

WHAT'S NEW?

New Rules for Accessory Dwelling Units

Details, page 4

Teen Program Instructors Needed

Details, page 6

TPPD & Takoma Park Adventist Church Winter Coat Drive

Details, page 9

City offices & facilities closed

Christmas Holiday

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

New Year's Holiday

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

Trash holidays

Christmas

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

New Year's Holiday

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

Volume 58, No. 12 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

PUBLIC SPACE ☐ Page 3SNOW REMOVAL ☐ Page 3HOLIDAY MARKET ☐ Page 9

Tak-tivist
Jay Keller
Page 11

ECRWSS POSTAL CUSTOMER

Mayor & Council
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Takoma Park, MD 20912

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DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS
TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

The Council is on recess until January 15, 2020. The Council will hold the annual Joint Priorities Meeting with the 20th District Delegation on December 11 at 7 p.m. in the TPCC Auditorium.

COMPLETE SAFE STREETS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

COUNCIL COMPENSATION TASK FORCE

Monday, Dec. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 16 (tentative), 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Dec. 12, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Dec. 19, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 6:45 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

YOUTH COUNCIL

Sunday, Dec. 8, 2:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

Monday, Dec. 16, 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.

CityCouncilAction

Only negative votes or abstentions are reported here. Resolutions and ordinances are published online after adoption.

On **Oct. 23, 2019**, the City Council approved a series of contracts and purchases. **Ordinance 2019-35** authorized purchase of two Ford F250 Pickup Trucks from Academy Ford at a total cost of \$72,512. **Ordinance 2019-36** authorized purchase of an F450 Dump Truck from Academy Ford for \$76,610. **Ordinance 2019-37** authorized purchase of a Chevy Bolt from Sport Chevrolet for \$32,804. These vehicles all replace existing City fleet vehicles. **Ordinance 2019-38** authorized purchase of replacement computers from Dell and CDW-G for \$57,627 and renewal of Adobe Creative Cloud licenses for \$20,444. An indefinite quantities contract for street, sidewalk, and stormwater structure construction was awarded to D&F Construction by **Ordinance 2019-39**. **Ordinance 2019-40** approved a second indefinite quantities contract award to NZI Construction Corporation. **Ordinance 2019-41** authorized execution of a contract for the photo speed enforcement program with Conduent State and Local Solutions. The contract will result in the installation of new replacement cameras in the City and a lower monthly per camera per month cost.

Also on **Oct. 23**, the City Council authorized the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Montgomery County Board of Elections. The agreement will enable City elections to be conducted, in separate spaces, at each of the five Takoma Park voting places during presidential and gubernatorial general elections. **Resolution 2019-49** endorsed use of CDBG funding, estimated to be \$91,000 for FY 2021, for eligible streetscape and ADA improvements.

Ordinance 2019-42 was approved on **Oct. 30, 2019**. The ordinance authorized payments to the Takoma Park Independence Day Committee for reimbursable expenditures of \$18,745 and to the Takoma Park Folk Festival for reimbursable expenditures up to \$17,500.

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK, MARYLAND PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENTS FAIR SUMMARY

This is to give notice that on November 13, 2019, the Council of the City of Takoma Park adopted three Charter Amendment Resolutions.

(A) CR-2019-1: The proposed amendment to Article III City Council (1) adds a requirement that each voting ward be "compact in form, composed of adjoining territory, and have substantially equal populations," a requirement currently imposed by the City Code; (2) changes the day of the first meeting of a newly elected Council from the second Monday following an election to the second Wednesday following the election to reflect the Council's meeting schedule; and (3) eliminates gender binary language.

(B) CR-2019-2: The proposed amendment to Article V Amendment Procedures: provides that the signature requirement for Charter amendment petitions is twenty percent of registered voters at the time of the last election, rather than twenty percent of persons registered at the time of submitting the petition.

(C) CR-2019-3: The proposed amendment to Article VI Registration, Nominations and Elections: (1) eliminates the 21-day residency requirement for voters; (2) eliminates outdated procedures; (3) clarifies existing language; (4) eliminates gender binary language; (5) revises deadlines to comport with early voting; (6) provides for election ties to be resolved by lot rather than runoff election; (7) eliminates requirement that election judges be appointed by the Council; (8) establishes a list of voters only registered to vote in City elections rather than a list of noncitizen registered voters; (9) changes references to "citizens" to "residents"; (10) provides that the signature requirement for advisory referendum petitions is twenty percent of registered voters at the time of the last election, rather than twenty percent of persons qualified to vote; (11) provides that the signature requirement for recall petitions is twenty percent of registered voters at the time of the last election, rather than the greater of 1500 qualified voters or twenty percent of qualified voters; (12) requires that signatures on recall petitions be obtained after the most recent election and at least 120 days prior to the next general election; (13) prohibits the Council from reappointing a recalled official; and (14) allows potential candidates to nominate themselves or second their nomination.

These Charter Amendments will become effective on January 2, 2020 unless petitioned to referendum by 20 percent of the registered voters of the City on or before December 23, 2019. For further information, contact the City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, phone 301-891-7267, e-mail jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov. The full text of the amendment is available for review at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Attest: Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk

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. If you are interested in appointment, please drop in to observe a meeting and then submit the online application: <http://bit.ly/bcc-application>. Meetings are posted on the City website calendar. Additional information is available at takomaparkmd.gov/government/boards-commissions-and-committees. Positions are available or terms are expiring on the following:

Arts and Humanities Commission: The Commission advises the City Council on matters involving the arts; encourages and aids in the appreciation, participation, and awareness of the arts; encourages cooperation and coordination among individuals, organizations and institutions concerned with the arts in Takoma Park; and facilitates opportunities for artists and supports the development of self-sustaining arts programs.

Commemoration Commission: The Commission documents, maintains, and preserves past, present, and future memorials, commemoratives and recognitions in the City and recommends to

the City Council procedures and programs for honors and commemorations.

Committee on the Environment: The Committee advises the City Council on all environmental issues and serves in partnership with the Council and City staff to establish and achieve sustainability and other environmental goals.

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs: The Commission adjudicates complaints for violations of the City's Landlord-Tenant Relations law; rules on petitions for rent increases above the rent stabilization allowance; and decides on appeals from the City Manager's decision to deny, suspend or revoke a rental housing license.

Ethics Commission: The Commission devises, receives and maintains all forms generated by the Ethics Ordinance; provides advisory opinions to persons subject to the Ordinance; hears and decides any inquiry or complaint regarding an alleged violation of the Ethics Ordinance; conducts a public information program regarding the purposes and applications of the Ordinance; recommends legislative changes and improvements to the Ordinance; promulgates regulations to

accompany the Ordinance; and provides and annual certification to the State Ethics Commission.

Grants Review Committee: The Committee evaluates grant applications for funding from the City's Community Quality of Life Grants Program based on established program priorities, guidelines, and available funding. Applicants should have demonstrated expertise in community development, grants management, public arts, or related areas of interest.

Noise Control Board: The Board assists and advises the City on noise control issues, including administration and enforcement of the Noise Control Ordinance, and adjudicates two-party noise disturbance complaints.

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee: The Committee arranges for lectures, film screenings, and other outreach and educational events. The Committee also oversees implementation of and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act.

Recreation Committee: The Committee advises the City Council on how best to serve the diverse recreation needs of Takoma Park residents.

PUBLIC SPACE
From page 1

and operated by the City, Montgomery County, the Maryland State Highway Administration, and other public agencies. Public space includes publicly owned parks, plazas, and open greenspace along with public right of way and some municipal buildings. Within the City limits, public parks comprise over 8% of the total land area, equaling about 7.2 acres of parkland per 1,000 City residents.

Generally, public space should be within a ten-minute walk to be considered accessible. In Takoma Park, most areas of the City are within a one-quarter to one-eighth mile radius of parkland, but these are within varying levels of walkability. Public spaces in the City provide social benefits by serving as important gathering places, but they can also provide environmental benefits like tree cover, stormwater management and improved air quality. Public space can also help achieve economic development goals through street closures and other community events.

A map of public space in Takoma Park appears to the right and can be viewed here at https://bit.ly/32zobd7.

Right of Way as Public Space

Parks, plazas, and other greenspace are most commonly considered to be public spaces, but the City's street network, public parking spaces, and other public rights of way are also an important part of Takoma Park's overall public space. A public right of way is an easement for public travel or a path of transportation that can be used by all members of the public. In Takoma Park, public right of way accounts for 28% of the City's total land area. This provides opportunities for streets to be treated as a community asset rather than just a means for automobile



Crossroads Market

transportation and storage. Aside from streets, City right of way also includes sidewalks, gardens, neighborhood paths, public art installations, the Met Branch trail, and medians. These are often overlooked, but represent important parts of Takoma Park's public space network. Examples of ways that streets and parking spaces can be used as community building spaces include the Takoma Park and Takoma/Langley Crossroads Farmer's Markets, outdoor cafe seating in parking spaces, and more recently DC's Open Streets event.

Public Space Management Plan

As a dense, urban municipality, there are fewer opportunities for the City to acquire additional land for public space, highlighting the need to effectively manage and maintain existing public space. In the past two decades the City has supported or adapted multiple transportation, land-use, and environmental sustainability plans. These plans generally include recommendations for public parks, public right of way, and other facilities. These factors encourage a broader,

coordinated planning effort which addresses public space in the City as a whole with coordinated goals and priorities. City staff is developing a Public Space Management Plan to provide a vision, goals, and guidance for the way that public space will be used, maintained, and acquired in Takoma Park. The plan will provide a framework for developing policies and programs to accomplish set goals for public space and prioritize improvements. The plan will look at the distribution of public space around the City, accessibility, bicycle and pedestrian connectivity, social and racial equity considerations, and environmental health and sustainability. Public space should be equitably distributed throughout the City and serve the diverse needs of City residents. This means providing opportunities for both active and passive recreation as well as social gathering.

Scope of Work and Timeline

A scope of work was presented to Council in winter 2018. Staff will seek input from residents and Council consideration on draft goals for the Public Space Management Plan in spring 2020. For updates, visit takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory/public-space-management-plan.

SNOW REMOVAL
From page 1

and prepare to respond as soon as the snow starts to fall. Plow 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. 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 staff clears public sidewalks at City public 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. City crew 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 six inches or more, the expectation is to have 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 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 residents to follow during a snow event. Stay 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. Be aware. The following 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 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. Clear sidewalks. Residents are responsible for clearing the public sidewalks ad-

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley
Assistant: Sean Gossard
www.takomaparkmd.gov
Vol. 58, No. 12

The Takoma Park Newsletter is published 12 times a year as the official publication of the City of Takoma Park, takomaparkmd.gov. Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@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. Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park. The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified or political advertisements. The Newsletter is printed on recycled—content paper.



BUILDING COMMUNITY

City of Takoma Park and LEDC host free first-time homebuyer program workshop

On Saturday, November 9, the City's Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) held a HUD Certified First-Time Homebuyer Workshop. This free workshop is held each year in May and November. Nearly 25 prospective first-time homebuyers learned how to successfully navigate each step of the home-buying process.



LEDC invited a host of speakers, including a loan officer, real estate agent, insurance agent, and home inspector to provide a walk-through of the homeownership process. LEDC's Homeownership Department is a HUD-certified housing counseling agency serving Washington, DC and Maryland. Participants were given a certificate of completion that provides them with access to federal, state, county, and local first-time homebuyer programs that help with closing costs, lower interest rates, and down payment assistance.

City of Takoma Park's Grant Coordinator Jennifer Hale shared information about the City's Home Stretch Down Payment Assistance Program that provides first-time homebuyers, who want to make the City of Takoma Park their home, with a forgivable loan in the amount of \$10,000. There was also a presentation by a recent recipient of the down payment assistance program. Information about the Home Stretch program is available on the City's website.

Accessory Dwelling Units: New rules take effect December 31, 2019

The new, less-restrictive rules governing approval of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in Montgomery County take effect December 31, 2019.

ADUs are basement apartments, garage conversions, or backyard cottages on lots zoned for single-family homes. Because the addition of an ADU changes the use of the single-family zoned lot, Montgomery County has to approve adding the unit. Once the unit is approved by the county, the City of Takoma Park oversees the rental housing licensing process.

The new rules make the process much easier for Takoma Park homeowners. Your proposed ADU in Takoma Park will not have any parking space requirements nor will it need to be 300 feet from the next closest ADU, as was the case in the past. The new rules are designed to expand housing options for tenants, offer homeowners the opportunity to generate additional revenue, and encourage homeowners with unlicensed ADUs to license their units.

If you have an accessory apartment ready for licensing or are you considering the possibilities, your first stop is with Montgomery County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA).

DHCA administers the licensing process, which includes verifying proof of residency of the owner(s), reviewing drawings of the ADU layout, and verifying the state-issued certificate that confirms that the property has passed an inspection for lead risk. Your proposed ADU will also need to be inspected for compliance with health, safety and property maintenance codes. Full details about this process can be found on the county's web site at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DHCA/housing/licensing/accessory_apartment.html.

After the county issues the permit for your ADU, you must obtain a rental housing license from the City of Takoma Park. Additional information about the rental licensing program can be found on the City's website at takomaparkmd.gov/government/housing-and-community-development/rental-housing/rental-housing-licensing. If you have questions feel free to contact the Department of Housing and Community Development in person at 7500 Maple Avenue, 3rd Floor, by email housing@takomaparkmd.gov, or by telephone at 301-891-7119. As a reminder, ADUs still cannot be used as short-term rentals or be on the same property where another rental unit exists.

Local Amnesty International chapter writes letters to make a difference

By Katie Manganelli

Doing something as simple as writing a letter could make a life-changing impact for victims of human rights abuses across the world.

The Takoma Park/Silver Spring chapter of Amnesty International, a human rights advocacy group, is holding a meeting to support the Write for Rights event on December 7 at Mark's Kitchen (7006 Carrol Avenue) from 3-5 p.m.

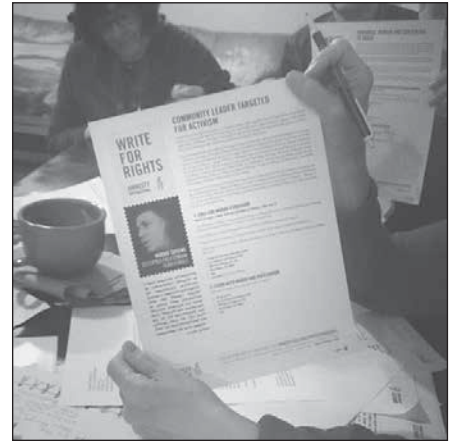
Amnesty International is a human rights organization that seeks a world where all people adhere to the universal declaration of human rights set by the United Nations according to Randall Marks, co-founder and co-coordinator of Takoma Park/Silver Spring Maryland Amnesty International Local Group 297.

Write for Rights is the world's biggest human rights event according to the Amnesty International website (www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/write-for-rights).

"Our messages help convince government officials to release people imprisoned for expressing their opinion (called 'prisoners of conscience' by Amnesty), support human rights defenders, stop torture, commute death sentences, and end other human rights abuses," says Amnesty International's website (<https://write.amnestyusa.org/what-is-write-for-rights>).

This year's Write for Rights is focused on youthful activists imprisoned or abused for making their opinions heard according to Marks. Participants gather to write letters to victims of human rights abuses worldwide, and the letters make a difference.

"We write directly to prisoners or to organizations that are connected to



prisoners, and we call those 'solidarity letters' to say 'the world cares about you.' And there's a fringe benefit, which is if they're in prison and they start getting a lot of mail, guards tend to treat the prisoners better because they know people are watching," Marks said.

"Another thing we do is we write to the governments that are imprisoning the prisoners and seek their release," he continued. "What we've found in the past is that some of the people that we write for do, in fact, get out [of prison]."

There is no membership necessary to participate in Write for Rights; the event is aimed at helping anyone make a difference. Amnesty International provides all materials necessary to write a letter that may make a life-changing impact for at-risk individuals across the globe.

"You don't have to know anything about human rights to start doing human rights work," said Marks.

"We're hoping to engage more people in human rights work, even if it's the first and only time they do it, it's a valuable service to humanity."



Safe Grow Signs

Is your lawn, apartment, and/or patio garden free of synthetic pesticides (including herbicides and fungicides) and safe for wildlife, pets and people? If so, let us and your neighbors know! Contact Neighborhood Services at 301-891-7113 or neighborhoodservices@takomaparkmd.gov.

Don't Miss the Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale on Dec. 7

Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale

Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Free Event

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

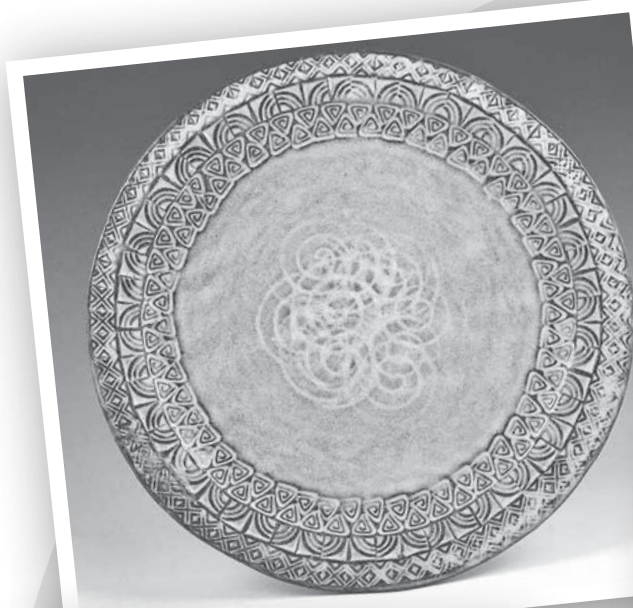
The 14th Annual Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale makes shopping local easy and affordable with more than 30 local artists gathered at the Takoma Park Community Center on Dec. 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Unlike many art sales, there is no admission fee, and you will find a broad array of creative gifts for your friends and family (and yourself!), including paintings, pottery, photography, handmade clothes, jewelry, toys, and more.

The Holiday Art Sale has become a favorite tradition in Takoma Park that has expanded into a juried event featuring talented vendors from across the D.C. area, said photographer Rob Rudick, who started the art sale 14 years ago with Sara Daines, former director of the City's Housing and Community Development Department.

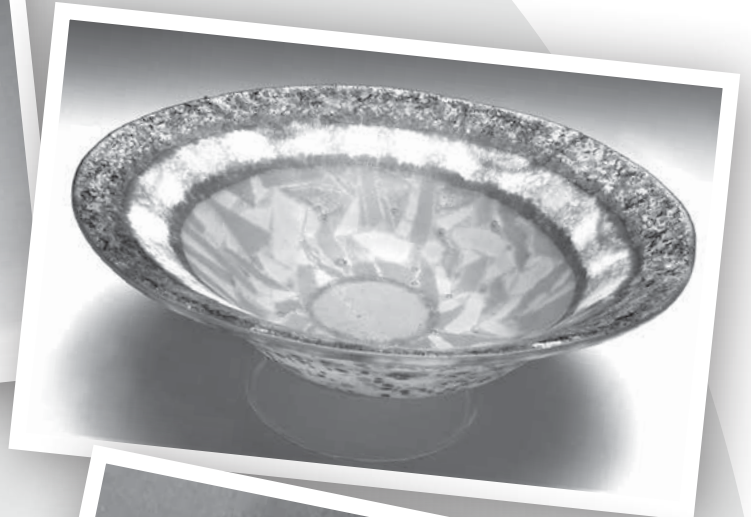
"Last year was our best art sale ever, and I expect this year to keep up that trend," Rudick said. "I love getting all of these great artists together. It's really exciting when everyone is in the community center and their work is up for everyone to see. The City's commitment to organize the art sale every year shows that the arts are an important part of daily life in Takoma Park."

The City's Arts and Humanities Commission hosts the art sale each year to support the local artist community. City staff also organize many free events throughout the year at the Takoma Park Community Center in the *Takoma Park Arts* cultural series, including art exhibitions, film screenings, lectures, poetry readings, concerts, dance, and theater. You can find more info about our upcoming events at www.takomaparkmd.gov/arts and sign up for the weekly *Takoma Park Arts* e-newsletter at bit.ly/2B5YRRu.

The Holiday Art Sale includes a diverse array of artistic mediums at affordable prices, Rudick said. "We have some popular vendors who return every year, but we also bring in new vendors, so there is always something new to see," he said. "You can knock out your gift list early and then relax before the holidays."



At left, Ceramic Plate by Susan Woollen



Below, Glass Bowl by Lori Milstein



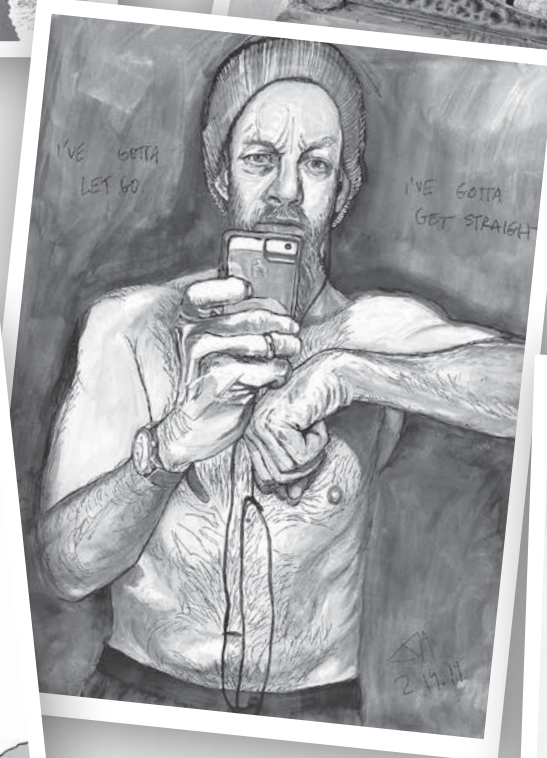
Above, Photo by Rob Rudick



Above, Art Box by Kristin Helberg

At right, Painting by Jarrett Arnold

Below, Print by Hannah Root



Below, Scarf by Jack Salt Moon



RECREATION

TOTS

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 enhances both cognitive and physical development at this important time. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Avenue
3–6 years
8 Week Session
Tuesdays, 6:15–7 p.m.
January 7–February 25
Resident: \$95 / Non-resident: \$105



YOUTH

ART

Gift Making Workshop

Participants create seasonal artwork that may be given as gifts to friends and family. The first workshop will focus on using hand-building techniques to create one-of-a-kind sculptures, the second on glazing with food-safe glazes. There will be a \$10 materials fee payable to the instructor on the first day of class. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon
Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
6–12 years
2 Day Session
Saturdays, 10:15–11:15 a.m.
December 7 & 14
Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45



CAMPS

Winter Break Camp

Come experience Winter Break Camp with the Takoma Park Recreation Department. Campers will have the opportunity to add some excitement to their break with games, group activities and crafts. This winter break is set to be a whole lot of fun. Paperwork will need to be submitted prior to first day. Please bring a lunch and snack with you daily. There will be no camp on Monday–Wednesday, December 23–25 and January 1. Before Care and After Care available for an additional fee. Takoma Park Community Center
Azalea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
5–12 years
4 Day Session
December 26, 27, 30, 31
9 a.m.–4 p.m.
Resident: \$110 / Non-resident: \$120

TEENS



Instructors needed (to teach Grades 6–12)

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

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

ART

Poet Life Academy

Poet Life Academy builds self-confidence and self-esteem and encourages self-expression. Students will attend a field trip to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. They will meet and be mentored by professional poets. Participants will gradually gain the confidence to get on stage, stand before their peers, and share their original poetry. At the end of the session, we will have a graduation where each teen will recite a poem they wrote and receive a certificate of achievement. Takoma Park Community Center
Hydrangea Room
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Mondays & Wednesdays, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
January 6–March 11
Resident: \$10 / Non-resident: \$20

Xpression Tuesdays

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

DROP-IN

Teen Lounge

This special room is for teens only (middle school and high school students). You are welcome to watch two 50-inch and one 70-inch LED SMART TVs. We also have X-Box One and Wii Games, workstations, board games and comfy sitting areas for socializing with friends. Come join us after school for fun and laughs and on special events for an amazing time. Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue

Grades 6–12

Ongoing

Monday Wednesday, Thursday & Friday:
3:30–7 p.m.

Tuesdays: 3:30–6 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Free

Power Hour

Take advantage of our homework power hour focusing on academic support. We are the perfect balance of academics and fun. Students are given quiet time to complete homework or to read. Staff is available to assist and can review the completed assignments. Upon completion of work, students are invited to lounge, play games, and/or participate in activities. Registration is not required.

Takoma Park Community Center

Teen Lounge

7500 Maple Avenue

Grades 6–12

Ongoing Monday–Thursday

3:30–4:30 p.m.

Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Competitive Gaming

Our Competitive Gaming program will provide our teenage youth (grades 6–12) the opportunity to participate in competitive esports and compete for scholarship opportunities. This program includes a curriculum based around esports values, such as health, self-expression, and social interaction. Instructor: Javonte McDonald
Takoma Park Community Center
Rose Room
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Mondays & Wednesdays, 3:30–6 p.m.
January 8–March 18
Free

Creative Cooking with Crossroads

The Healthy Eating Program is a fun and interactive course about basic cooking and kitchen skills as well as healthy recipes (easy to replicate at home). Teens will be able to learn some nutritional components and how to create their own recipes. Teens will also take a trip to the Crossroad's Farmers market and learn about growing and purchasing the right foods. Transportation to the Community Kitchen will be provided. Instruction: Crossroads Farmers Market
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge (Meeting location)
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Mondays, 3:45–4:45 p.m.
February 3–March 20
Resident: \$10 / Non-resident: \$20

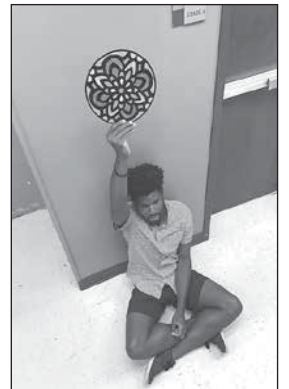
Think Tank

Think Tank is a free afterschool homework club aimed to improve student success by providing help with homework and assignments. Through using homework tutors/volunteers the program will help lower frustration, boost comprehension and teach how to apply new skills by providing academic help when needed. New Hampshire Towers
7401 New Hampshire Ave
Grades 5–12
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30–6 p.m.
January 7–March 26
Free

MULTI MEDIA

Photography 101

We are constantly taking photos but they don't come out the way we imagined. In this class, you'll learn the intros to photography as an art form to help you 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
12–18 years
8 Week Session
Tuesdays, 6–7 p.m.
January 7–February 25
Resident: \$75 / Non-resident: \$85



TRIPS

Frost Bite – Winter Break Trips

Don't want to be stuck in the house during winter break or tired of going to the same hang out spots? Break the routine and have some fun! Join us during winter break as we take exciting trips to enjoy our break. Advanced registration is required. *Some trips may require admission and/or money for food. Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge (meeting location)
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
December 30: Laser Tag
December 31: Main Event
10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Fee Per Day - Resident: \$35 / Non-resident: \$45



Teen Snow – Tubing Trip

Grab your hat, scarf and gloves and join us for an evening in the snow as we head to Liberty Mountain in Pennsylvania to go snow tubing. Race down one of ten tubing lanes solo or link up with a friend. During a break from snow tubing, hang inside the lodge and have a hot cup of cocoa. It's your day, so have fun the way you like. No experience necessary. Bus will depart from Takoma Park Community Center. Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge (meeting location)
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12

Friday, 2–8 p.m.
January 24
Resident: \$25 / Non-resident \$35

Montgomery County National College Fair
Decisions, 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 Montgomery County National College Fair in Gaithersburg, MD. Register in advance. Space is limited. Transportation Provided. We will meet in the Teen Lounge. Bus will depart TP Community Center at 4:30 p.m. and return by 9 p.m. Takoma Park Community Center Teen Lounge (meeting location) 7500 Maple Avenue Grades 9–12 Tuesday, 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m. March 31 Resident: Free / Non-resident: \$10

ADULTS

LOCAL BUSINESSES

Do you have a local business, and are you interested in helping local teens? Sign up to participate in the Summer Youth Employment Program to offer a Takoma Park teen a job this summer! Business Interest Meeting January 8.

RSVP to Leicia Monfort at 301-891-7290

ART

Clay in the Studio
A great class for homeschoolers, people with flexible schedules and the generally clay-curious. Students will utilize a variety of hand-building techniques (slab, pinch, coil) to create functional and non-functional vessels and sculptures out of clay. Caregiver participation required with young children (Ages 4–6). Adult students (Ages 16+) with experience may use the studio's electric wheels. Beginners are welcome. There is a \$20 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 and older 6 Week Session Wednesdays, 10–11:30 a.m. January 8-February 12 Resident: \$130 / Non-resident: \$150

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 years and older 8 Week Sessions Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m. January 7-February 27 \$95 Drop-in: \$10

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 Sessions Saturdays, 11:45 a.m.–12:45p.m. January 11-February 15 \$55 Drop in: \$10

MARTIAL ARTS



Karate Self-Defense
Promote physical fitness, self-defense, leadership and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style, Isshinryu (which means One Heart Way). This program is a partnership between the Takoma Park Recreation Department and the Penn State University Karate Club. Instructor: Penn State University Karate Club Takoma Park Recreation Center 7315 New Hampshire Avenue Back Room 16 and older Ongoing, Mondays & Wednesdays 7–8:30 p.m. Free with Recreation Center membership

MULTI MEDIA

Video Production & Editing
Learn the art of video production. From pre-production techniques, how to properly videotape with any device and techniques of editing. Participants will edit a project using FCPX or Premiere Pro. Instructor: Isaac Asare Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Multi Media Lab 14 and older 5 Week Session Thursdays, 7:30–9 p.m. January 30-February 27 Resident: \$165 / Non-resident: \$185

Using Digital Media for Community Engagement
Participants will learn a step by step guide to digital media as a marketing tool for community engagement. Participants will also learn steps on creating useful community engagement. Instructor: Isaac Asare Takoma Park Community Center 7500 Maple Avenue Multi Media Lab



People, Plants and Animals: A Powerful Connection

“Can anyone tell me the last time you took a walk and experienced the sounds of nature?” That was the first question asked when we arrived at the Meadowside Nature Center in October for a visit.

For many of our Think Tank program participants, the answer was a no. Think Tank is an after school academic program the Recreation Department operates at Hampshire Tower Apartments. In this program, our participants are able to get help with homework, academic support, mentoring, and complete art projects. When the weather is nice, we try to opt for holding the program outdoors, but adjacent to the playground one can still hear the faint hum of the New Hampshire Avenue traffic. So, when Amy, one of the participants, asked, "Are we going to see a polar bear?" nobody found it to be a bizarre question.

The untouched landscape of Meadowside Nature Center is beautiful, with more than eight miles of nature trails. As we began our nature walk, the kids buzzed about with excitement regarding the chances of seeing all sorts of creatures in their natural habitat. Our guide could sense the excitement, and told us, “The best way to view animals

is by remaining quiet, taking in the sounds, the scents, and the sights. Intentionally observe your surroundings because the animals will only show themselves if they don't feel threatened.” The students became silent and hyper-focused for the experience. For the second time today, Ms. Bridget Wood had captivated their attention with the mention of nature.

After the nature walk, the group headed to the Nature Center to meet some of the animals housed at Meadowside. All the kids gathered closely, as Ms. Wood headed towards the area where the Bald Eagle and other animals are housed. Here the youth witnessed the resident owls, hawks, snake and American bald eagle eating their daily meals. They even received the opportunity to play with a bunny and a turtle.

Before departing a final circle was held, and everyone said the things they enjoyed the most. When we got around to Amy her response was, “My favorite thing is that we are coming back in the spring.”

This is just one of the many enriching programs the Recreation Department offers. For a complete list of upcoming activities, check out the Winter City Guide in this month's newsletter.

LIBRARY



Kid's author Andrea Beaty visited the library on Nov. 8. Left to right: Lana, a teen volunteer with local non-profit Small Things Matter, Takoma Park Mayor Kate Stewart, kid's author Andrea Beaty, and Bridget, another Small Things Matter teen volunteer

CALENDAR

Circle Time

Tuesdays, 10:30–11 a.m.

Spanish Circle Time

Thursdays, 10:30–11 a.m.

Led by Senora Geiza

Friends of the Library Holiday Book Sale

Saturday Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Community Center Game Room

Featuring new and used children's books, new and used youth and teen books, and quality books of interest to adults.

Petites Chansons

Saturday, Dec. 7, 10:30 a.m.

Led by Madame Marie

Wreath-Making for Kids

Sat., Dec. 7, 2-4 p.m.

For ages 7-12; registration required.

LEGO Club

Sunday, Dec. 8, 1:30–3 p.m.

Building fun for ages 3–10.

Caldecott Club

Monday, Dec. 9, 7 p.m.

We'll be reading and discussing books that are great possibilities for the 2020 Caldecott Medal. Lemonade and cookies served.

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 4 p.m.

Come read some great comics!

Holiday Sing-a-Long

Saturday, Dec. 14, 3 p.m.

Come sing songs of Hanukkah, Christmas & Kwanzaa with local music teacher Wendy Lanxner and her students.

Kids Art

Sunday, Dec. 15, 2–3 p.m.

Come make art with Ms. Kati

WinterQuest Kick-Off

Mon., Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Lemonade, cookies and allergy-free treats served.

Winter Solstice Celebration

Thursday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.

Drumming with Bill Jenkins from 6:30-7:30, then the Foggy Bottom Morris Men swoop in with songs, dances and fun.

Alternative Games

Sunday, Dec. 22, 2–4 p.m.

Join Dave Burbank for a rousing session of *Dungeons & Dragons*. Ages 8 up.

COMING UP...

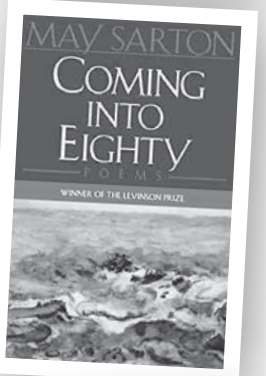
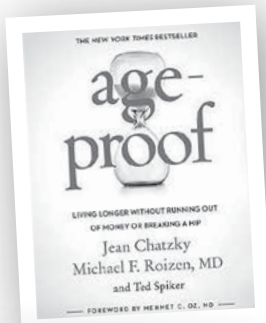
- **LEGO Club**, Sunday, Jan. 5, 1:30–3 p.m.
- **Bedtime Stories & a Craft**, Tuesday, Jan. 7, 7 p.m..

Library Resources for Elders

By Jill Raymond

Library patrons of all ages have noticed a special display focused on the needs, concerns, and interests of elders. Overall our collection has always offered a range of sources that speak to the issues faced by those in their later years, which can be useful for seniors, caregivers, family members, specialists and concerned others. These include:

- books addressing seniors' needs as they learn the use of new technology, including smartphones, computers, and social media
- nonfiction sources helping people make their way through the labyrinths of caregiving, Medicare, Social Security, and financial planning for one's later years, as well as titles in our magazine section like *AARP Magazine* and *AARP Bulletin*
- memoirs and contemplations by thoughtful writers and thinkers, who have turned their insights to the vicissitudes of aging; some examples: Gloria Steinem's *Doing Sixty and Seventy*, May Sarton's collection *Coming into 80: New Poems*; Jane Fonda's *Prime Time*; and Paul Newman's old pal A. E. Hotchner's *O. J. in the Morning*, *G & T [gin and tonic] at Night: Spirited*



Dispatches on Aging with Joie de Vivre

- works focusing on issues that impact elders in a unique or significant way: medical, legal, financial, interpersonal, or spiritual

Our special book display, which sits in front of the circulation desk, features works that speak directly to older individuals who want to discover, take more control over, or just come to grips with the possibilities open to them in this life stage. They include discussions of love in later life, affordable/alternative housing options, brain health, gardening, travel, depression, new careers, and much more, with titles such as *Ageproof: Living Longer Without Running Out of Money or Breaking a Hip*; *I Ching for Wise Living and Aging: How to Consciously find Inspiration and Purpose in the Second Half of Life*; *With a Little Help from Our Friends: Creating Community as We Grow Older*.

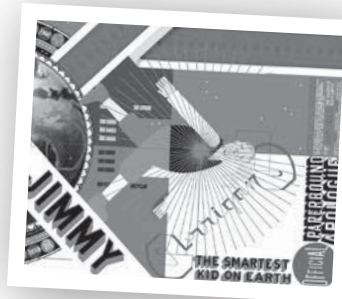
The library also invests in numerous online sources that patrons can access from the comfort of their home computer, or here in our computer center, where help is always available from the indefatigable Phil Shapiro. These offer thousands of full-text reference and magazine titles, and interactive programs through

LIBRARY RESOURCES □ Page 9

Friends Book Group and the Graphic Novel!

By Tim Rahn

The graphic novel, *Jimmy Corrigan: The Smartest Kid on Earth* by Chris Ware, will be discussed by Tim Rahn and Dave Burbank on Wednesday, January 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Hydrangea Room of the Takoma Park Community Center.



Since it was first published in 2000, *Jimmy Corrigan* critics have considered it a classic of the graphic book genre. Ware blends his simple but detailed drawings with complex layouts and typography into a narrative as mundane and unique as the Middle America that it depicts.

In *Jimmy Corrigan*, we follow the seemingly uneventful lives of four generations of the Corrigan's from a visit to the Co-

lumbian Exposition of 1893 to life in a contemporary office cubicle. The central theme of the novel is paternal abandonment, which Ware himself experienced, and the dysfunction it leaves in its wake.

Early in the novel we learn that the titular Jimmy Corrigan, single and aged beyond his 38 years, was

abandoned by his father. He now lives with his overbearing mother in Chicago shuffling to and from an office job. Out of the blue Jimmy receives an invitation and plane ticket from his father to travel to come for a visit over Thanksgiving.

The bumptious trip leads to a reconciliation of sorts, but more importantly it

BOOK GROUP □ Page 9

LIBRARY BRIEFS

- **Join us in celebrating the Winter Solstice** on Thursday Dec. 19! (Yes, we are a couple of days early). The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. when local musician Bill Jenkins leads a drumming circle for all ages. Bill will bring plenty of percussion instruments for all. Then, at 7:30 p.m., the Foggy Bottom Morris Men swoop in with their songs, dances and lively spirits. Thanks to the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library for sponsoring this wonderful annual event.
- **Mark your calendars for Monday, Jan. 13** at 7 p.m. That's when we'll select our Caldecott Club's 2020 Mock Caldecott winner! We'll first

read each of our eight monthly finalists and then vote for our winner. It's always fun to see how close we can come to the real Caldecott Medal winner; the 2020 winner will be announced on Monday, Jan. 27, at the American Library Association's Midwinter conference. As always, we'll have lemonade and cookies (plus allergy-free treats for those who need them) at our program. All ages welcome, and no registration required.

- **Sing songs of the season** with us on Saturday, Dec. 14 at 3 p.m. Local music teacher Wendy Lanxner and her guitar students will provide the music and song-sheets for this fun annual event. We'll sing songs of Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa, and all ages are welcome.



Cutline

HOLIDAY MARKET

■ From page 1

from all sorts of various cultural backgrounds selling handmade goods and artisan crafts from local businesses. There will also be live holiday music from the all-female Capital Accord Chorus; and Mexican hot chocolate and street corn from Eloteria DMV.

"Everyone should bring their sweet tooth," Gunnoud says. FILOS Bakery will bring its combination of Mexican and

German baked goods and will be selling cookies and the sweet German bread stollen.

The market will be open to all with something for adults and children.

"It's definitely a family-friendly event," says Gunnoud. "We even managed to get Santa, who will greet visitors and families." For more information on the Crossroads Holiday Market, visit takomalangleyley.org/holiday-market.

RECREATION

■ From page 7

14 and older
2 Day Session
Thursdays, 7:30–9 p.m.
February 13 & 20
Resident: \$130 / Non-resident: \$150

Photography 101

We are constantly taking photos but they don't come out the way we imagined. In this class, you'll learn the intros to photography as an art form to help you 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, 7:15–8:15 p.m.
January 7–February 25
Resident: \$80 / Non-resident: \$90



Saturdays: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Free

SPORTS/FITNESS/HEALTH

BESA African Dance Classes

Coming soon! Active Adults age 55 and older will enjoy this high-energy dance class. BESA Workout is an exercise with forms and techniques created from African dances. This fun aerobic exercise is a great cardio workout. This class is free; however, registration is required.

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
12 Week Session
Saturdays, January 4–March 21
1–2 p.m.
Free

Walking Group

Don't worry about the cold weather and join your friends for indoor lap walking. Go at your own pace. Drop-in, no registration is required; however, a free Fitness Pass is required to use the gym.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 and older
Ongoing on Tuesdays
1:15–2 p.m.
Free

55+

DROP-IN

Game Room Open Play.

The game room is available for adults age 55 and older to play pool, table tennis, basketball arcade and other active games. The game room is a great place to join friends for lively conversation, and just to "hang out" before, in-between and after classes during the day. Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Game Room
55 and older
Ongoing
Monday–Friday: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.



Winter Coat Drive

Do you have coats, gloves or scarves that you don't need anymore...donate them!

The Takoma Park Police Department, in partnership with the Takoma Park Adventist Church, is collecting clean, gently used warm coats in any size from infant to adult. The coats will be donated to people in need. This coat drive can make a difference in the lives of others by simply donating coats and jackets that are no longer needed. We will also accept clean, gently used gloves/mittens and scarves.

A large box will be in the lobby of the Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, until Friday, Dec. 20, at 4pm. The Takoma Park Police Department will ensure that they are given to the church during and after the drive.

Give warmth to those in need this winter! Thank you for your generosity. If you have questions, contact Catherine Plevy at 301-891-7142 or cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov.

LIBRARY RESOURCES

■ From page 8

which people can learn a new language, or download audiobooks, e-books, movies, or music. Truly, these databases bring the world to everyone, but especially to those whose mobility or transportation

options are limited.

Find copies of a bibliography including these and many other elder-related items in the library's collection on the display cart. Our staff hopes to make the library especially welcome to those who are—as one title has it—*Navigating Your Later Years*.

BOOK GROUP

■ From page 8

reveals an even more heartbreaking abandonment in an earlier generation.

"While so many similar projects are little more than strings of striking images, *Jimmy Corrigan* forces you to pause, flick back a few pages and read again, reward-

ing you with another insight, another overdue connection," wrote Phil Daoust in *The Guardian*. "It is a rare and uplifting example of an artistic vision pushed to the limits."

Tim Rahn organizes and facilitates the Friends Bi-monthly Book Club, and Dave Burbank is the Library's graphic novel expert. All are welcome to attend the Friends book discussions!

SNOW REMOVAL

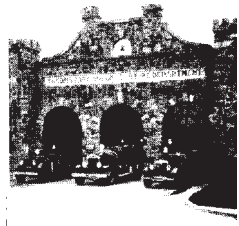
■ From page 3

adjacent to their property. When possible, 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.

Be a good neighbor and help 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, contact the **Public Works Department** at 301-891-7633



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

As of Nov. 30, 2019, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Montgomery County Fire and Rescue personnel assigned to the station responded to 464 fire-related incidents in 2019. The department also addressed or assisted with rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 3,051. Totals for 2018 were 553 and 2,818, representing an increase of 144 incidents.

During November, Takoma Park volunteers put in a total of 989.5 hours of standby time at the station, compared to 875.5 in 2018, a decrease of 316.5 hours.

Maryland Fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported as of Dec. 2, 2019, 49 people have died in fires compared to 64 in 2018.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of Dec. 2 2019, 52 children across the country have died in hot vehicles. This brings the grand total to 849 since 1998.

Safety tips for Christmas & New Year's

- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut one to two inches from the base of the tree.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source.
- Add water in the tree stand, and be sure to check the water level daily.
- When the tree starts losing the needles or drying out, it's time to take it down and move it outside away from the house until pickup time.
- Have working smoke alarms on all levels of the home, including occupied bedrooms; test them monthly.
- Create a family fire escape plan and practice it on a monthly basis.

TPVFD Acting Fire Chief

At the TPVFD Board of Directors meeting, Captain Richard "Rusty" Willey was appointed Acting Fire Chief due to the retirement of Fire Chief Thomas Musgrove, effective Nov. 8, 2019. Congratulations!

Making Sure These Are Happy Holidays...and Year-Round Safety

By Claudine Schweber, co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee



Once again, we gather with friends and family. Some of us will travel out of the area; others will stay here as guests or hosts. We'll be doing holiday shopping ...and so will the scammers, pickpockets, and burglars.

Living in Takoma Park is special. We get three free holiday safety gifts from the Takoma Park Police Department that are good all year.



- **Gift #1, Vacant House Check Program:** If you are away 4-30 days, contact the Takoma Park Police, who will do a daily house check to make sure no one has tampered with windows, doors, set a ladder against an outside wall, etc. If someone is picking up your mail or newspapers, let the police department know.

Contact the TPPD in advance at 301-270-1100.

- **Gift # 2, Watch Your Car Program:** Want to ensure that your car is only used by those you authorize and is not on the road between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m.? Then, register your car(s) with the TPPD. You will receive a sticker to post on the rear windshield. If the car is away from your home between these hours, police (statewide) can 1) stop the car and 2) verify the driver is the owner or an authorized user. Again, contact TPPD at 301-270-1100.
- **Gift #3, CARE Program:** Registered residents call the department each day between 12 p.m. and 5 p.m. If they don't call, they will be called by the police. If there is no answer, a patrol officer will be sent to check on their welfare.

This is also high-touch, online shopping season... for hackers and electronic thieves! To prevent electronic "shopping" by holiday hackers, be prepared and stay aware by using the 3D system:

1. **Deter:** Don't click on unsolicited links; don't give out personal information, especially social security numbers; update virus/malware protection; set the browser and email spam/junk files to medium/high; check financial receipts regularly.
2. **Detect:** Avoid offers that seem too good and want a quick response; check for financial statements with strange charges; be aware of calls, letters, or emails about purchases you didn't make.
3. **Defend:** Contact the fraud/security department of your credit card company, even if you only suspect fraudulent activity; you may need to set a fraud alert, get a new card and/or file a police report.

*Thanks to the Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection

More tips:

- **Use a credit card instead of a debit card.** There are more protections with credit cards, and the money isn't instantly taken from your bank account.
- **Use one credit card for onsite shopping only and a different one for online shopping.** In case of a credit breach or abuse of your online card, you would still have the onsite card. This also gives you an easy way to track your online purchases on one statement.

Comments or questions, contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301- 891-7126, Listen to (Bea)Prepared on WOWD/Talk of Takoma at 1 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month.

For more information about these programs, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/services-and-programs.



City of Takoma Park

The **2020 Census counts every person** living in the United States and five U.S. territories.

Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a short questionnaire - **online, by phone, or by mail.**

Census Day: April 1, 2020

For more information, visit
2020CENSUS.GOV

United States
**CENSUS
2020**

Passport Services

Passport services are available on first come, first served basis Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center on the second floor. Takoma Park staff encourage calling the City's main phone number at 301-891-7100 and checking if the office is open before departing for the Community Center for passport services.

For additional information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/services/passports.



One Man, Many Causes: Jay Keller's Activism in Takoma Park

By Taylor Dibbert

Jay Keller was this year's Azalea Award winner in the Tak-tivist category. He grew up in Binghamton, New York. Both his parents were very involved in their community; this clearly had a big influence on him. Keller, his sister and his brother grew up with a sincere appreciation for civic engagement. "Community service and being involved is a very important aspect of what I grew up with," he said.

Keller attended the College of Wooster in Ohio. He graduated in 1979 with a bachelor's degree in history. During his junior year in college, he did an internship at Common Cause in Washington, D.C. Common Cause works on issues pertaining to campaign finance reform and good governance. After he earned his degree, he spent a year teaching English in Taiwan, which is how he met his wife. (She too was teaching English in Taiwan.)

Keller then returned to Washington, D.C. and worked for Common Cause again; he stayed with the organization for five years. He also worked for other organizations, including Population Connection and First Voice International.

Keller currently serves as the director of outreach and operations at Interfaith Alliance; he's been working there for nearly 13 years. "We celebrate religious freedom by championing individual rights, promoting policies that protect both religion and democracy, and uniting diverse voices to challenge extremism," he said.

He has resided in Takoma Park for 31 years and has two adult sons. Keller is involved in all kinds of initiatives and projects. For the past three decades, he's accomplished a lot and really contributed to the Takoma Park community. It's simply not feasible to include all his achievements in a single article.

He serves on the Grants and Recreation Committees; he currently chairs the latter. A few years ago, Keller was involved



Credit: Taylor Dibbert

Jay Keller at the Takoma Park Community Center

in creating the Celebrate Takoma Festival. He noted that some of the events in Takoma Park could be attended by a more diverse group of people; Celebrate Takoma was created with that in mind. "We've got this incredible, diverse ethnic community in Takoma Park. How do we draw them out? How do we celebrate them? How do we get them more involved?"

He's currently involved in the search for a new recreation center. The current one is "a very small rec center that gets a tremendous amount of use." The goal would eventually be to build a new recreation center, though Keller noted that's not a short-term project and requires political will. Keller is also involved with a non-profit group called What's My Bias. The organization works on racial equity issues in Takoma Park.

Keller likes how active Takoma Park residents are in the community: "One of

the great things about Takoma Park is that there's a lot of stuff you can get involved in, and it isn't like a chore." For example, Keller said that the Recreation Committee is comprised of a "great group of people." Elaborating, he says "it's just fun" and "very, very social."

"Pick whatever you want to get involved in ... and look for stuff that's fun. You'll get to meet people. You'll get to learn about new neighbors," he said. "There's a lot of folks who are inspirational and encouraging of participation."

In speaking about the challenges of community participation, Keller mentions that it can take time to implement projects or ideas. Coalitions and broader support may be needed. A project might have budgetary implications or constraints. He said that it's important to not let the perfect be the enemy of the good. "Everything is debated in Takoma Park,"

Keller said with a smile. "That's a great thing, but sometimes can be a little frustrating for people."

Keller is quite proud of helping to get the Winter Basketball League restarted. "It's a huge success," he said. Interestingly, the Recreation Committee won an Azalea Award for this work in 2009. He was chair of the committee at that time as well.

Keller cherishes Takoma Park's diversity and strives to consistently focus on inclusion and ensuring that a range of voices are being heard. "Trying to figure out how we do a better job in Takoma Park of getting input from the diverse community that we have ... not just the homeowners, but the renters, that's a big challenge." Keller noted that this sort of challenge isn't unique to Takoma Park. "What may be unique to Takoma Park is that we're really thinking about it [inclusion] and trying to do something about it," he said.

When asked about the best parts about living in Takoma Park, Keller immediately said "the people." He also mentioned the opportunities to get involved. "If somebody says 'I don't know how to get involved in Takoma Park,' they're just not looking hard enough."

"There are tons of committees. There are tons of ways to get involved. There's a lot of fun stuff. There's art stuff if you want to be involved in something like that ... there's just tons of opportunities here."

Keller also likes that the City Council is accessible and that councilmembers are available to speak on the phone or meet with constituents. His councilmember is Kacy Kostiuik. He said Kostiuik brings "a great energy to the council and is very approachable."

While Keller is deeply committed to community engagement and participation, he's also humble about all that he's done. Regarding his Azalea Award, he said "it's nice to be recognized for this, but it's so much a group effort."

Takoma Park Police Department Pack the Patrol Car Holiday Drive

Now thru 12/24
Collecting UNWRAPPED TOYS for
girls/boys aged 2-12 or monetary
donations accepted

Please drop toys/monetary donations off at the Admin Desk, TPPD,
7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912, to a police employee



DECEMBER '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 January issue is Dec. 13, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Dec. 27. 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 and District 20 joint meeting, Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7 p.m.* (tentative)
TPCC Auditorium
*When public hearings or presentations are scheduled, meetings may begin at 7 p.m.
Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Christmas - City Offices Closed

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

New Years - City Offices Closed

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

Fall Leaf Collection

Through Dec. 20
The Public Works Department will notify residents in advance about the collection. Details can be found at takomaparkmd.gov.

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

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

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Circle Time

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

Spanish Circle Time

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

The Spirit Club

Wednesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
Therapeutic recreation class for Takoma Park residents 17 and older. This class is designed for adults with developmental/neurologic challenges. For more information, contact Jared Ciner at jciner@spiritclub.com or 303-883-4364.

Kid's Night Out

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

Teen Night

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

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Year-round
Laurel and Carroll avenues in Old Town
Every Sunday in the historic business district of the city, local, seasonal produce, breads, pasture-raised meats, artisan cheese, eggs, baked goods and more from farms located within 125 miles of Takoma Park are offered.

Top Notch Toastmasters

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

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

Community Self Defense

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

Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSNA)

First Thursdays, 7 p.m.
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.

14th Annual Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale

Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
TP Community Center
The popular Takoma Park Holiday Art Sale returns for its 14th year, offering a wide variety of original handmade work by local artists, including fine art, photography, jewelry, clothing, pottery, crafts, and more. Buy your holiday gifts early and support local artists who make Takoma Park a creative place to live and shop.

Free Christmas Music Event

Sunday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.
TP Presbyterian Church, 310 Tulip Ave.
Come celebrate the season of joy with a special free performance of the famous Christmas Oratorio by Camille Sain-Saens. Includes choir, soloists, orchestral ensemble and harp. All are welcome.

Historic Takoma Holiday Party

Sunday, Dec. 8, 1 – 4 p.m.
7328 Carroll Ave
Historic Takoma host their annual holiday party. See and hear about this season's Winter Windows display: "Women in White." This installation by Takoma Park artist Marty Ittner features over 60 vintage and modern photographs of Takoma Park women and girls, dressed in white. Remarks by Historic Takoma and the artist will speak to the organization and the evolution of the exhibit. Refreshments will be served. Free and open to all. Visit www.historictakoma.org for more details.

Winterfest Arts & Crafts Show

Saturday, Dec. 14, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
Winterfest features local artisans, free kids crafts, Santa, food, fun, and more. All proceeds go toward supporting Small Things Matter, a student-run nonprofit, that helps underserved children with our literacy program and provides free food for 150 food insecure families in Takoma Park.
smallthingsmatter.org

Crossroads Holiday Market

Sunday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
TP Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave.
Come out for the Crossroads Holiday Market, located on the lawn adjacent to the Takoma Park Recreation Center. Featuring handmade goods and artisan crafts, unique gift ideas from local businesses, baked good, hot beverages, and live holiday music. Festive, free, family-friendly fun. Hosted by the Takoma Langley Crossroads Development Authority.

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

Puppet Lab

First Saturdays, 10 a.m. – noon
Rhizome DC, 6950 Maple St NW
Puppet Lab's purpose is to be a hub for all those interested in puppet theater who would benefit from boosting creative power, honing puppet-manipulation skills, cross-pollinating ideas, receiving feedback about works in progress, and building local puppet community.
Suggested \$5-10 donation

Deadline for Visions of Our Community contest

Sunday, Dec. 1
"Visions of Our Community" is a photography contest for middle school and high school students around Takoma Park and Silver Spring. It will showcase the diverse community as seen through the eyes of its young people. Cash prizes will be awarded for winning photographs as selected by a panel of judges. Separate awards will be made in different categories for middle and high school students. There will be a public award ceremony, and winning photos will be exhibited at the Takoma Park Community Center in early 2020. The contest is co-sponsored by Art for the People Inc., the City of Takoma Park, and the Takoma Park Photo Salon.
<https://tpssvisionscontest.org>

The Takoma Sessions: Fall Concert Series

Friday, Dec. 6, 7 – 9:30 p.m.
Tonal Park, 7014 Westmoreland Avenue
The Takoma Sessions is a three part live in-studio concert series showcasing new and original works by the Nicole Saphos Band. All concerts will be professionally recorded, and choice takes will be selected to appear on a live compilation album. The Nicole Saphos Band features vocal harmonies sung by Sara Curtin and Maureen Andary (of the celebrated

folk duo The Sweater Set), John Lee on guitar, Ele Rubenstein on drums, and Saphos on lead vocals, upright and electric bass, and keyboard.
Tickets: \$12-\$28
www.nicolesaphos.com

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 4 p.m.
Join Dave Burbank, the library's graphic novel guru, in reading comics together on the big screen. The program concludes with Dave taking "drawing requests" from the audience.

Takoma Park Singers Free Community Concert

Friday, Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Silver Spring United Methodist Church
Come hear your friends and neighbors perform songs from African, Spanish, Welsh, Irish and Scottish traditions, spiced with two samples from Saint Saen's "Christmas Oratorio," two Hanukkah pieces, and a sparkling flute trio. If you "Need a Little Christmas" you can joyfully fill your ears and heart with the holiday spirit at the Takoma Singers Community Concert. Donations accepted for Shepherd's Table at the concert.

Carroll Cafe

Friday, Dec. 13, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW
Crys Matthews blends Americana, folk, jazz, blues, bluegrass and funk into a bold, complex performance steeped in traditional melodies and punctuated by honest, original lyrics. For her dynamic songwriting, she has won awards.
\$18 in advance, \$20 at the door
carrollcafe.org

Takoma Park Old-Time Jam

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 7:30 – 10 p.m.
Takoma BevCo, 6197 Laurel Ave.
All ages and skill levels are welcome to join the jam session every third Wednesday. Bring your guitars, fiddles, banjos, tubas, flutes, penny whistles, flat feet, singing voices or just listening ears.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, Dec. 19, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
You can hear poets from across the region read their original work. A reception follows the readings with an opportunity to meet the poets.

Winter Solstice

Thursday, Dec. 19, 6:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
Ring in the start of winter with this popular annual program. The program starts with a drum circle led by Bill Jenkins, and then the Foggy Bottom Morris Men will swoop in with their songs, dances and high spirits.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10th annual Mid-Winter Play Day

Sunday, Feb. 9, 1 – 4 p.m.
TP Community Center
Let's Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present to you the tenth 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. Volunteers, contact Pat, 301-928-9962, theplaylady@gmail.com.

A Fond Farewell

You may have heard that Jason Damweber is leaving us. He and his family are moving to Estes Park, Colorado, in January. The only constant in life is change, and so we will hire a new excellent deputy city manager, and life in Takoma Park will go on. But I want to share my deep appreciation for what Jason has contributed to Takoma Park and the help that he has been for me. I hired Jason just a few months after I

was appointed City Manager in 2015. I needed a person to share the load with and do the many day-to-day duties that keep the City running. I also needed someone with diplomacy and an understanding of the political landscape to be able to work with City Councilmembers constructively and collaboratively.

Jason has professionalized many processes in the City of



Jason Damweber

Takoma Park, been an excellent manager and supervisor, handled very difficult political issues adeptly, managed financial matters frugally and appropriately, and is a genuinely nice person. He will do well wherever he goes and whatever he does. The City of Takoma Park is better for his service.

—Suzanne Ludlow,
City Manager