like employee healthcare, which can fluctuate drastically from year-to-year. What we do know is that our staff members are our greatest assets and personnel costs make up about 49 percent of the City's total budget, or 58 percent of the general fund budget.

So...if we assume that we will continue to have 168.86 Full Time Equivalents – the term used to represent the equivalent of the number of employees working full time – and hold the cost of benefits constant, we can expect to see an increase in personnel costs (wages) of somewhere in the ballpark of about three percent. This is a blend of a base increase and some merit pay. A three percent increase, which is in line with increases for local government workers nationally, equals somewhere in the ballpark of \$548,000. On top of that increase, it is reasonable to expect that employer costs for benefits will also increase slightly, though it is difficult to guess.



THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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Assistant: Sean Gossard
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Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov

takomaparkmd.gov or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

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

The Newsletter is printed on recycled—content paper.





BUILDING COMMUNITY



COLTA'S CORNER

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

Barbieri v. Bay Management Group (Case # 2017-3T, Amended)

The tenants filed an amended complaint with the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (COLTA) on Aug. 1, 2018, alleging that Bay Management Group (Landlord), the agent for the property owner, caused a defective tenancy by failing to make timely good faith efforts to correct code violations that rendered two of the four property bedrooms unfit for occupancy. The complaint further alleged that the Landlord was liable for damages that resulted from a 2017 flood at the property and for an improper entry made without notice by an agent of

the Landlord. The tenants requested that the Landlord be required to refund \$500.00 per month of their rent during the period they were unable to use the two bedrooms to remedy the defective tenancy, provide reimbursement for an air blower to dry out the house and to replace a box of diapers destroyed in the flood and punitive damages of \$400.00 for the improper entry. COLTA heard the complaint on Sept. 11, 2018.

On Nov. 15, 2018, COLTA issued a decision on the complaint, having made the following findings:

1. The Landlord, despite having received actual notice on Sept. 14, 2017, failed to make timely good faith efforts to make the two property bedrooms fit for human occupancy.
2. The unavailability of two of the four bedrooms in the house reduced the value of the tenancy by \$266.67 from Sept. 14, 2017 through Sept. 30, 2018 and \$500.00 per month

from October 2017 through July 2018.

3. The Landlord was not liable for the cost of personal property lost in the flood or the rental of the air blower because the tenants would have incurred these expenses as a result of the flood whether the landlord made timely good faith efforts to address it.
4. The Landlord was not liable for punitive damages because of the agent's entry without providing proper notice. The Tenants did not present evidence of actual damages and the Commission's ability to award punitive damages for entry violations was eliminated by both previous City Council legislative and Maryland Circuit Court judicial actions.

The Landlord was ordered to pay the tenants the amount of \$5,266.67. The Landlord complied with order.

Next round of funding announced for Community Grant Program

The City of Takoma Park is excited to announce the next round of funding for its Community Grant Program. This tax-funded program provides up to \$10,000 in financial support for projects and events that improve Takoma Park residents' quality of life by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences. Funding is available to non-profit organizations and business associations for projects taking place between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020.

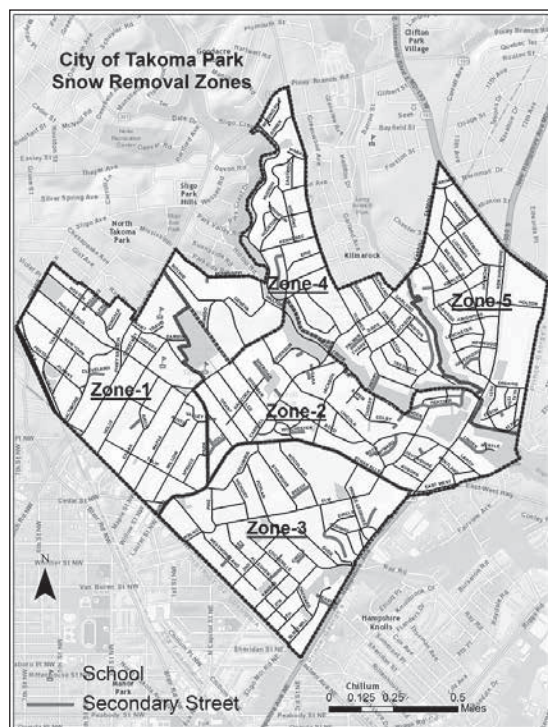
The preliminary application period will open for non-profit organizations in early 2019. Additional information and eligibility requirements may be found on www.takomaparkmd.gov. To be notified when the application is open, interested parties should email grants@takomaparkmd.gov with their contact information. For more information, please contact the City of Takoma Park's Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7119 or email grants@takomaparkmd.gov.



Public Works winter weather response plan

Public Works staff are preparing to respond to whatever winter sends to Takoma Park's 34 miles of city-maintained roads, as well as walkways and sidewalks around city parks and public buildings. City staff track potential storms, and prepare to respond as soon as the snow starts to fall. Crews start plowing operations when one inch of snow is on the ground and are prepared to work 12-hour shifts. The city uses Public Works Right of Way staff as primary plow drivers, and sanitation drivers fill in the second shift, if needed. When significant snowfall occurs, city trash and recycling collection may be canceled to allow sanitation drivers to pitch in with road clearing. The city's Garden Division staff clears public sidewalks at city parks and public buildings during daylight hours, with assistance as needed from temporary laborers. Public Works encourages businesses and residents to do their part to clear snow and ice from the sidewalks adjoining their property.

Takoma Park's winter weather response plan divides the city into five snow removal zones, each with an assigned response vehicle. Within each zone, "primary streets" are those with the most traffic, and those that connect neighborhoods. "Secondary streets" are shorter, with fewer homes, and include courts, alleys and dead ends. The map below identifies the Snow Zones and the secondary streets. City crews first clear primary streets then proceed to secondary streets. The city's



goal is to create two travelable lanes on each primary street within a 12-hour shift, if the snow fall is six inches or less. If the snow fall is more than six inches, the expectation is to make one travelable lane over a 12-hour period. Snow removal equipment remains in service around the clock until all the roads are cleared. To see a map of snow removal routes, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov/snow.

Often, when severe weather is on the

way, the city begins anti-icing procedures by applying a sand salt mixture or liquid de-icing chemicals to the street surface. Plowing begins once snowfall has accumulated to one inch on the street. If the storm produces only sleet and ice, the city treats roadways with sand and salt. Snow and ice response service on some streets within the City is performed by outside agencies. **The State Highway Administration is responsible for clearing Carroll Avenue, Ethan Allen Avenue, New Hampshire Avenue, Philadelphia Avenue and Piney Branch Road. Sligo Creek Parkway is a Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission roadway and snow and ice response is performed by Montgomery County.** However, city plows will assist with snow removal on these streets in the course of their work to clear city streets.

The Public Works Department has developed a few helpful tips for resident to follow during a snow event:

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

lowing restrictions go into effect during declared snow emergencies:

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

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

Being a good neighbor and helping others in need. Reach out and ask neighbors if they need assistance with keeping their sidewalk clear. Many residents are physically unable to shovel snow and ice and are hesitant to request help from neighbors or friends. Your thoughtfulness can make a big difference to someone who might otherwise be unable to cope. If you have any questions before or during a winter event, please contact the Public Works Department at 301-891-7633.

THE ARTS



Three Artists Explore the Beauty Buried in Decay

Opening Reception

Jan. 10, 7 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center

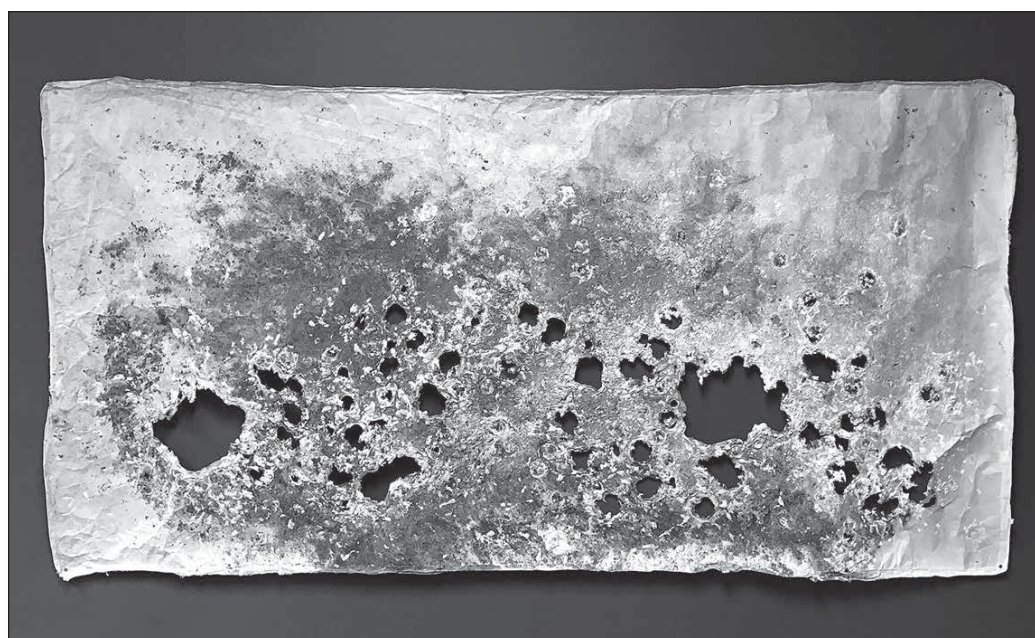
7500 Maple Avenue

Free event

In our consumer-oriented society that disposes of everything that isn't new, decay is a scary word, conjuring images of obsolescence, advancing age and death. But decay can be beautiful as shiny metal rusts and abandoned buildings crumble, leaving relics transformed by time and neglect. Three local artists will explore these themes in *The Beauty of Decay*, a new group exhibition in the galleries at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Kristina King creates handmade paper, large-scale drawings, installations and animation to explore themes of decay, fragility, turbulence and the ephemeral. Her ragged handmade paper pieces are riddled with holes and frayed edges, resembling a topographical map of mountain ranges or pock-marked craters on the moon.

King earned a BFA in studio art from Denison University and has shown her work at Pyramid Atlantic Art Center, the Alleghany Arts Council, Willow Street Gallery and other venues. She is currently



Untitled (#77) by Kristina King

the gallery director at Georgetown Frame Shoppe.

David Mosher photographs himself in deteriorating and abandoned buildings, evoking scenes of melancholy and regret. By sharing very personal and psychological scenes, he engages viewers in exploring their own emotional responses to decay. He is inspired by artists Man Ray, Robert Mapplethorpe and Francesca Woodman, who used self-portraiture to communicate emotions and project different personal identities.

Drawing from personal loss and her own struggles with depression, Chrissy Wilkin's paintings depict her psychological journey through grief towards ac-

ceptance. Her work offers a mandala or spiritual symbol that illustrates how life comes full circle as we continue to live in spirit even after death. She uses different mediums in her work, including marker, charcoal and bleach.

Wilkin has been teaching art since she was 16 years old when she took a mission trip to Haiti to make art with local children. She continues to teach art internationally at summer camps and locally as a teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Greenbelt, Md. She is a member of the Hyattsville Arts Alliance and the arts coordinator for the New Deal Café, and she displays her work at various venues in Prince George's County.



Rough-Cut Documentaries Screening

Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

7500 Maple Avenue

Free event

Be part of the creative process as local nonprofit Docs In Progress shares two new rough-cut documentaries where the audience will provide feedback to the film directors. Tom Reitter's *North Star Calling* follows a small band of hearty seniors, who set out to bicycle more than 2,700 miles from Montana to Alaska.

Angela Pinaglia's *Life in Synchro* explores the little-known sport of synchronized ice skating and efforts to include it in the Winter Olympics. There is a small but dedicated following of determined girls and women (and a few men) who carry the banner for the sport, including a teenager on the hunt for the elusive national championship and a 65-year-old woman who isn't quite ready to retire her skates.

3rd Thursday
POETRY.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

7500 Maple Avenue

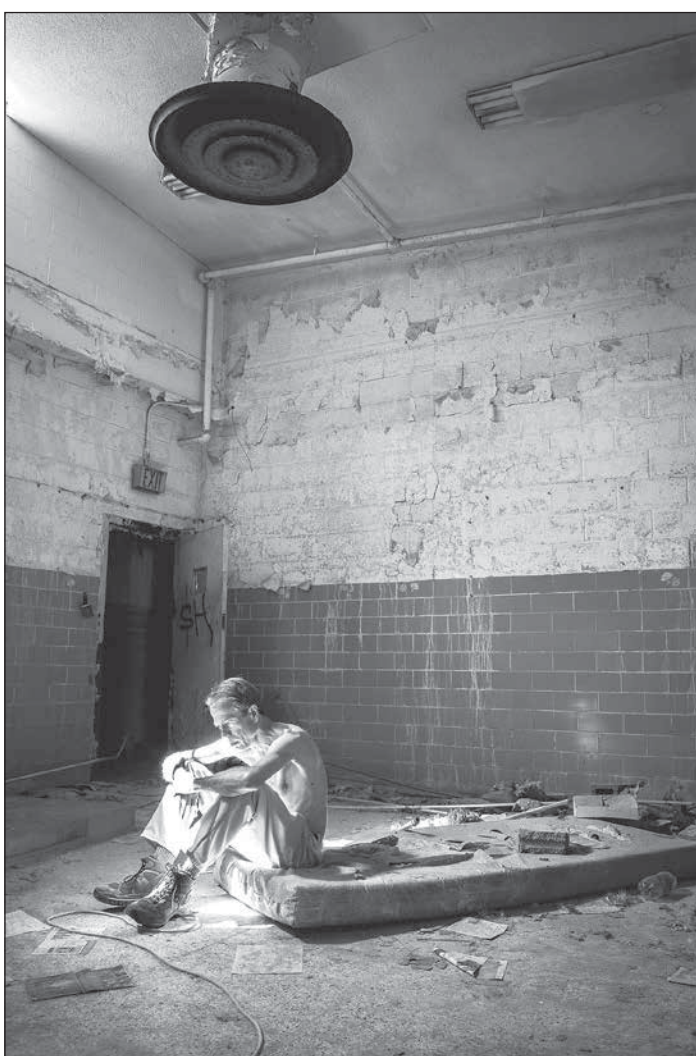
Free event

Local poets Anne Becker, Katharine Lorr, Cliff Lynn and Elizabeth Rees will read their original work with introductions by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Kathleen O'Toole. The audience can meet the poets at a reception following the reading.



Above, *Poppy* by Chrissy Wilkin

At right, *Yellow Room* by David Mosher



RECREATION

YOUTH

ART

Clay for Kids

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

Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
4–13 years
6 Week Sessions

Mondays: January 7-March 4

(No class on January 21, January 28, February 18)

Wednesdays: January 9-February 13

Time: 4–5 p.m.

Resident: \$130 / Non-resident: \$150

CAMPS

Dribble, Pass & Shoot Basketball Spring Camp

Emphasizing individual improvement is one of the guiding philosophies of camp. Campers will be provided with excellent coaching, which allows each participant

to develop a sense of pride and individual accomplishment. The level of instruction will be adjusted to fit the individual needs of each participant. Pack a non-perishable lunch each day. Before and After Care are available for the week at an additional cost. Instructor: Joe Dobbins

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
5–12 years
3 Day Session
Wednesday-Friday
April 17-April 19
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
\$120

DANCE

Pre Ballet

Pre Ballet for ages 3–6 emphasizes learning basic ballet vocabulary, movement patterns and musicality in a creative movement. By introducing students to the basic shapes, positions, postures and traditions of classical ballet, the Pre-Ballet curriculum will enhance 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 & 2/17)
Resident: \$85 / Non-resident: \$95

DRAMA & THEATER

On Stage Scene Study

In On Stage: Scene Study, students focus on building believable characters and connections using scenes from plays and films as performance material. Class is comprised of acting exercises/warm ups and application of acting theory to scenes. Students will partner and work on one scene for the 8 week session.

We will apply acting theory from Konstantin Stanislavski, Uta Hagan and Sanford Meisner, and we have lots of great material from award winning plays and popular films for teen students. Instructor: Gretchen Weigel

Takoma Park Community Center
Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
11–16 years
8 Week Session
Mondays, January 14-March 18
4–5:30 p.m.
Resident: \$168 / Non-resident: \$188

MARTIAL ARTS

Kung Fu

Bungo Fu, the Jamaican style of Kung Fu! Come learn meditation, self-defense, improved flexibility and self-awareness. This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise which could help the students defend themselves by strengthening hand and eye coordination. The student will gain physical fitness, mental and spiritual strength. There is a one-time, non-refundable fee of \$50 paid to the instructor at the first class for a uniform. Instructor: Master Robert Thompson

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
4–16 years
9 Week Session
Saturdays
Beginners: 10:15–11:15 a.m.
Advanced: 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
January 12-March 30
Resident: \$155 / Non-resident: \$185

Taekwondo

Taekwondo is not only a combat sport but it is also a way of life for enthusiasts around the globe. 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. Students develop discipline by thoroughly training their bodies and minds in the tenets and techniques of 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
12 Week Session
Mondays, 6–7 p.m.
January 7-April 8
(No class 1/21 & 2/18)
Resident: \$165 / Non-resident: \$195

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, January 17-March 7
3:30–5 p.m.
Free

Xpression Tuesdays

Allow your imagination and creative juices to come alive on Tuesdays in the Teen Lounge. Join the 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

CAMPS

Spring Break Filmmaking Camp: Intrepid Interviewers Focus on Takoma Park

This is a spring break camp intended for budding journalists. Teens in grades 6–12 will learn the basics of video production while also discovering more about Takoma Park. In three full days, campers will gain skills in how to shoot video on professional cameras, learn how to conduct interviews with local residents and how to film “b-roll” footage of Takoma Park in supervised production shoots. The collected footage will be edited together as a single piece by the instructor after the camp and will be shared with participants and the broader Takoma Park community via YouTube. Instructor: Docs in Progress

Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Wednesday-Friday
April 17-April 19
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Resident: \$100 / Non-resident: \$130

Spring Break PREPS Week

Spring Break PREPS (Planning and Researching for Educational and Professional Success) week is about assisting teens in planning for their future. During this week, teens will be able to participate in discussions with business professionals and take a few college tours to get a sense of life after high school. Occasional break away trips, such as bowling, laser tag or roller skating, will be included. Come with questions, an open mind and a bag lunch. Limited Spaces are available; includes some long days.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Wednesday-Friday
April 17-April 19
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Resident: \$75 / Non-resident: \$100

DROP-IN

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. This free program is offered every first and third Friday of the month.

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
First & Third Friday of each month
5–7 p.m.
Free

DANCE

Just Dance

A series of music and creative movement classes for teens. These classes will celebrate your natural ability to move in an expressive way. Learn fundamental hip-hop moves,

including basic body isolations, precision, performance quality and choreography. Build teamwork and bonding skills through dance. Instructor: Ife Taylor

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Saturdays, January 19-March 9
4–6 p.m.
Resident: \$5 / Non-resident: \$10

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

College Preparation Workshops

These workshops are designed to facilitate an understanding of the college planning process and high school preparation needed for the college application season. Topics will include related testing, selection and data for consideration, paying for college overview, how to conduct an organized scholarship search, maximizing out-of-school time activity and a successful transition.

Takoma Park Community Center
Hydrangea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Tuesdays, January 22-March 19
4–5 p.m.
Resident: \$10 / Non-resident: \$15

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 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, 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 years
8 Week Session
Tuesdays, January 8-February 26
6–7 p.m.
Resident: \$75 / Non-resident: \$85

TRIPS

Black College Expo

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

Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge (meeting location)
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 9–12
Saturday, March 16
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Free



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

Helping Hands Helping Others

By Michael Kurland, Recreation Supervisor

The City of Takoma Park Recreation Department is sponsoring the Empty Bowls Project for the second year in a row. Recreation staff implemented this program after seeing the positive impact from the same program in New Orleans. The Empty Bowls Project is an international, grassroots, crafts-based effort to end hunger. It started as a one-time luncheon to raise money for a school district food drive in the fall of 1990. Today, events are held around the world and have raised tens of millions of dollars for organizations fighting hunger. The events have also raised public awareness about hunger and provided students of all ages the chance to work for positive change in their own communities and beyond.

This year a professional potter from the Czech Republic, Martin Koller, handcrafted the bowls. Various youth in the Recreation Department's Afternoon Addition and teen after school programs painted the 40 bowls that Martin made. Martin lives in Takoma Park with his wife, Linka, who is on a sabbatical studying peer isolation in school. Martin loves the community and being here with his wife, but he felt there was a void in his life; he was bored. Many in the community told him that he needed to talk to Alice Sims so that he could do his potter's work while his wife is studying or in class.

Alice told Martin about the bowls project. He was very interested and wanted to know how he could be a part of this project. "Anything to give back to the community and get involved," Koller said. Alice suggested that she



needed someone with potter's skills to make the bowls. Martin said that is right up his alley, and he could make all 40 needed. Alice was astounded and said that is great but wanted to know how long it would take him. Martin said he could do all 40 in 2 hours. After Alice picked her jaw up from the floor, she said absolutely he could do it.

Mr. Koller threw /created them all in one morning and trimmed them later that day in our very own Art Studio at the Takoma Park Community Center. This project makes Martin feel useful. As a result of his new friendship with Alice, he was introduced to the Montgomery Potters, a ceramics group that has regular meetings and lectures.

Alice Simms is an original member of the former Takoma Park Artist Guild and the first exhibition director for the City of Takoma Park. She has been involved in the arts for 30 plus years. Alice said, "This is a good project for children. It is funny how the teens do the bowls and then want to keep them. Art is opportunity to bring people together and make a stronger, united community, which is why I volunteer for this event, because of my love for art." Alice also has Caroline MacKinnon and Sue Bracey leading the students in the process of painting the bowls as well as glazing and firing the bowls once they are completed. "The bowls that the young people painted are nice and bright. They really seemed to enjoy doing something real for the community and had a sense of pride," Sims said. "Art is a fun thing that comes from the people doing it and brings joy to their lives. Watching others [create] art also brings joy to my life," Sims said.

Once again, we will be raising money with our bowls at the MLK Jr. Day Celebration on Monday, Jan. 21 at Takoma Park Middle School. All of the proceeds of these purchased bowls will go to a local food bank. Select one or more of these colorful hand-crafted bowls that will not only benefit a local charity, but remind you of the importance of helping others and giving back to the community.

RECREATION

■ From page 6

N Busters in Downtown Silver Spring for a little healthy competition.

TP 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

Teen Snow-Tubing Trip

It's an early release day, so 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. 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: \$20 / Non-resident: \$30

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 Instructor: Beth Mwano

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
16 years and older
6 Week Session
Saturdays, January 12-March 2

12:45–2 p.m.

Resident: \$85 / Non-resident: \$95

FITNESS



Ladies Boot Camp

A challenging workout within a quick hour, this total body program includes a circuit of drills, such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. Students are required to bring their own mats. Instructor: KJ Total Fitness

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 and older
8 Week Sessions
Tuesdays and Thursdays
January 8-February 28
6:30–7:30 p.m.
\$85
Drop-in: \$10

2019 Business Interest Meeting (SYEP)

The Recreation Department is looking for businesses to partner with for its Summer Youth Employment Program. Be the memorable business that gives a teen a first job and teaches important life lessons that will last forever. Limited spaces are available for this informational interest meeting. RSVP by email to leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7283.

Takoma Park Community Center
Hydrangea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
Wednesday, January 23
Starting at 10:30 a.m.

Qi Gong – Minding Our Business

Minding Our Business is a strategy for managing work related stress. Using various mindfulness and Qi Gong practices will increase performance, creativity and health. Mindful practices are offered as "Take Fives" - brief and vital breaks that can be incorporated throughout the day by anyone, anywhere at any time. Minding Our Business requires no special equipment and no dedicated space. Simple, effective and energizing practices lessen the impact of stress and enhance well-being. These sessions are spread over 10 weeks to allow for deep learning and experience. Supporting material will be sent electronically to awaken and guide the students. All that is required is an open mind and a willingness to experiment. Instructor: Patrick Smith

Takoma Park Community Center
Azalea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
16 years and older
8 Week Session
Tuesdays, January 8-March 19
(No class on: 1/22, 2/5, 2/19, 2/26, 3/12)
7–8 p.m.
Resident: \$95 / Non-resident: \$105
Drop-In: \$15 (check or credit card only)



Total Body Tabata

A form of high intensity interval training (HIIT), Tabata 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

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 years and older
6 Week Session
Sundays, January 13-March 3
1–2 p.m.
Resident: \$85 / Non-resident: \$95

Zumba

Come out and enjoy an hour of Zumba. Zumba is a total workout, combining all elements of fitness with cardio, muscle conditioning, balance and flexibility. Zumba takes the work out of workout by mixing low and high intensity moves. The class will incorporate Latin music that will easily move you through your workout. Instructor: Laura Stewart

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
16 years and older
6 Week Session
Saturdays, January 12-February 16
11:45 a.m.–12:45p.m.
\$50
Drop in: \$10

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 step up your photography game. The class will cover the following topics: how to shoot manual on your DSLR, rules of composition, portrait photography, object photography, landscape photography, posing 101, how to edit your photos, 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, January 8-February 26
7:15–8:15 p.m.
Resident: \$75 / Non-resident: \$85

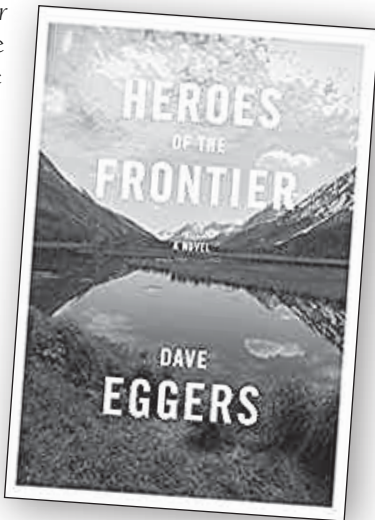


Friends Fortnightly Book Club to read *Heroes of the Frontier*

Heroes of the Frontier by Dave Eggers will be the featured novel of the Friends Fortnightly Book Club, which will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Azalea Room of the Takoma Park Community Center. The discussion will be facilitated by Tim Rahn.

The novel tells of the adventures—and misadventures—of a mother and her two young children as they travel through Alaska in the midst of a cataclysm of wildfires. Eggers is often spot on in his observations of parenting, consumerism, climate disaster and a host of other contemporary topics.

In his review in *The Guardian*, Alex Preston wrote: “I can’t remember the last time I read a novel that was so relentlessly uncynical, where the note was one of such radical good faith. . . I think Eggers is trying to tell us something about con-



temporary American life, about the meaning of courage in a world where danger appears only on television. Josie (the book’s heroine) says near the end of the novel that all she wants for her children is that they learn to be brave. America has lost its bravery, Eggers tells us, and it can be found in nature, in open spaces, in shucking off the trappings of mall life and the media and consumerism. It’s

hardly a novel message, but Eggers renders it with such passion and good humor, and describes the ‘land of mountains and light’ in such stirring, lustrous prose, that we can’t help but feel its truth anew.”

All are invited to attend the Fortnightly book club discussions. Copies of *Heroes of the Frontier* are available for checkout in the Library.

Caldecott Club culminates with choices and celebration

All last year, our Caldecott Club read and discussed possible Caldecott contenders, and on Jan. 7, we’ll make our final choices for our mock 2019 Caldecott Medal. The award is given annually by the American Library Association to the creator of the best-illustrated book for kids ages birth–14. It’s always interesting to see how close our Caldecott Club comes the actual winner, which will be announced on Jan. 28. After that, it’s time to celebrate! So, on Monday, Feb. 11,



our Caldecott Club program will focus on reading the actual winner of the 2019 Caldecott Medal and any Caldecott Honor books that are chosen. At our program, we’ll have cake and lemonade; gluten-, dairy- and nut-free cookies also will be available. Please join us

for this gala evening! (And for adult fans of children’s books, you’re invited to our fifth annual Mock Caldecott for Adults on Saturday, Jan. 12 from 1–4 p.m.)

First author event of 2019 with Lynne Kelly

Our first author event of 2019 takes place on Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 7:30 p.m. when kids’ novelist Lynne Kelly presents her new book, *Song for a Whale*. In the book, Kelly tells the story of Iris, a deaf girl who develops a special connection with a whale. *Publishers Weekly* noted that “this finely crafted novel affectingly illuminates issues of loneliness,



belonging, and the power of communication,” while *Booklist* said: “The strength of the book is its strong portrayal of Iris as a Deaf girl in a hearing world and an intelligent 12-year-old in headlong, single-minded pursuit of her goal.” Politics & Prose will be selling copies of Kelly’s book at our event, but the program is free and no purchase is required.

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

LEGO Club

Sunday, Jan. 6, 1:30–3 p.m.

Building fun for ages 3–10.

Caldecott Club

Monday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m.

We’ll be reading our finalists and voting on our choice for the 2019 Caldecott Medal. All welcome! Lemonade and cookies served.

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 4 p.m.

Join Dave Burbank for our fun comics book club

Bedtime Stories & a Craft

Tuesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m.

Join Ms. Kati for some bedtime fun.

Friends Fortnightly Book Club (see article)

Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Our book is *Heroes of the Frontier* by Dave Eggers.

Azalea Room, Takoma Park Community Center

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.

WinterQuest Wrap-Up Party

Monday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.

Petites Chansons/French Circle Time

Saturday, Jan. 26, 10:30 a.m.

Madame Marie leads songs and rhymes in French.

Kids Art

Sunday, Jan. 27, 2–3 p.m.

Coming Up....

- **Children’s Novelist Lynne Kelly, Tuesday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.** Kelly will present *Song for a Whale*, her new book for young readers that details a deaf girl’s special connection with a whale.
- **Books to Action: Social Justice Book Club for Kids & Families, Saturday, Feb. 9, 3 p.m.** We’ll read books about people who have made the world a better place.
- **Caldecott Club Party, Monday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.** Join us as we read and celebrate the actual winners of the 2019 Caldecott Medal! Cake and lemonade will be served.
- **Fairy Tale Party, Saturday, Feb. 16, 2–4 p.m.** Come in your fairy tale finery and enjoy some tales, crafts and snacks.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

WinterQuest Wrap-Up Party is this month.

All WinterQuest participants are invited to our wrap-up party on Monday, Jan. 14 at 7:30 p.m. We’ll talk about the WinterQuest story, discuss favorite books, and end with cupcakes and lemonade. In addition, participants will be able to choose a new book or two to take home and keep. Registration encouraged so we can be sure to have enough cupcakes; to register, please go to www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents.



Photo: Maurice Belanger

libraryevents or call us at 301-891-7259.

Books to Action Book Club meets next month.

Our Books to Action: Social Justice Book Club for kids and families will meet on Saturday, Feb. 9 at 3 p.m. to read and discuss books about kindness and about people who have made the world a better place. The club was started after the 2016 elections as a way of providing hope and inspiration to counter an increasingly fraught political and cultural climate. We’ll conclude our Feb. 9 meeting by making valentines that will be distributed at a local retirement home. All ages welcome, and no registration is required.

Shelf space expanded for YA books.

Has your teen checked out our hugely-expanded shelf space for young adult books? All of the fiction books that were previously in our “stacks” now are out on shelves on one side of the Reference area, and so are readily accessible to browsing by teen readers. In addition, we’ve moved the young adult non-fiction books to this new teen area; you’ll find the non-fiction books at the beginning of the teen section, followed by the fiction books. As always, the newest teen fiction books will continue to be on the cart just outside the Children’s Room.

Seizing the opportunity for community through the arts

By Rick Henry

A \$5,000 Community Grant award from the City of Takoma Park will help a local arts organization further advance its vision for creating “healthy families.”

The grant, awarded to Carpe Diem Arts Inc., based in Silver Spring and the Eastern Shore of Maryland, will fund the “Healthy Families Parent Support Project” and will support programs for residents of the Essex House apartment complex on Maple Avenue in Takoma Park and neighbors in nearby multi-family and single-family residences.

“This project will be a bridge to connect members of this very diverse community with each other, and with others in the community, to promote civic engagement through guided discussions, memorable shared experiences and mutual support,” said Denise Jones, project manager for the program.

Carpe Diem Arts’ mission is to create opportunities for people of all ages and walks of life to participate in visual, literary and performing arts activities by developing multigenerational and multicultural community events with the goal of building community, strengthening education, celebrating diversity and encouraging creative expression.

To that end, the organization first began implementing arts programs three years ago at Essex House Apartments and Park Montgomery Apartments in Silver Spring



Students participate in the African Arts, Culture and Education (ACE) Academy.

in partnership with owners Community Preservation and Development Corp and Montgomery County Collaboration Council through a 21st Century Learning Grant funded afterschool program, the African Cultural Arts and Education (“ACE”) Academy. According to Jones, the reactions to ACE were overwhelmingly positive, and she and other program facilitators made an effort to capture them.

Resident Marella Williams said, “The ACE parent workshops were helpful for learning about children’s development, like playing games with our children for motivation.”

“We liked learning about our families and seeing and hearing the support offered from you and each other,” said Patience Aloh.

Such enthusiasm sparked Williams and Aloh and other adults who participated in ACE to approach Jones and others involved

in the program and ask for additional programming.

“They were ‘thirsty’ for this engagement,” Jones said. “The parents specifically asked for assistance with developing a sustainable Parent Support Group.”

So Busy Graham, founder of Carpe Diem Arts, and Denise Jones applied for the community grant, and with it secured, the Healthy Families project will go forward and build upon that previous programming. There are several components offered to achieve the project goals, Jones said, including:

- **Parent Engagement Workshops** to help parents learn, share and practice tools to strengthen families, improve school and community engagement;
- **Parent Support Group: Quilting Conversations** to create a sustainable parent support group by offering a time and

place to share stories and experiences and provide mutual support and resources;

- **House Concerts and a Community Sing** to provide opportunities for residents to host a series of musical performances and special events and invite neighbors from the community to promote connection and networking opportunities through memorable shared experiences; and

- **Workshops on Healthy Eating** on a sustainable budget to strengthen family engagement around mealtimes.

In addition, Jones said Carpe Diem is seeking additional funding, so the organization can still deliver “Dance for Fun and Fitness” classes, which are led by professional dancers/teaching artists and promote cross-cultural engagement through learning together dance from other cultures.

“We are also endeavoring to fund a life skills program for middle school girls, as this is a particularly challenging time in their development,” she said.

Jones said that the success of, and interest in, the type of cultural and community program offered through the “Healthy Families” project, showcases not only the benefits of bringing programs to where people live, but to connecting them to the wider community in general.

“We are very excited with the initial reception and know that we are helping people access the community connections they hoped for in choosing Takoma Park to be their home,” she said.

RECREATION

■ From page 7

Photography – Intermediate

It’s time to pick up the camera you gave up on. Learn how to improve your DSLR Skills and better utilize your camera. 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. Instructor: Vinny Mwano

Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
19 and older
8 Week Session
Mondays, January 7-March 11
(No class 1/21 & 2/18)
6:30–7:30 p.m.
Resident: \$85 / Non-resident: \$95

Video Production and Editing

From pre-production techniques to how to properly videotape 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, January 10-February 7
6–8 p.m.
Resident: \$150 / Non-resident: \$180

SPORTS

Adult Coed Volleyball League

The Takoma Park Coed Volleyball League is a new, fun and exciting recreational program for competitive adults of all skill levels. Teams will play games weekly. Games will be played with



Instructors needed (to teach Grades 6–12)

*Seasonal, Year Round, Flexible,
Afternoon/Evening Preferred*

The Teen Programs Division seeks 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 Ms. Leicia at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.

a 6 vs. 6, rally scoring format. Roster limit is 15. Stay active, meet new friends and get on the court for an 8 week season. Registration starts Jan. 15 for residents and Jan. 22 for nonresidents. Games are set for Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
18 years and older
8 Game Season
Games: Monday or Wednesday
6:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.
Team Fee: \$250

Adult Coed Volleyball League – Free Agents

Individual participants will be placed on a waiting list and contacted if space becomes available on a team or if there are enough individuals to form a new team. If space becomes available on a team you will be responsible to pay your registration and any other associated fees to that team. *Spaces not guaranteed*

55+

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 Sessions
Wednesdays, January 30-February 13
10 a.m.–12 pm.
\$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. 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, March 6-20
10 a.m.–12 pm.
\$10 (Plus a Takoma Park Library Card)

FITNESS

Cardio Groove Classes

This class offers high-energy, fast paced, low-impact Aerobics to get the heart pumping and

feet moving quickly. Followed by a cool down and stretch. Instructor: Nancy Nickell

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
55 years and older
12 Week Session
Mondays, January 7-March 25
(No class 1/21 & 2/18)
11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Free

Heart and Core

Move to the high energy beat to pump up the heart rate followed by 20 minutes of a Pilates core floor workout to strengthen the area from shoulders through hips. Class members should bring their own mats. This is a free class; however, registration is required. Instructor: Nancy Nickell
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 years and older
12 Week Session
Saturdays, January 5-March 23
9:15–10:15 a.m.
Free

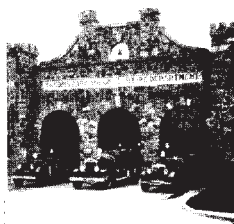
SPORTS

Tennis Fun & Fitness

This class blends exercise with learning or reviewing tennis skills utilizing special equipment for indoor play. All equipment provided, but you can bring your own racket. Instructor: Coach SJ

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 and older
12 Week Session
Thursdays, January 3-March 21
12–1 p.m.
Free

AT YOUR SERVICE



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Nov. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Montgomery County Fire and Rescue personnel assigned to the station have responded to 553 fire-related incidents in 2018. The department also addressed or assisted with 2,763 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a total of 3,316. Totals for 2017 were 488 and 2,818 representing a decrease of 57 incidents.

During November, Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 11,735 hours of standby hours in the station compared to 16,201 in November 2017, a decrease of 4,466 hours.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of Dec. 23, 62 people have died in fires compared to 71 in 2017.

Dinners for Thanksgiving

The Takoma Park VFD marks its 24th year providing dinners. Again a special thanks to the Takoma Park Lions Club, Takoma Park VFD and Auxiliary for donating funds to purchase the dinners for 24 families (6-8 people per dinner).



Assisting Jim Jarboe with the loading and delivery of the dinners from Safeway are (left to right) TPVFD Dave Hooker, KiKi Alfaro and TPLC President Kirk Szymanski

Providing Toys at Christmas

2018 was another successful year, marking TPVFD's 38th year of hosting a toy drive and providing 189 children, representing 66 families, with toys. Special thanks to Paul Gunther, executive director, Toys for Tots, Montgomery County for providing toys



Left to right: TPVFD members Ashlee Willey, Auxiliary President Tina Willey and Jim Jarboe (2 hatter) TPVFD and Takoma Park Lions Club, also citizens Tina Smith Jackson, Renarda Brooks and Tori Williams. Not pictured: TPVFD EMS Lt. Jorge Alfaro (2 hatter) TPVFD and TPLC, KiKi Alfaro, and TPVFD member Steve Novik

Takoma Park leaders volunteer in the community

Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart, Takoma Park Councilmembers, State Delegates and several Takoma Park police officers all gathered during Thanksgiving week to help the disadvantaged in the community at Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington (ACSGW). The community leaders helped at a holiday food basket distribution. Maryland State Delegates, David Moon and Lorig Charkoudian, and City Councilmembers Talisha Sercy and Cindy Dyballa volunteered at the event as well as the Mayor.

New Takoma Park Deputy Chief of Police Anthony Williams and other officers he recruited also helped. Terry Seamens, the Takoma Park City Councilmember and ACSGW board member who invited them commented, "I was pleasantly surprised to see how much time they each put in serving the community that day at a truly grassroots level."

The food distribution (ACSGW's Holi-



Photo credit: Photo by ACSGW

Left to right: David Moon, Maryland State Delegate, District 20; Kate Stewart, Takoma Park Mayor; Loring Charkoudian, Maryland State Delegate, District 20; ACSGW Client

day Giving Project) occurs both in November and December each year to help ensure low-income families can enjoy nutritious meals during the holidays.

—Submitted by Alicia Tucker, marketing and communications, ACSGW

Winter Preparedness Check-up

By Claudine Schweber, Co-Chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee



Have you done this before? Did you receive a healthy report?

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

Just like checking your blood pressure, heart rate, weight and medications with the doctor or getting the car tuned up, here's a winter safety check-up list:



Indoors at home

If you must shelter in place, you should have:

- 3 days' worth of supplies (Go Bag)
 - Water for 3-6 days (about a gallon per person per day);
 - Non-perishable food that doesn't require refrigeration or cooking
 - Can opener that's hand operated

Status: Yes ____ No ____ Notes _____

- Lighting and news source
 - Flashlights with working batteries and/or a lantern
 - Portable radio battery-operated, solar-powered, or hand-crank radio

Status: Yes ____ No ____ Notes _____

- Health support
 - Prescription medication, sufficient for at least a week;
 - Medical professionals' contact list
 - Copies of health insurance information, medical records, health documents
 - Phone/contact information for nearest hospital & emergency personnel
 - First aid kit

Status: Yes ____ No ____ Notes _____

Outside your home

- If you have to leave your house or apartment for several days, you will need:
- Go Bag with supplies
- A few games, books, puzzles to keep busy if internet is down
- Warm clothing and complete change of clothes/underwear; sturdy shoes
- External contacts list; list of medications, cell phone and charger
- To sign up for the TPPD House Check Program if you are going away 4-30 days, call the Takoma Park Police Department at 301-270-1100. You must do this several days in advance.

Status: Yes ____ No ____ Notes _____

Communication and contact information

To establish or maintain communication during an emergency, you will need:

- Emergency contact list with identifier (such as cousin, neighbor) and easily accessible with phone/email info*
- Out of area emergency contacts (name, relationship, contact info)*
- Cell phone charged before the storm and/or a portable charger (ready for use)
- Paper and pen/pencil

*Be sure to tell these people they are on your list!

Status: Yes ____ No ____ Notes _____

Assistance for the elderly, disabled and non-English speakers

You should have:

- Support for caregivers as well as the elderly
- Mobility help for those needing wheel chairs and/or special medical equipment
- Contact information for sign language interpreters or translators

* Reminder: Through the CARE Program, The Takoma Park Police Department will call registered residents who are alone or have special needs. To sign up, call 301-270-1100.

Status: Yes ____ No ____ Notes _____

School information

Make sure that you have:

- The school's emergency number
- Information about when the school becomes an overnight shelter
- Contact information for school personnel
- A way to contact your child and for him/her to contact you
- Information and authorization for the school if someone else needs to pick up the student

*Despite our preference for technology, keep a paper copy of this information, so it's visible and accessible.

Status: Yes ____ No ____ Notes _____

Did you pass your check-up? Don't wait! Remember being prepared prevents being scared. It's easy to contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126. And Join us at "Talk of Takoma" WOWD/LP 94.3 FM at 1 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month for "Dear Bea(trice) Prepared."

DOLLARS AND SENSE
From page 3

Operating Costs

Similar to personnel costs, it's reasonable to assume that even if we continue to provide the same level of service and programs, the costs for doing so will increase. This is largely due to increasing prices for things like supplies, small equipment, contracted services, etc. That said, we are always looking for efficiencies, and occasionally are able to spend less than previous years on operating costs in certain areas. We also always have the option of discontinuing certain services or eliminating programs, but that could mean taking away something that residents have come to greatly appreciate or even rely on. This is all part of the annual balancing act. When we know more about Council's expectations and any new priorities, departmental budget requests, and the Constant Yield, we'll have a better sense of the extent to which we'll need to hold the line, or change, eliminate, or add services and programs.

Debt Service

Debt service is one of the few areas where we have a good sense of what costs will be in the future. When we borrow money, we lock in a particular interest rate and can plan for spreading costs out over the term of the loan. For that reason, we don't expect any surprises regarding our debt service payments on outstanding loans. Those loans include bonds used to pay for major Community Center renovations, construction of the Public Works facility, major transportation projects (Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape and Flower Avenue Green Street), and planned Library Renovations.

Capital Outlay

As noted above, "capital outlay" refers to costs for capital items like infrastructure and facility improvements, vehicle replacement, equipment replacement, technology improve-

ments, park development, and stormwater management. Most of the items in the "Capital Improvement Program" are things that we have known for at least a few years we would need to purchase. For some items like vehicles and equipment replacement we may be able to realize some savings in the short term by pushing expenditures out if, say, a vehicle is in better shape than expected at the time we planned to replace it. On the "flipside," sometimes vehicles and equipment may not last as long as we'd hoped. And for capital items involving construction, cost estimates developed one year could change significantly by the time a project goes out to bid. We have seen this recently as federal trade policies have caused dramatic fluctuations (mostly increases) in the costs of construction materials. A real-life and nearby example is the City of Gaithersburg's planned public safety building. They expected to pay about \$15 million on the project until very recently, and now they are looking at an \$18 million price tag because of increases in the costs of steel!

There are also often new needs and expenditures that come up during the development process. Of course, these types of requests are viewed more favorably by the City Manager and Council when part of the justification for the expense involves cost-savings down the road.

Reserves

For many years, we have used an unwritten standard that there should be at least \$3 million in unassigned funds in the General Fund at the time of budget adoption. That amount had been identified as an approximation of the funds needed to cover monthly cash fluctuations over the course of the fiscal year. It also provided a reasonable amount of cushion in the event of an emergency or disaster. However, over the years personnel costs and the overall budget increased to the point where \$3 million was less than comfortable. The "industry standard," per the Government Finance Officers Association best practices,

is for unassigned reserves to be 17 percent of the total General Fund Revenue or Expenditure amount or a minimum of two months of regular operating expenditures. In May of last year, the Council adopted a reserve policy stating that unless a special situation justifies a lower amount, they would adopt a budget that reflected this minimum reserve level (based on General Fund Revenues). In the event of a special situation, which would be explained in a public statement, they would strive to reach the minimum level within three years. The good news here is that we ended FY18 with a larger unassigned fund balance than we expected. This was due to unexpected savings due to staff vacancies and postponement of certain major projects (for example, the Library Renovations which were put on hold temporarily when we learned that a new floodplain study would have required). The flip-side is that much of what was not spent last year will be carried over into the current year to be spent, so it's not all actually "savings."

The Bottom Line

Very few people like it when they have to pay more in taxes. Government officials (who are also human and also pay taxes!) are acutely aware of this fact. We do our very best to understand the needs, interests and priorities of members of the community and develop a budget that balances all these things. While it's a task with many factors and considerations, there are really two primary, related levers when it comes to the General Fund: taxes and services. In a budget year where we can expect increases in the cost of providing services, tax revenue will need to increase in order to maintain service levels and programs. If we do not increase taxes, service levels will need to be reduced and/or programs eliminated. If the expectation is that the City continues to provide the same level of services and programs, there is little wiggle room in the budget to make changes or cuts. Our staff

and budget are very lean. We do not have "fluff." This means we cannot add services or programs without adding staff unless we discontinue other services or programs. A reduction in tax revenues will require cuts to services and programs. Cuts to programs usually mean cuts to staff. Most of our staff members wear a variety of hats, so if a position is cut, there could be ripple impacts to other services or programs. Additionally, we have debt obligations that must be met if we are to remain in good financial standing, capital purchases that must be made if we are to continue collecting solid waste and clearing snow, staff members who must be paid...you get the idea. Hopefully you now have a better sense of the budget process and the many considerations that need to be weighed and balanced as it is developed. As we enter budget season, we welcome your feedback, input and ideas.

Additional Resources

The annual budget is a forward-looking planning document developed by staff that includes proposed expenditures and the revenue sources that will be used to cover those expenditures for a given fiscal year. The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR), on the other hand, is backward-looking, prepared by independent auditors, and includes actual rather than estimated/projected dollar figures from the previous year(s). In order to get a full picture of the City's financial standing and plans, one should refer to both the adopted budget document and the CAFR. These documents are available on the City's Budget and Financial Documents page of the City's website: <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/finance/budgets-and-financial-documents>.

TREE CANOPY
From page 1

the Native American word "Tacoma"). It's no accident we still have such lush greenery in our city. For many years, we've had strong advocates for tree protection and equally strong laws. And today, we have an ever growing awareness of how trees help slow climate change by removing carbon dioxide, storing carbon, and reducing energy use in nearby buildings, as well as providing other critical ecological and social benefits. Not to mention they provide shade and look amazing! When the City Council conducted its annual priority-setting process earlier this year, we pledged to take the following inter-related actions:

- Formulate **tree canopy goals** to strengthen and expand Takoma Park's commitment to growing its canopy and helping address climate change
- Review **our Tree Ordinance policies and processes** to address resident concerns and ensure alignment with canopy goals
- Explore **improved approaches for education and outreach** to the community with a focus on tree retention, maintenance, and growth

At the Oct. 24 Council meeting, we dis-

cussed a schedule for moving forward on these points, with a goal of completing the work by May 2019. A crucial part of the plan is ensuring many opportunities for engagement by residents and input from staff members and Council-appointed committees.

Tree Ordinance

The Council has asked the Tree Commission and the Committee on the Environment to review the ordinance and recommend areas for updates and improvement. The following are some areas the Council has initially identified for review based on resident feedback:

- What decisions can, and cannot, be appealed
- Definition of "hazardous" and "hardship" and waiver policies
- Timeframes for various actions
- Fees and tree replacement requirements, including for multifamily buildings
- Procedures for emergencies, including emergency tree fund

Tree Canopy

The Council asked the Commission and the Committee to review tree canopy data and identify recommended goals. Both panels have previously urged the Council to establish a formal tree canopy goal. Older, mature trees are dying, and a 2014 review

showed that tree canopy coverage in Wards 4 and 6 lags behind other areas. The disparity between wards connects with the City's commitment to racial equity.

A tree canopy goal would help prioritize how to provide residents throughout the City appropriate access to the many benefits that flow from a healthy urban forest. Canopy data compiled on our behalf by Montgomery County is now undergoing a rigorous academic review, after which we'll be well-positioned to start considering longer term canopy goals and policies.

Education and Outreach

The third component of our strategy is focused on helping residents gain a better understanding of tree health and maintenance. Professional arborists recommend that residents think about tree care as seriously as they focus on home maintenance, but many property owners aren't aware of how best to promote tree health and extend life through regular pruning and watering, and adding soil amendments. We hope to develop ways of disseminating information of this type to residents, and also improving the accessibility of information about the Tree Ordinance. Throughout this process, resident feedback will be very important. There are many ways to engage and share your views, including:

- **Online Tree Ordinance Comment Form**

- Fill out this form to share your experiences with the tree ordinance, recommended modifications, and/or questions.
- **Open House/Public Forum** – Details will be provided as we make plans this winter.
- **Contact your Councilmember** – Residents are encouraged to contact their Councilmembers to share their thoughts and experiences.
- **Public Comments at Work Sessions** – The Council will hold multiple work sessions this winter, at which residents can share their opinions during the public comment period.

Resources

The City's website includes information and resources on the value of our trees, how to care for them and the tree permit program.

- Tree ordinance and canopy review project page (including online survey): takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/tree-ordinance-review-tree-canopy-goal
- Tree Permits: takomaparkmd.gov/services/permits/tree-permits/
- Tree Commission: takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees/tree-commission
- Councilmember contact information: takomaparkmd.gov/government/city-council/contact-us

JANUARY '19

Do you have an item for the city calendar?

Do you have an item for the city calendar? Let us know if you have a nonprofit event that would be of interest to City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the February issue is Jan. 11, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Jan. 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 Meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

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

New Years - 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.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - City Offices Closed

Monday, Jan. 21
All City offices and facilities will be closed Monday, Jan. 21, for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

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

Yoga Storytime for Families

Saturday, Jan. 5, 10:30 a.m.
Takoma Park Library
Yoga Storytime for families with 0-6 year olds. Enjoy yoga poses, songs, and a story with your child.

Mock Caldecott for Adults

Saturday, Jan. 12, 1 – 4 p.m.
TP Library
Grown-up fans of picture books: join the Takoma Park Library for its fifth annual Mock Caldecott for Adults. More details on page 8.

2019 NBC4 Health & Fitness Expo

Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Pl. NW D.C.
Jan. 12 – 13, Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Let's Play America is partnering with NBC4 to help bring this free expo which offers information on how to maintain a healthy lifestyle with forums on healthy cooking, exercise, activities for children from games to face painting.

Silver Spring Nursery School Open House

10309 New Hampshire Ave.
Tuesdays, Jan. 15, 10 a.m. & 7 p.m., Jan. 22, 10 a.m.
Silver Spring Nursery School (SSNS) is a cooperative, play-based, part-time nursery school for ages 2–5, where teachers and parents work together to help children develop a healthy sense

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENTS

Village Rides Volunteer Training

Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center, Rose Room
Orientation session for those interested in driving Takoma Park seniors once a month or more. Please register by calling The Village of Takoma Park at 301-646-2109, or email sandyeganretired@gmail.com.

Aging Well Seminar: Silvernest — Matching Seniors with Housemates

Thursday, Jan. 31, noon – 2 p.m.
TP Community Center, Azalea Room
Join us to learn about Silvernest, an initiative that facilitates matching seniors with potential housemates, from Janet Woodka (vice president, strategic partnerships, Silvernest Inc.). These matches provide financial support for seniors to stay in their homes, affordable housing for renters, and a potential option to reduce social isolation. This event is free and open to all, no pre-registration required. Refreshments will be provided. For more information, visit villageoftakomapark.com.

of identity and self-esteem. Families can attend an information session, tour the school, and meet the teachers. Applications and fees will be accepted during Open House through Feb. 1.

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

Humanities Lecture

Thursday, Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
Experts share their insights on history, pop culture, and more timely topics.

DECAYED Art Exhibition

Thursday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
TP Community Center
Three talented artists will display their work in DECAYED, an exhibition exploring the beauty and melancholy of decay. An opening reception will be held at 7 p.m. on Jan. 10, and the exhibition will be on view until March 10. More details on page 5.

Film Screening

Thursday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
Docs in Progress and other filmmakers present a wide variety of documentaries on compelling subjects. Past documentaries have explored discrimination against the Deaf community, artists who helped overthrow a dictator in Sierra Leone, and the life story of civil rights pioneer Fannie Lou Hamer.

Drawing Fantastic Beasts and Magical Hogwarts Creatures

Sunday, Jan. 13, 2 – 4 p.m.
TP Library
Kids ages 9–4 are invited to learn how to draw fantastic beasts — including some from the world of Harry Potter. The class will be taught by local illustrator and art teacher Kate Lanxner. Participants will work all together on one creature, step by step. There also will be templates and overlays for drawing other Hogwarts creatures. Class size is limited and registration is required.

Carroll Café: Richie and Rosie

Friday, Jan. 18, 7:30 – 10 p.m.
Carroll Cafe at Seekers Church
Richie and Rosie are an Americana duo from Trumansburg, N.Y., who perform music rooted in old-

timey songs.
Tickets & info at carrollcafe.org

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, Jan. 17, 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.

Writing A Village

Monday, Jan. 21, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room
Led by former Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker, this free workshop provides a friendly atmosphere for writers to share their poetry and creative writing.

Photo Salon

Monday, Jan. 27, 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Sunday, Feb. 10, 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.

Historic Takoma Artist Talk

Sunday, Feb. 24, 2 p.m.
Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave.
Wintry Mix is a site-specific installation by Takoma Park artist Marty Ittner, which features photography from the Historic Takoma archives by Morris Bien, present day images by Eric Bond and collagraph prints by Ittner. The piece presents our shared humanity and ingenuity when the landscape is suddenly coated in slippery stuff.

FSGW Midwinter Festival

Saturday, Feb. 2, 12 - 10:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
Come out and dance and sing with your shadow. It's Groundhog Day and time for the Folklore Society of Greater Washington Mini-Fest. This annual celebration is a tribute to all things FSGW: chanteys and stories, dances and duets, hambos and hornpipes, banjos and bodhrans and ballads. There are two dance tracks and more than 40 workshops and concerts at seven different venues throughout the school (plus unscheduled hallway shenanigans, usually involving Morris dancers, bells, sticks and hankies). It's a sure-fire cure for the winter blues.
For ticket prices and additional information, visit fsgw.org/mini-fest.

