



WHAT'S NEW?

Empty Bowls Sale
Details, page 9

Housing for Adults with Special Needs Discussion
Details, page 4

City offices & facilities closed
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday
Sunday, Jan. 19 - Monday, Jan. 20

Trash/recycling collection
No yard waste collection
Monday, Jan. 20.

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 59, No. 1 ■ takomaparkmd.gov



Last year, as part of its ongoing efforts to increase community engagement, the Takoma Park City Council continued to hold Friday morning coffees in different parts of the city and Friday lunches in the Crossroads area that allowed the public to drop in and chat with Councilmembers and key staff. Individual Councilmembers also held meetings, play dates, walks and other great gatherings to get to know, listen and engage with residents.



Looking Back and Moving Ahead: My Top 10 Highlights from 2019

By Kate Stewart, Mayor, City of Takoma Park

"You have to act as if it were possible to radically transform the world. And you have to do it all the time."

—Angela Davis

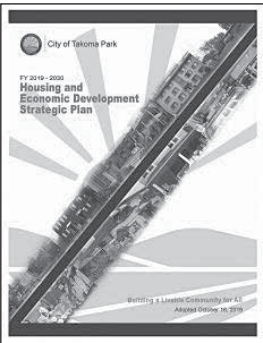
As we look forward to the year ahead in 2020 and the opportunities and challenges we will encounter, we must take Angela Davis's advice and face each day "as if it were possible to radically transform the world."

Takoma Park, as a community, has put these words into action throughout 2019 and will continue to do so in 2020. We did a great deal in 2019. Here are my top 10 highlights for the year.

1. Adoption of Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan: Building a Livable Community for All

This fall, the City took the critical and necessary steps to work toward the realization of the human right to safe, high-

quality, and affordable housing and the interrelated right to an adequate standard of living. Adoption of the Housing and Economic Development Strategic Plan: Building a Livable Community for All is a culmination of four years of community conversation, research, Council and staff work, and more.



The plan is guided by our race equity and environmental sustainability goals. The City staff have already begun working on implementation steps, such as our Home Stretch down payment assistance program that has already helped move three Takoma Park families from renting to homeownership, and each year the Council continues to fund the Affordable Housing Reserve. As we move into 2020, continuing to implement the strategies in the Strategic Plan will be a top priority for the City.

HIGHLIGHTS □ Page 3



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Amharic:

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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.

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 dispo-

nible 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.

Spanish:

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



MAKE IT A DAY ON, NOT A DAY OFF

JANUARY 20, 2020

Volunteer at MLKDay.gov

Celebrate Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with Service and Supper

Commemorate Martin Luther King Jr. Day on January 20 with service projects and a celebration. Events are organized by community groups in cooperation with the City of Takoma Park and are free and open to the public.

Service Projects: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Clean up public parks by collecting litter. Trash bags are provided. Bring your own gloves.

- Hillwood Manor Park - Meet at the park to clean up the area.
- Takoma Woods (between Takoma Park Middle and Piney Branch Elementary) - Meet at Darwin Avenue parking lot.

Potluck Supper and Celebration: 4:30–8 p.m.

Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road

Everyone is encouraged to bring a dish to share and nonperishable food items to donate. Please label dishes to give guidance to people with food allergies and restrictions. Ceremony will include musical performances and community awards.

Food Drive: Throughout the Weekend

Donate nonperishable foods at the potluck supper. You can also drop off food donations at Ace Hardware or the TPSS Co-op January 15–20 or at the Community Center January 15–18. Donations benefit the Adventist Community Services food program.

For information about service projects, contact Howard Kohn (kohn@erols.com); for supper contact Jaquette Frazier jackiefrazier100@gmail.com, and for food drive, contact Cindy Dyballa (c_dyballa@yahoo.com).

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Inside



From Inmate to Poet
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Caldecott Programs
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Takoma Park Providers Council
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DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES RETREAT

Saturday, Jan. 25, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

COMPLETE SAFE STREETS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

COUNCIL COMPENSATION TASK FORCE

Monday, Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

ETHICS COMMISSION

Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
TPCC Azalea Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

NOISE CONTROL BOARD

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Monday, Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Rose Room

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Jan. 16, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 6:45 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

YOUTH COUNCIL

Monday, Jan. 6, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 27, 6:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Rooms TBA

*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 hearing but would like to record an audio comment to be played during the public comment period of the meeting, is invited to contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at jessiec@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267 at least 48 hours in advance.

City Council Action

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

On **Nov. 6, 2019**, the Council adopted **Resolution 2019-50** indicating support for proceeding with the planned renovation of Silver Spring Intermediate Park and the transfer of the park property from Montgomery County Public Schools to Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission for continued operation as a park.

On **Nov. 13, 2019**, **Ordinance 2019-43** was adopted to authorize a contract with Belson Outdoors for the purchase of trash and recycling containers for use in the public right-of-way. The purchase amount is \$29,263.

The City Council adopted FY2020 Budget Amendment No. 2 by **Ordinance 2019-44** on **Nov. 18, 2019**. First reading of the ordinance took place on November 13. Also on **Nov. 18, 2019**, the Council authorized the Mayor to execute a contract for legal services (City Attorney) with the law firm of Karpinski, Colaresi & Karp, P.A. by **Ordinance 2019-45**. The contract is expected to have a five-year term with the option for renewal for up to five additional one-year extension terms. A contract for stormwater system cleaning and video inspection was awarded to Mobile Dredging and Video Pipe, Inc. by **Ordinance 2019-46**. **Ordinance 2019-47** approved a contract award for elevator refurbishment to Elevator Control Services in the amount of \$196,715. **Ordinance 2019-48** authorized the purchase of two hybrid Ford Ecoboost Explorers at the cost of \$110,444 from Apple Ford Fleet Services. These are replacement vehicles for the Police Department.

A number of resolutions were adopted on **Nov. 18, 2019**. **Resolution 2019-51** established the Parking Management Task Force. The following residents were appointed: Jacqueline Davison (Ward 1), Jim Douglas (Ward 1), Allen Fetter (Ward 5), Therese Gibson (Ward 3), Gregory Gorman (Ward 1), Timothy Judson (Ward 6), Howard Schaffer (Ward 2), Roger Schlegel (Ward 3), Emanuel

Wagner (Ward 2), Claudia Wayne (Ward 2). **Resolution 2019-52** authorized the closure of Laurel Avenue on May 2, 2020 for the Takoma Children's Business Fair. In the event of rain, the closure will take place on May 9. The dates of the Council's holiday recess were set by **Resolution 2019-53** to run from November 19, 2019 through January 14, 2020. **Resolution 2019-54** effected the appointment of Kimberly Allen (Ward 6) to the Board of Elections. By

Resolution 2019-55, the following residents were appointed to the Council Compensation Task Force: David Navari (Ward 3), Ashleigh Nugent (Ward 2), Fred Schultz (Ward 6), Kelley Skelton (Ward 6), Paul Weeda (Ward 3), Bruce Williams (Ward 3), Janet Williams (Ward 4), and Enku Woldemedhin (Ward 4). Bobbi Kittner (Ward 3) was appointed to the Facade Advisory Board by **Resolution 2019-56**.

Charter Amendment Resolutions Adopted

On **November 13, 2019**, the City Council adopted three Charter Amendment Resolutions. First reading of the resolutions was held on November 6, 2019. The resolutions are summarized below. The full text is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov.

CR-2019-1 amended Article III - City Council: (1) to add 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) to change 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) to eliminate gender binary language.

CR-2019-2 amended Article V - Amendment Procedures to provide that the signature requirement for Charter amendment petitions is 20% of registered voters at the time of the last regular election, rather than twenty percent of persons registered at the time of submitting the petition.

CR-2019-3 amended Article VI - Registration, Nominations and Elections: (1) to eliminate the 21-day residency requirement for voters; (2) to eliminate outdated procedures; (3) to clarify existing language; (4) to eliminate gender binary language; (5) to revise deadlines to comport with early voting; (6) to provide for election ties to be resolved by lot rather than runoff election; (7) to eliminate the requirement that election judges be appointed by the Council; (8) to establish a list of voters only registered to vote in City elections rather than a list of noncitizen registered voters; (9) to change references to "citizens" to "residents"; (10) to provide that the signature requirement for advisory referendum petitions is 20% of registered voters at the time of the last election, rather than 20% of persons qualified to vote; (11) to provide 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 20% of qualified voters; (12) to require that signatures on recall petitions be obtained after the most recent election and at least 120 days prior to the next general election; (13) to prohibit the Council from reappointing a recalled official; and (14) to allow potential candidates to nominate themselves or second their nomination.

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 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 facilities 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.

HIGHLIGHTS

■ From page 1

2. Declaration of Climate Change
Emergency: Working Toward 100%
Reduction by 2035

Last spring the City declared a climate emergency, establishing a goal to reduce the City's greenhouse gas emissions 100% by the year 2035. Over the last year, under the direction of our Sustainability Manager, Gina Mathias, we have been working to update our Sustainability Plan from 2014 to put in place the needed strategies to take aggressive action on climate change in the City. I want to thank Councilwoman Dyballa for her continued work in this area and representing the City at numerous regional and national meetings on this issue.

In November, we received the final report by the Cadmus Group, which provides guidance on how we can greatly reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This month, the Council, working with our Sustainability Manager and Committee on the Environment, will be focusing on how we can implement some of the suggested strategies.

3. Advancement of Racial Equity Work

- We continue to deepen our work on racial equity: We started this year with our Council priorities retreat. Thanks to Councilmember Smith, we worked with consultants on racial equity to facilitate the retreat and help inform our discussions.
- Most of the Councilmembers and Department heads have now completed racial equity training through the Government Alliance for Racial Equity (GARE).
- In addition, as we look at racial disparities in the City, we see gaps in homeownership, as well as in income levels and unemployment rates. In addition to the Home Stretch down payment program noted above, we also hold First Time Homebuyers Classes in Partnership with the Latin Economic

Development Center (LEDC). Thank you to the work of our Housing and Community Development staff for coordinating these programs.

- Our Economic Development Manager, Samira Cook Gaines, who came to the City in January, has helped the City focus more on workforce development. We are partnering with WorkSource Montgomery and the Ethiopian Community Center to provide resume writing and other career assistance for residents. She has organized a Success Fair and is working on a number of projects to assist business owners, tech startups, and entrepreneurs.
- And our recreation staff, including Javonte McDonald, Youth Success Program Coordinator, and Leicia Monfort, Teen Programs Manager, have greatly increased our programs for young people. These programs have particularly attracted girls of color to programs they previously had not participated in, such as E-gaming. Other Recreation Department programs also help support young people and seniors, a majority of whom are people of color.

4. Reaffirmation of Our Commitment to
Being a Sanctuary City and Welcoming
Immigrants in Our Community

We continue to defend our status as a Sanctuary City and work towards making sure we are a welcoming and inclusive community. Last year, we stood with Mayor Bowser in her opposition to a proposed detention center for children in D.C., and we were featured on CNN responding to the President's threats of sending immigrants being detained to Sanctuary cities.

5. Moving Forward with Plans on New
Hampshire Avenue and the Recreation
Center

Over the last few years and particularly this year, the City Council and staff have been focusing on advocacy for improvements along New Hampshire Avenue. Councilwoman Searcy has been a fierce advocate and successful at engaging with



Young people participate in a class at the Takoma Park Community Center.

Maryland representatives, specifically in the area around New Hampshire Avenue and University Blvd.

- A major step forward this year was the City becoming the property owner of the Takoma Park Recreation Center, which we have operated on New Hampshire since 1997. In the next year, we will determine how to redevelop the property to ensure that City goals are met for recreation, as well as for housing or other economic development needs. I want to thank the residents who are part of the Friends of the Takoma Park Recreation Center, who have long advocated for improvements.
- In addition, the staff has been hard at work applying for and receiving grants to improve the area. One example is the New Ave Bikeway Grant, which the City received \$235,000 in grant funding from the Maryland Bikeways Program. Another example that benefits us city-wide is a \$50,000 grant from the Council of Governments for a bus stop accessibility inventory that is now underway.
- The City has also been granted a Neighborhood Revitalization Award from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development. The grant will be used for targeted facade and

signage improvements for businesses along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor. The \$100,000 two-year grant will be managed by the Economic Development Manager and will include opportunities for collaboration with local artists and signage companies to help revitalize the commercial district.

- In addition, as we look on New Hampshire Avenue and across the City to improve transportation and improve the walkability of our community, Councilwoman Kostiuik has done a phenomenal job of advocating on behalf of the City and bringing new ideas for us to consider. I look forward to seeing what she has in store for us in 2020.

6. Increased Tenant Outreach and
Support to Improve Living Conditions for
Residents

As we work on the Housing and Economic Development Plan, we also see the incredible need in the City to assist tenants and residents who live in condos to ensure residents of varying incomes and all races and ethnicities have quality, affordable housing options. To begin to address this need:

- We increased the half-time Landlord-Tenant Mediator position to full-time, which, when filled, will greatly enhance our ability to advocate on behalf of renters and housing associations.
- Staff and Council, especially Councilwoman Searcy, have done outstanding new work with residents who live in condominiums this year and that work has been met with deep appreciation from the condominium communities.
- A great amount of onsite outreach has occurred with tenants, as have some very interesting discussions with landlords. Residents who have never reached out to City staff before are coming into the City offices for assistance. Housing Manager Grayce Wiggins has been working long hours because the need for assistance is so great right now. As the residents come in for housing assistance, we also connect them to job assistance and other resources.

7. Plastic Straw Ban

Shout out to the young people in our community from Piney Branch Elementary School who started The Last Plas-



The City will use its Neighborhood Revitalization Award for targeted facade and signage improvements for businesses along the New Hampshire Avenue corridor.

Proposed Modifications to Parking Meters on the 7300 Block of
Carroll Avenue and the Unit Blocks of Grant and Lee Avenues

The City Manager proposes to modify the parking meter zone which includes the even side of the 7300 Block of Carroll Avenue and the immediately adjacent parking spaces on the Unit Blocks of Lee and Grant Avenues. The time limits for the meters will be modified and certain meters will be removed to allow for short term drop off and delivery use. A diagram showing the locations and proposed modifications is available for review on the City website at www.takomaparkmd.gov/parking.

Pursuant to Administrative Regulation 2010-10, notice of proposed modifications and opportunity to comment shall be published in the Takoma Park Newsletter and posted at the site. Comments on the proposal may be submitted to the City Clerk at clerk@takomaparkmd.gov. The deadline for receipt of comments is Friday, January 24, 2020.



THE TAKOMA PARK
NEWSLETTER

Editor: Apryl Motley
Assistant: Sean Gossard
www.takomaparkmd.gov
Vol. 59, No. 1

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

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—

Important City Department Phone Numbers

City Information	301-891-7100
City Clerk.....	301-891-7267
City Manager	301-891-7229
Finance	301-891-7212
Housing & Community Development.....	301-891-7119
Library	301-891-7259
Neighborhood Services	301-891-7113
Police	301-270-1100 / Emergency 911
Public Works.....	301-891-7633
Recreation/Facilities Rental.....	301-891-7290





BUILDING COMMUNITY

Lines from the Lavatory

By Rick Henry

To capture people's interest in a subject or initiative, the old adage says, "You must engage them where they are."

The City's Takoma Park Arts cultural series is taking that adage one step further. Rather than simply engaging people where they are, the Bathroom Poetry Project is engaging people "where they go," by displaying the work of local poets in bathrooms at the Takoma Park Community Center.

"A bathroom is the last place you would expect to find poetry, so it's a fun way of engaging people with poetry who might not experience it elsewhere," said Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Coordinator Brendan Smith. "Everyone needs to use the bathroom at some point, so we have a captive audience, at least for a few minutes!"

The current Bathroom Poetry Project is not a new initiative. It was first undertaken in the City in 2008. Silver Spring poet Roberta Coll launched it, and the idea quickly spread beyond Takoma Park to cities such as Washington, D.C.; Raleigh, N.C., Chicago and Austin, TX. The initiative floundered after a couple of years, however, until Smith decided to revive it.

"I was looking through some old files and found a folder with the poems that were featured in bathrooms around Takoma Park in 2008, and I thought it would be fun to put them back up in bathrooms in the Takoma Park Community Center, he said. "Why let good poems go to



waste when you can bring them back for a second visit - or a number 2."

Smith said there is no immediate timetable for how long the project will remain in place, but adds that Takoma Park Arts is not soliciting new bathroom works. He does hope the effort provides not just some light-hearted and engaging fun for city residents, but will help showcase the group's other poetry offerings, including its popular Third Thursday Poetry series with free readings from local poets, held on the third Thursday of most months.

Those readings are of a much more serious nature than the Bathroom Poetry Project. Past themes have included immigration, serious illness, and Spanish-language poetry. The next reading, Poetry from Behind Bars, will be held at 7:30 p.m. on January 16 at the Takoma Park Community Center. Poet Ambassadors from the Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop will read poetry they wrote while incarcerated in the D.C. jail or federal prisons. Their words reveal the human costs of imprisonment and the power of poetry to offer healing.

City of Takoma Park Community Grants Application Opening This Month

The Community Grants Program funds projects that provide greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences in Takoma Park. This grant program is open to non-profit organization and business association and provides up to \$10,000 in financial support.

This year, the City has expanded the program guidelines and simplified the application process. To see if your organization is eligible for funding, visit takomaparkmd.gov/grants to review our guidelines on the Community Grants Page.

The online application will open on Jan. 21, 2020, and close March 12, 2020. To be reminded when the application is open, interested parties should register for a free account on the Community

Grants page found at takomaparkmd.gov/grants. Previous online applicants will be notified automatically. Funding is available for projects taking place between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021.

For more information, contact the City of Takoma Park's Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7119 or email Jennifer Hale, grants coordinator, at jenniferh@takomaparkmd.gov.

You may also attend our Community Grants Information Open House at the Community Center on Thursday, Feb. 6, 2020, from 5-7 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center. To register for this information session, email grants@takomaparkmd.gov.

Meeting to Discuss the Creation of Housing for Adults with Special Needs

The Department of Housing and Community Development is meeting with residents to discuss the creation of housing for adults with special needs on January 23 at 7 p.m. in the Takoma

Park Community Center. If you are interested in attending this information meeting, please RSVP by email at housing@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7222.



Don't Wait To Get Help

The City of Takoma Park helps City residents facing emergency assistance with housing matters (eviction and foreclosure), utility disconnections, food insecurity, prescription assistance, and other emergency needs. For more information, contact the Department of Housing and Community Development at 301-891-7119 or email at housing@takomaparkmd.gov.





LET'S PLAY AMERICA
PRESENTS

10th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day

Free
Event!

Everyone deserves to play!

FEBRUARY 9, 2020
1 PM TO 4 PM
VOLUNTEERS NOON - 5 PM
TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER



7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, MD 20912
www.letsplayamerica.org | 240-752-9176 | theplaylady@gmail.com





An ABSTRACTED Journey Through Art

ABSTRACTED Art Exhibition Opening Reception

Jan. 9, 7 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center

7500 Maple Avenue

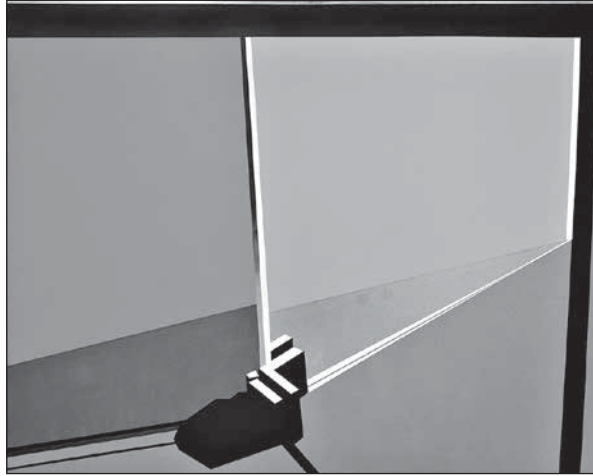
Free Event

Please join us for the opening reception for *ABSTRACTED*, a group exhibition featuring a diverse range of abstract artwork by Seemeen Hashem, Steve Wanna, Elroy Williams, and artists from the VisAbility Art Lab.

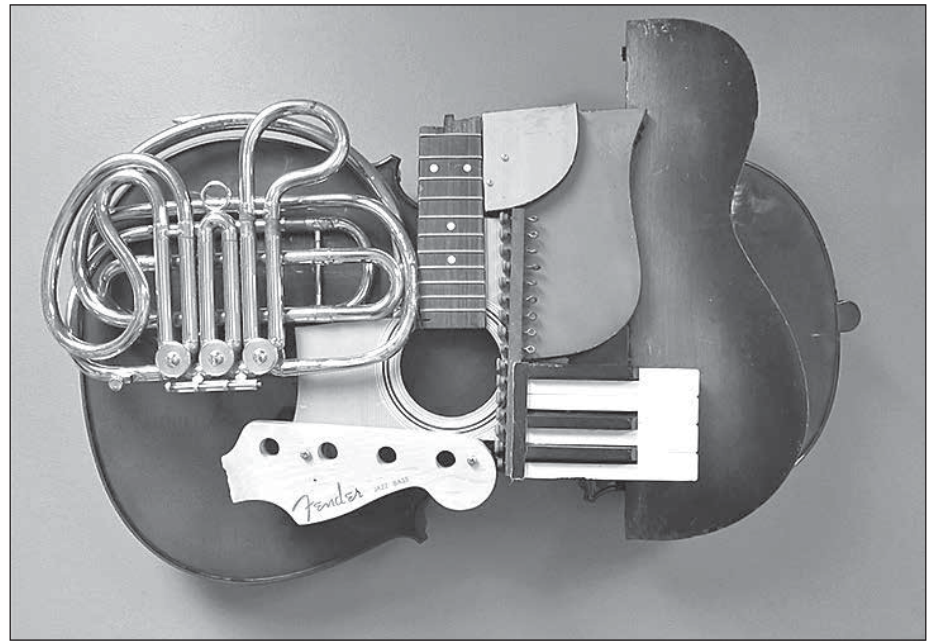
Hashem transforms discarded musical instruments, bicycle parts, and other found objects into unique sculptural forms. Wanna will display mixed-media work and a site-specific suspended installation that incorporate elements

of “controlled randomness.”

Williams’ large abstract paintings convey his passion for life and perseverance in the face of adversity. The VisAbility Art Lab in Rockville teaches art workshops for adults with autism and other intellectual or developmental disabilities. The exhibition will be on view at



Elroy Williams, *Glass Table*



Seemeen Hashem, *Quartet*

the Takoma Park Community Center until March 25. We hope to see you at the opening reception where you can see

(and buy) the artwork and meet the artists.

A Balkan Journey by the Orfeia Vocal Ensemble

Jan. 24, 8 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

7500 Maple Avenue

Free Event with \$10 Suggested Donation

The Orfeia Vocal Ensemble will lead a magical journey through the rich musical heritage of the Balkans, which is famous for its sharp dissonances, haunting lyricism, and asymmetric rhythms. Orfeia will share its extensive repertoire, spanning the Bulgarian, Serbian, Bosnian, and Roma traditions by situating each song in its unique cultural context. The audience also will join in by learning a traditional Bulgarian village song.

Founded in 2006 by the legendary Bulgarian folk singer Tatiana Sarbinska,



Orfeia Vocal Ensemble

Orfeia is an all-woman vocal ensemble dedicated to preserving and sharing traditional music from Bulgaria and Eastern Europe. Orfeia’s repertoire spans the rich and varied vocal traditions of Eastern Europe, from traditional village songs to sacred chants and from the Middle Ages to today

The Power of Music: By the People, For the People

Concert by the Patagonia Winds

Jan. 31, 8 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

7500 Maple Avenue
Free Event with \$10 Suggested Donation

The Patagonia Winds will take chamber music out of the drawing room and to the public in an engaging concert by this professional wind quintet. This dynamic concert incorporates multimedia visual elements and commentary to draw audiences into the intimacy of chamber music.

Celebrating its 10th anniversary season, the Patagonia Winds is known for its virtuoso playing, ensemble chemistry, and dynamic programming that the whole family can enjoy. Founded by flutist and Takoma Park resident Melissa Lindon, the group has performed concerts and children’s educational programs at various venues, including Strathmore Mansion, Lyceum, Fairfax Old Town Hall, Musical Arts International, and the Chalice Concert Series. In 2015, the Patagonia Winds commissioned its first work and was featured in a recital at the National Flute Association Convention in Washington, D.C.



Patagonia Winds



From Inmate to Poet: Poetry from Behind Bars Poetry Reading

Jan. 16, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

7500 Maple Avenue

Free Event

In “the land of the free,” the United States now has the highest incarceration rate in the world, but the people behind bars are more than just inmate numbers. In a unique poetry reading, Poet Ambassadors from the Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop

will read poetry they wrote while incarcerated in the D.C. jail or federal prisons across the country. Their words reveal the human costs of imprisonment and the power of poetry to provide a voice and offer healing.

Donations will be accepted to support Free Minds, and a reception will follow the reading where the audience can meet the poets. For more info about Free Minds, visit freemindsbookclub.org.

RECREATION

Registration for Winter Programs is open!

TOTS

DROP-IN

Community Playtime

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

Heffner Park Community Center

42 Oswego Avenue

Newborn–5 years

Ongoing

English: Mondays, starting January 6

Spanish: Fridays, starting January 3

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

Free

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

Dance Studio

42 Oswego Avenue

3–6 years

8 Week Session

Tuesdays, 6:15–7 p.m.

January 7–February 15

Resident: \$95 / Non-resident: \$105

YOUTH

CAMP

Spring Break Camp – Futuristic Fun

What will the future look like? Will we dress the same, talk the same, eat the same foods, play the same games? Will robots rule the world? The best part about this camp is you get

to decide what the future holds. Participants must pack a lunch, water bottle and snacks. Trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Space is limited; sign up early. Before and after care is also available for an additional charge. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of camp.

Takoma Park Community Center

Azalea Room

7500 Maple Avenue

5–12 years

1 Week Session

Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

April 6–10

Resident: \$140 / Non-resident: \$160



On Stage: Spring Break Workshop – West Side Story

In On Stage: Workshop, students get on the stage to work acting, singing and dancing! We'll start each day with physical, vocal, imagination and focus building warm-ups. We will work on songs from the Broadway musical, West Side Story. We'll have loads of fun learning music and choreography. On Stage: Spring Break Workshop will end with a showcase performance, so parents can see what we've been working on. Please note, the emphasis is on process, not product, though we haven't disappointed audiences yet! A \$10 materials fee includes tracks/CDs, lyrics and prop supplies. Paperwork needs to be submitted prior to first day of the workshop. Bring a non-perishable lunch and/or snack.

Takoma Park Community Center

Auditorium

7500 Maple Avenue

9–15 years

3 Day Session

Tuesday–Thursday, 9:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

April 7–9

Resident: \$145 / Non-resident: \$165

DANCE

Hip Hop Dance

Join this introductory Hip Hop Dance Class and have some fun! Students will explore various hip-hop styles, learn the importance of Hip Hop and choreographic tools to create their own dance and execute short choreography. Students will participate in student-led performances. Instructor: Charonne Butler

Heffner Park Community Center

42 Oswego Avenue

6–10 years

8 Week Session

Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

January 7–February 25

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

DROP-IN



Takoma Park Kids Chess Meet Up

Kids in Kindergarten - 5th grades are welcome to attend the Takoma Park Kids Chess Meet Up, which occurs on Sundays from 1:45 p.m.–3:30 p.m. at Heffner Park Community center. Beginners are welcome. Bring your own tournament board if you have one, but there will be extras. There will be a brief lesson at 1:45 p.m., but general play will start by 2 p.m. For more information, contact Adam Winship at takomachess@gmail.com.

Heffner Park Community Center

42 Oswego Avenue

Grades K–5

11 Week Session

Sundays, 1:45–3:30 p.m.

January 5–March 29

Free

FITNESS



Double Dutch

Learn to jump rope Double Dutch style. Double Dutch is a form of jump rope. Participants will learn how to turn the ropes as well as have fun jumping. They will also learn self-expression, coordination, self-discipline and teamwork. The team will consist of approximately 10–12 youth between the ages of 6–17 years old. Practice will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 1 hour. No experience is necessary, and we welcome all who are willing to learn.

Instructor: Latoya Gayle

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Front Room

7315 New Hampshire Avenue

6–17 years

Ongoing

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Free with Recreation Center Membership

TRIPS

Fun Day – Pump It Up

Participants will meet at the Community Center (7500 Maple Avenue). Trips, activities and performers are subject to change. Space is limited; sign up early. Paperwork will need to be completed prior to the first day of program. Please provide your child(ren) with a non-perishable lunch, snack and water bottle.

Takoma Park Community Center

7500 Maple Avenue

Azalea Room

5–12 years

Monday, January 27

8:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Resident: \$50 / Non-resident: \$60

TEENS

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Poet Life Academy

Poet Life Academy builds self-confidence, 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.

Instructor: Christopher Jenkins

Takoma Park Community Center

Hydrangea Room

Grades 6–12

10 Week Session

Mondays and Wednesdays, 4–5 p.m.

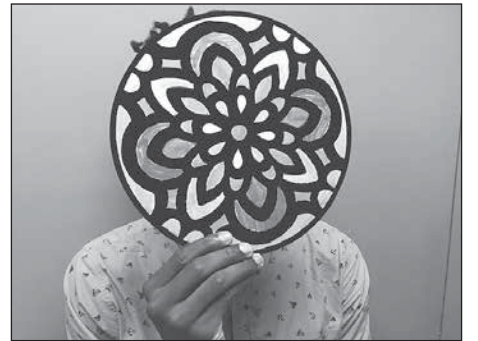
January 6–March 11

Resident: \$10 / Non-resident: \$20

MULTI MEDIA

Photography 101 (Teens)

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 shooting manual on your DSLR, rules of composition, portrait photography, object photography, landscape photography, posing



101, editing your photos, using natural light vs. non-natural light, composition and turning your phone into a camera. Instructor: Vinny Mwano

Takoma Park Community Center

Multi Media Lab

7500 Maple Avenue

12–18 years

8 Week Session

Tuesdays, 6–7 p.m.

January 7–February 25

Resident: \$80 / Non-resident: \$90

TRIPS

Snow Tubing for Teens

Join us for an evening in the snow as we head to Liberty Mountain 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 or get a game of flag football started outside. It's your day so have fun the way you like. We will meet in the Teen Lounge. Bus will depart at 2 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center

Meeting place: Teen Lounge

Grades 6–12

Friday, 2–8 p.m.

January 24

Resident: \$25 / Non-resident: \$35

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

DANCE

Mindful Movement

This open and inviting class that combines elements of meditation, dance, yoga, and authentic movement 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 (i.e. African, jazz, contemporary, modern),

breathing techniques, meditative stretching, and lots of insight and fun! Whether you want to view your body with more compassion and understanding, gain dancing insight and creativity, or just move, this is for you! Instructor: Beth Mwano
Heffner Park Community Center
42 Oswego Avenue
16 years and older
8 Week Session
Wednesdays, 7–8 p.m.
January 8-February 26
Resident: \$90 / Non-resident: \$100

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT



Writing Life Stories
Do you want to share important life experiences through your writing? Our stories are part of what make us human. Whether you are a lifelong writer or a beginner, this class is for you. I will help you to jump-start your memories, organize your ideas, and edit your work. Prepare to have fun! Bring a notebook and pen or a laptop to every class. We use the book *Writing the Memoir* by Judith Barrington. Instructor: Barbara Rosenblatt
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Rose Room
16 years and older
8 Week Session
Wednesdays, 7–8:30 p.m.
January 8-March 4
(No class 1/15)
Resident: \$135 / Non-resident: \$155

Youth Mentor Training
A training session for adults who are interested in mentoring youth. Adults will learn that mentoring is a very rewarding experience that assists youth in making dramatic changes in their lives. This training will provide understanding of the self and others, which will lead to confidence and skill. Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Azalea Room
18 years and older
10 Week Session
Saturdays, 10:30–11:45 a.m.
January 11-March 14
Resident: \$50 / Non-resident: \$60

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, 6:30–7:30 p.m.
January 7-February 27
\$95
Drop-in: \$10

MARTIAL ARTS

Kung Fu
Bungo Fu is 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 students defend themselves by strengthening hand-and-eye coordination as well as assisting with the maintaining of balance as they get older. The student will gain physical fitness as well as mental and spiritual strength. Instructor: Master Robert Thompson
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Dance Studio
16 years and older
9 Week Session
Monday, 7:30–8:30 p.m.
January 6-March 16
(No class: 1/21 & 2/18)
Resident: \$165 / Non-resident: \$185

MULTI MEDIA

Photography 101 (Adults)
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 shooting manual on your DSLR, rules of composition, portrait photography, object photography, landscape photography, posing 101, editing your photos, using natural light vs. non-natural light, composition and turning your phone into a camera. Instructor: Vinny Mwano
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Multi Media Lab
18 years and older
8 Week Session
Tuesdays, 7:15–8:15 p.m.
January 7-February 25
Resident: \$80 / Non-resident: \$90

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

Video Production and Editing
From pre-production techniques to properly videotaping with any device and techniques of editing, learn the art of video production. Instructor: Isaac Asare
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Multi Media Lab
13 years and older
5 Week Session
Thursdays, 6–8 p.m.
January 30-February 27
Resident: \$165 / Non-resident: \$185

SPORTS

PLAN AHEAD FOR THE SPRING!



League Registration opens Jan. 15 for Residents & Jan. 22 for Non-residents

Takoma Park Adult Softball League
Dust off your glove and warm up your swing; the Takoma Park Adult Softball League is back! This is a fun co-ed recreational program for competitive adults of all skill levels. Gather some friends to enjoy the spring season on the softball field. Team registrations must contain a minimum of 50% Takoma Park residents to qualify for Resident Team entry fee. Top 4 teams advance to the playoffs. **No Games on Easter, Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, or Memorial Day weekend.**
Various Field Locations
16 and older
7 Week Season
Sundays, 9:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m.
April 5-June 28
Resident Team Fee: \$645 / Non-resident Team Fee: \$745



Takoma Park Adult Softball League – Free Agent
Interested in joining the fun but don’t have a team? Sign up as a free agent to be placed on a waiting list. You will be contacted if a space becomes available. Should you join a team, you will be responsible to pay your registration and any other associated team fees. *Spaces are not guaranteed*

55+

DROP-IN

Bingo
Come and try your luck. Win a prize. No registration required.
Takoma Park Community Center
Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Tuesday, January 28
12–2 p.m.
Free



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
Game Room

7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
Mondays and Thursdays: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.
Saturdays: 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Free

Walking Group
Don’t worry about the cold weather and join your neighbors and friends for indoor lap walking. Drop-in; no registration is required.
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 and older
Tuesdays, ongoing
1:15–2 p.m.
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

Computer Basics
This three-week course will introduce people with little or no previous 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 and take this course. Instructor: Anne LeVeque
Takoma Park Community Center
Computer Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
3 Week Sessions
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
January 22-February 5
\$5

Computer Extras
In this three-week course, experiment with social media and master the calendar and other computer/smart device apps. Bring your questions. You need a Takoma Park Library card to access the computers, and take this course. Instructor: Anne LeVeque
Takoma Park Community Center
Computer Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
55 and older
Wednesdays, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
March 4-18
\$5

FITNESS

Heart & Core
Move to the high-energy beat to pump up the heart rate followed by 20 minutes of Pilates core floor workout to strengthen the area from shoulders through hips. Instructor: Nancy Nickell
Takoma Park Recreation Center
Gymnasium
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
55 and older
Saturdays, 9:15–10:15 a.m.
January 4-March 14
\$5

SPORTS

Tennis Fun and 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
Thursdays, 12–1 p.m.
January 9-March 12
\$5



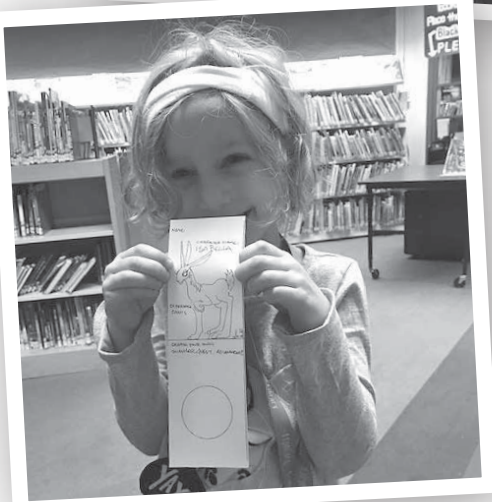
Great Events at the Library



At left: Foggy Bottom Morris Men performed at the library's annual Winter Solstice Celebration.



At right: Musician Bill Jenkins sets up the Winter Solstice drum circle.



At left: A young reader is happy with the WinterQuest game character drawn for her by Library Associate Dave Burbank.

All photos by Karen McPherson

CALENDAR

Circle Time

Tuesdays, 10:30–11 a.m.

Spanish Circle Time

Thursdays, 10:30–11 a.m.

Led by Senora Geiza

LEGO Club

Sunday, Jan. 5, 1:30–3 p.m.

Building fun for ages 3–10.

Kids Graphic Novels: 2020 Caldecott Possibilities

Monday, Jan. 6, 7 p.m.

Join us as we read sections from several great new kids graphic novels, all possibilities for the 2020 Caldecott Medal. Lemonade, cookies, and allergy-free treats will be served.

Mock Caldecott for Adults

Saturday, Jan. 11, 1–4 p.m.

We'll read and discuss some great possibilities for the 2020 Caldecott Medal, then vote on our winner. Snacks will be served, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Caldecott Club

Monday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.

We'll re-read our finalist books from 2019

and choose our Mock Caldecott 2020 winner. Lemonade and cookies served.

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Jan. 14, 4 p.m.

Come read some great comics!

Petites Chansons

Saturday, Jan. 18, 10:30 a.m.

Led by Madame Marie

Friends Bi-Monthly Book Club Discussion

Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Our book is *Jimmy Corrigan, the Smartest Kid on Earth*, a graphic novel by Chris Ware. Tim Rahn and Dave Burbank will lead the discussion, which is geared to adult readers.

Alternative Games

Saturday, Jan. 25, 2–4 p.m.

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

Kids Art

Sunday, Jan. 26, 2–3 p.m.

Come make art with Ms. Kati.

COMING UP...

- **Caldecott Club**, Monday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m.
It's a Book Party!
We'll eat cake and read the 2020 Caldecott Medal and Honor books.
- **LEGO Club**, Sunday, Feb. 9, 1:30–3 p.m.

Black History Celebration

Join us on Saturday, February 8 at 2 p.m. to close out our yearlong celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards. We'll be highlighting the newly-minted 2020 CSK winners, which will be announced by the American Library Association on Monday, January 27. We'll also read a few past CSK-winning favorites.

While we'll focus mostly on picture books, we'll also likely read a few passages from CSK winning novels or non-fiction books. Lemonade, cookies and allergy-free treats will be served. All are welcome.



Caldecott Activities

We have a trio of great programs in January — and one in early February! — focused on the prestigious Caldecott Medal, which is given annually by the American Library Association to the best-illustrated book for kids ages birth-14. Here's the run-down.

So far, only one graphic novel — *This One Summer* — has won a Caldecott Honor in the 81-year history of the award. No graphic novels have ever won the Caldecott Medal itself. Could that change this year?

On Monday, January 6 at 7 p.m., we will look at a few kids graphic novels featuring particularly distinguished art.



These books include: *Queen of the Sea*, written and illustrated by Dylan Meconis; *New Kid*, written and illustrated by Jerry Craft; and *This Was Our Pact*, written and illustrated by Ryan Andrews. Lemonade, cookies and allergy-free treats will be served, and no registration is necessary.

For the fifth consecutive year, we are hosting a Mock Caldecott for Adults on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 1–4

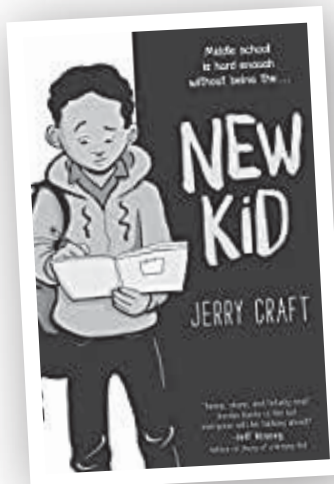
p.m. At this program, we'll read and discuss 10 great possibilities for the 2020 Caldecott Medal, using the actual Caldecott Medal criteria. Then we'll vote on our favorite.



Snacks will be served, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. While this event is aimed at adults, teens also are invited to participate, and younger children are welcome to observe.

At each month's program, our Caldecott Club chooses a winner from the books we read and discussed that night. On Monday, January 13, at 7 p.m., we'll re-read our finalists and then vote on our winner for the year. As always, lemonade, cookies, and allergy-free treats will be served.

It will be interesting to see how close the choices



of the Caldecott Club and the Mock Caldecott for Adults come to the actual 2020 Caldecott Medal winner and Caldecott Honor books. The actual awards will be announced on Monday, January 27 at 8 a.m. at the Youth Media Awards sponsored by the American Library Association.

Once the awards are announced, it's time for a Book Party! On Monday, February 3 at 7 p.m., we'll celebrate with lemonade, cake and allergy-free treats as we read the actual 2020 Caldecott Medal and Honor Books. All are welcome!

Public artist takes the lead

By Taylor Dibbert

Theodore Carter is a 2019 Azalea Award winner in the Arts Leader category. He grew up in Palo Alto, California. Carter was a political science major at Stanford and graduated in 1999. “I came to Washington, D.C. thinking I would go into that [the political] world,” he said.

He ended up going another direction and has been a teacher for the past 15 years. He currently works at Georgetown Day School where he is a homeroom teacher for third grade and covers most subjects, including math, writing, reading and social studies. He also coaches baseball at the high school.

He came to Takoma Park around 2007. When he and his wife were considering the move from Silver Spring, Carter said that Takoma Park seemed like a nice place to raise children. He also mentioned Takoma’s history as being “arts friendly,” the co-op and the farmer’s market as being significant draws.

His wife, Elizabeth, is a senior advisor at AARP. They met at the Big Hunt in Washington, D.C. Carter said she is the first person to read what he writes and that she’s taken many of the photos for his website. Carter has two children. His son Ben is 15 and his daughter Brett is 11.

His focus is public art. Last year, he rolled out “Night of 1,000 Fridas.” He described it as “a large-scale public art project aimed at getting 1,000 depictions of Frida Kahlo out into the world on the same night, Jan. 25, 2019.” Four hundred people participated, and 1,644 Fridas were created.

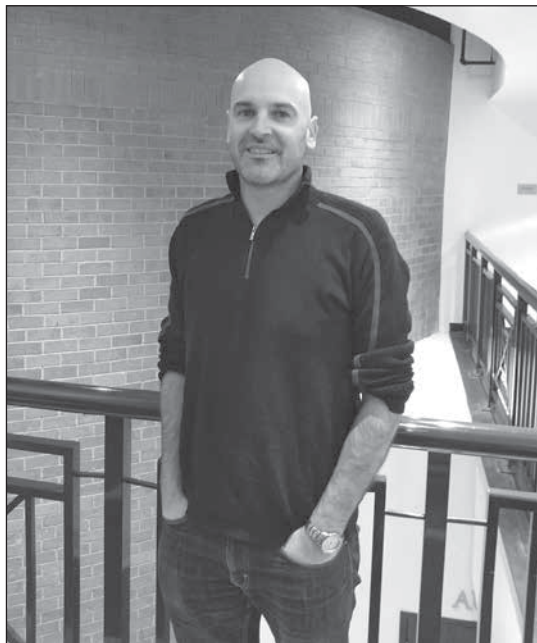
This ambitious project was featured on 5 continents and 15 countries, including Mexico, Spain, Senegal and Australia. “This was definitely on a scale that was much larger than anything I’d done before,” he told me. “It gave me an opportunity to reach out to other artists and try to build a community and something on a large scale.”

To complete the project, Carter connected with people he’d never met and was unlikely to meet in the future. Essentially, he had to delegate. “I had people coordinating in different locations and I told people that, whatever they wanted to contribute, it counted,” he said.

A grant from the Awesome Foundation, a Washington, D.C.-based organization, helped a lot. It allowed him to advertise and attract artists. There were participants in their 90s and others who were in preschool.

“Frida is somebody who means something different to everyone,” Carter said. He noted that a lot of people connected with her through gender identity, disability and creativity. Carter, who has also written fiction about Frida Kahlo, said his own art pertaining to her looks mainly at gender, sexuality and power.

In terms of his art, Carter strives to do big things and capture people’s attention. “I’m just all about trying to disrupt people’s every day,” he said. “Any time that people can interact with art, it is great and



Credit: Taylor Dibbert

Theodore Carter at the Takoma Park Community Center

positive.”

Carter also noted that Mayor Kate Stewart has been supportive of his work and participated in 1,000 Fridas. Both Laura Barclay at Main Street Takoma and Ashleigh Nugent have been supportive as well.

Carter has a background in writing and received a master’s in writing from Johns Hopkins University in 2004. He is the author of four books, including a self-published children’s book that came out in November 2019. His literary influences include Kurt Vonnegut, Shirley Jackson, Roald Dahl and Joyce Carol Oates. And he’s an avid reader.

But he comes from three generations of visual artists. Carter told me about his childhood and watching his grandparents paint in their studios; that had an influence. “I sort of resisted that [art] in my own education and now, as I get older, I’m going back to it.”

In 2018, he completed a mural at the VFW. “[T]he best way to describe the VFW mural is by saying that my vision was to make it look like the back of a motorcycle jacket,” he said. His daughter Brett helped him complete the project. “It was great to have her in that space and interacting with the staff and patrons. Everyone was so kind to her, and she was so proud when it was all done and on each subsequent visit. We signed the piece together.”

One of the Carter’s frustrations is always wanting to do more. For example, he won’t be doing 1,000 Fridas this year (because it’s so time-consuming), though he would love to. He has a full-time job and other commitments: “I always feel like I have more ideas than I’m able to complete.”

Carter mentioned that winning an Azalea Award was “really validating” and made him feel tied to the community: “I’ve paid attention to the Azalea Awards in the past; it felt good.”

He said that Takoma Park is “a place where a lot of interesting things happen, and you see art all over.”



Helping Others to Fill Their Bowls



The Empty Bowls Project is here again! Empty Bowls is a nation-wide project to raise money to fight hunger. Empty Bowls supports food-related charitable organizations around the world and has raised millions of dollars to help end hunger over the years. Those that spearhead the project encourage others to, “Think Globally and Act Locally.” Approximately 63,000 Montgomery County residents do not know where their next meal will come from. Recent reports from the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) website indicate that 35.1 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced meals due to the low-income levels of their families.

This year, the Recreation Department will create 45 bowls between the Afternoon Addition, After the Bell and Teen programs. The bowls will be available for purchase during the Martin Luther King Jr. program on January 20 at Takoma Park Middle School. Alice Sims, who leads the program, said, “We explain to the kids that the bowls

are for those less fortunate in the community. The kids understand and are excited to create the bowls and give them as presents for those in the community.”

Joyce Seamens, who is the department head for Health & Wellness for the Adventist Community Services of Greater Washington, has received donations from Empty Bowls on behalf of her organization. Joyce said, “People who have purchased the bowls were very happy with how creative and pretty the bowls looked. I am glad that the kids at the Recreation Department are involved with this project and are willing to help those that are less fortunate in the community. I am thankful to the Martin Luther King Jr. Committee and the Recreation Department for thinking of us and for all that they do for the Empty Bowls Project.”

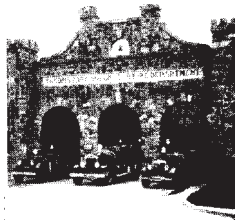
The bowls are in the process of being created right now. We look forward to seeing you at the MLK event and hope that you will consider purchasing a bowl to help those in need.



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 takomapark-md.gov/services/passports.



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 2,783, representing an increase of 199 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, an increase of 114 hours.

Maryland fire deaths

Maryland Fire Marshal Office reported as of Dec. 31, 2019, 53 people have died in fires compared to 71 in 2018.

Hot vehicle deaths

As of Dec. 31, 2019, 52 children have died across the country in hot vehicles. This brings the grand total to 849 since 1998.



TPVFD 25th Annual Dinners for Needy Families

The following people (pictured left) assisted with pickup and delivery: KiKi Alfaro, Dave Hooker and Jim Jarboe. Thanks to Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary and Takoma Park Lions Club for providing funds to purchase the dinners.

Toy Drive Thanks

On Sunday, December 22, members of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the Takoma Park Police Department assisted with sorting and bagging toys for 181 children representing 76 families. Thanks to Steve Novik for assisting with pick-up of toys, and to the TPVFD Auxiliary, Justin Rattey and the Hiram-Takoma Freemason Lodge No. 10 for donating toys. This marks the 39th consecutive year for the toy drive. (Left to Right: TPVFD member Tina Willey, Tina Smith, Ret. Sgt. TPPD, TPVFD members Ashlee Willey, Connor Rattey, EMS; Lt. Jorge Alfaro, KiKi Alfaro and Jim Jarboe. Not pictured: Non-members Tori Williams and Renarda Brooks)



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



Storms and Scams are Coming Again: Time for Your Annual Checklist



By Claudine Schweber,
Co-Chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

Are you ready to deal with threats to safety due to snowstorms, power outages, or freezing temperatures? Are you

ready for threats to your financial and private safety by scammers? Like the annual medical check-up, here's the annual checklist.

Are you ready for weather threats?

Situation: INDOORS AT HOME	Prepared? Yes? No? To Do & deadline_____
Lighting and radio: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Flashlight close at hand and working batteries (that fit the flashlight) or lantern (for power outages) with working batteries; and one for every person in the homeHeadlamps for mobilityPortable radio - battery-operated, solar-powered, or hand crank radio Food: <ul style="list-style-type: none">3 days of supplies; water for 3-6 days; non-perishable food; hand-operated can openerNO gas or flames	
Health support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Prescription medication, enough for at least a weekMedical professionals' contact list with specialty and phone/ email infoCopies of health insurance information, medical records, and other health documents (easily accessible)Contact information for nearest hospital and emergency personnelFamily/friend contact information (phone/ email)—see also communication	
Communication/Contacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Emergency contact list; local and out of area including name, relationship, phone/ email (Be sure the contact agrees, and tell the information to others.)Charged cell phone and portable charger (ready for use); notepad and pencil/pen	
Assistance for the elderly, disabled, or non-English speakers Elderly and disabled persons <ul style="list-style-type: none">Mobility and power source for wheelchairs, medical equipment; health support information (see above)Takoma Park Police Department CARE Program will call registered residents daily who are alone or have special needs (To sign up, call 301-270-1100) Non-English speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Contact information for interpreters	

Are you prepared for scammers' threats?

There's been an increase in calls and email from persons asking/demanding your money, or else.... Warrants will be out for your arrest, you will lose out on government aid after a storm, a family member may be in danger, or you will not get the prize. Of course, it's all a lie. Beware and be wary! Here are some examples of popular scams:
Social Security threat: Caller (sometimes a robocall) saying your benefits will

end and you need to wire money, send cash or purchase a gift card. This is the #1 scam reported to the Federal Trade Commission.
IRS scam: Calls from IRS impersonators claiming you owe back taxes. Pay or else...arrest is imminent.
Disaster assistance scam: Calls offering to help with repairs or finding you a

HIGHLIGHTS
From page 3

tic Straw Takoma Park campaign and continued the tradition of advocacy from our young people. Last spring, the Council passed a ban on the commercial use of plastic beverage straws and stirrers. Because of the hard work of the students and residents who did the research and outreach to local businesses, we were able to move quickly in passing the ban, which becomes effective this month. Thank you to everyone who worked on this effort.

8. Increased Community Engagement

The Council and City staff are always looking for ways to increase our engagement with the community and make sure we are a responsive and service-oriented government. Some changes we have made this year include:

- We started to hold meetings prior to formal Council meetings to facilitate greater discussion with members of the public. We have had presentations followed by question and answer sessions. Thank you to Councilmember Kovar for his suggestions and assistance in pulling together a number of these meetings.
- Councilwoman Kostiuk and I have been working with DC Council representatives to coordinate meetings regarding the work on Eastern Avenue. We were able to hold two meetings last year with most of the utilities and DC Department of Transportation in the same room to hear from residents and report about the project.
- When specific concerns or issues come up in the City, we have been responsive in pulling together experts around the region to present information and answer residents' questions. A great example of that this year is the excellent panel of experts our Director of Public Works, Daryl Braithwaite, pulled together on why oak trees are dying.
- Donna Wright, the City's Communication Specialist, has been putting in place a number of new ways for the City to communicate with residents. We started the new Takoma Insider which is sent via email each Friday. In addition, we have focused on providing information in different languages, specifically Spanish and Amharic.

9. Our Amazing City Committees and Commissions

We have amazing committees and commissions in the City that help the Council and staff tackle the work of the City. This year, we began to look at how we can increase participation in the Committees and improve the experience residents have when they serve on Committees. We conducted a survey to gather input and are working on recommendations to share with the full Council on how to improve the system.

In particular, many of our committee members stepped up in a big way last year:

- The Tree Commission and Committee on the Environment have been invaluable as we tackle the Tree Ordinance and Tree Canopy work and continue the work to address Climate Change;
- The Board of Elections is busy working to prepare us for our 2020 Elections, which will be the first City elections in

- sync with national elections;
- The Grants Review Committee has been taking a careful look at how we run the program and expanded the pool of grantees;
- The Arts & Humanities Committee put in place a new Cultural Plan with an emphasis on racial equity;
- Thank you to the residents and Councilwoman Kostiuk who have helped revitalize the Safe Roadways Committee, now the Complete Safe Streets Committee;
- And all the work of the Youth Council, Commemoration Commission, and the Recreation, Pension, and Nuclear-Free Committees, the Noise Control Board, the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs, Ethics Commission, Emergency Preparedness, Façade Advisory Board, Police Chief's Advisory Board.
- We also have a number of short-term task forces such as the Parking Task Force, Council Compensation, and the Legal Services Review Advisory Group.

I want to specifically thank City Clerk, Jessie Carpenter, who assists the City Committees in functioning.

10. Award-Winning, Smart, Skilled, Hard Working City Staff

Every day our amazing staff work on behalf of our community and residents. Many times, the work they do goes unrecognized. I am glad to say this year our staff has been recognized and brought much praise to our City! Here are just a few examples:

- City Manager, **Suzanne Ludlow**, received the Caring Heart Award for Outstanding Service to the Community.
- **Jessie Carpenter**, City Clerk/Director of Council Affairs, and **Leicia Monfort**, Teen Program Manager, were recognized by Takoma United for an Engaged Community as 2019 Unsung Heroes.
- Finance Director, **Susan Cheung**, and her staff were awarded the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the FY2019 City Budget.
- **Lucy Neher**, the coordinator of the Safe Routes to School Program, secured a grant for \$86,494. The budget includes coordinator salary, non-infrastructure activities, such as Walk to School Day activities, and the iCan Shine Bike Camp for two years. In addition, Lucy's work coordinating the TKPK 5K race resulted in \$30,000 going to local schools to promote safety and wellbeing.
- Last year, three of our outstanding Planning Division staff members became "EcoDistrict Accredited Professionals" – **Rosalind Grigsby**, Community Development Manager, **Jamee Ernst**, Planner, and **Alex Michael**, Planning Intern. The certification is a step toward creating a certified Eco-District in Takoma Park to accelerate neighborhood-scale sustainability, green infrastructure, and community-based decision making.
- **Karen MacPherson**, the Library's Children and Young Adult Manager, has had numerous articles published in the Washington Post. One example is her June 2 article, "Yes, Parents, there is a magic formula to keep your kids reading through the summer."
- Our **Police Department** has dealt with a number of very tough cases this year

and has shown professionalism, caring, and gone above and beyond to assist residents. In particular, under Chief DeVaul, the departmental structure has been changed, the Chief's Advisory Board has been revised, and several new community outreach programs have been initiated. I want to thank Councilmember Seamens for his vision and advocacy to support and improve policing in our community.

We have many more staff in the City, and it is impossible to name each of them and their accomplishments. I want to extend my thanks to all of them for their dedication and hard work.

Looking Ahead to 2020

In the year ahead, we will continue much of the work discussed above, and specifically, we will wrap up our work on the tree ordinance and tree canopy goals. Thank you to Councilmembers Kostiuk, Dyballa, and Kovar for leading these efforts.

Other projects will include the library renovation, Census 2020, upcoming City Elections, and much more.

In addition to working on projects, I want to thank my colleagues on the Council for their participation in regional and national associations and commit-

tees. With their work with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, the Maryland Municipal League and the National League of Cities and other organizations, the City of Takoma Park "punches far beyond its weight class," in the words of Council of Governments Executive Director Chuck Bean.

I want to also take this time to thank our Deputy City Manager, Jason Damweber. He will be leaving the City and moving with the family to Colorado. It has been an honor to work with Jason these last few years. His dedication, professionalism, and excellent work have greatly benefited our community and he will be missed.

Every day I have the great honor to work for the residents of Takoma Park, with my colleagues on the Council, and with the most dedicated staff of City employees.

Together, we accomplished a great deal in 2019. I am looking forward to transforming the world with all of you in 2020!

Editor's Note: A longer version of this article was posted to the City's website on Dec. 16, 2019. You can access it at takomaparkmd.gov/city-council-and-mayor-blog/happy-holidays-a-year-end-message-from-mayor-kate-stewart.

ANNUAL CHECKLIST
From page 10

temporary rental; they ask for your financial information or money via gift card or wiring money to do this for you. Also, watch out for woodchucks, people claiming to be contractors who come and offer to do tree cutting and other improve-

ments and ask for a deposit in cash or money transfer (no more than 1/3 allowed in Maryland).

Pepco scam: Calls from (fake) utility company person saying you owe X\$ on your bill; they ask to be paid by phone via a prepaid debit card and tell you where to purchase this card; codes are then read to the scammer.

What to do?

1. Hang up
2. Contact Montgomery County Consumer protection (240-777-3636 or visit www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ocp), which has an on-call investigator of the day.
3. Contact the supposed company or agency directly and report to the FTC (www.ftc.gov/scams), IRS, social security (1-800-772-1213; www.identitytheft.gov/SSA) or other department/agency named in the call.

Take charge and be prepared! Being prepared prevents being scared. It's easy to contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126. Join us at "Talk of Takoma" on WOWD/LP 94.3 at 1 p.m., first Sunday of the month for "Dear Bea(trice) Prepared."

STAY CONNECTED!

The City of Takoma Park strives to keep residents engaged and informed in a variety of ways:

- **Social Media:** Follow TakomaPark - Facebook: **Like us** - Twitter: @TakomaParkMD
- **NEW! Social Media Hub:** Don't like Twitter or Facebook but want to know the latest post or tweets by the City? Visit: takomaparkmd.gov/about-takoma-park/social-media-hub/
- **Takoma Park Alert:** Public safety notifications - **Sign up** for Public Safety notifications on Takoma Park Alert: (emails/texts): takomaparkmd.gov/services/takoma-park-alert
- **Takomaparkmd.gov:** where you can **access information** on upcoming Council meetings, agendas, City news, and the status of City projects
- **Monthly Newsletter:** both in print and electronic copy
- **NEW! The Takoma Insider:** Receive our weekly eNews right to your email. **Sign up:** <http://eepurl.com/gg4dMb>
- **My TkPk:** Make a service request or report an issue using the online app. **Learn more:** takomaparkmd.gov/services/my-tkpk

#OneCommunity - TakomaParkMD.gov

JANUARY '20

Do you have an item for the city calendar?

Do you have an item for the newsletter 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. 10, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Jan. 24. 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. 15, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day - City Offices Closed

Monday, Jan. 20
All City offices and facilities will be closed Monday, Jan. 20, 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.educare-supportservices.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.

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENT

Village Rides Volunteer Training

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Business Center 6930 Carroll Ave., Suite 910
Orientation session for those interested in driving Takoma Park seniors once a month or more often. Register by calling The Village of Takoma Park at 301-646-2109, or email sandyeganretired@gmail.com. (Parking note: There is parking in back of the building, first come, first served. There is additional metered parking on the street in front of the building.)

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.

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

Visions of Our Community Photo Exhibit Public Reception

Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
TP Community Center
An exhibit of winning photographs from the student photography contest, "Visions of Our Community," will be displayed at the Takoma Park Community Center January 7 – March 25.

ABSTRACTED Art Exhibition Opening Reception

Thursday, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.
TP Community Center
Please join us for the opening reception for *ABSTRACTED*, a group exhibition featuring a diverse range of abstract artwork by Seemeen Hashem, Steve Wanna, Elroy Williams, and artists from the VisAbility Art Lab. *See p. 5 for more information.*

Carroll Cafe

Friday, Jan. 10, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW
Victoria Vox is a ukulele-toting award-winning songwriter and performer. With a passion for songwriting since she was 10 (first on keyboard, then on guitar), she studied at the Berklee College of Music and, in 2003, took up the ukulele as her main accompaniment. Since the release of her first ukulele album in 2006, Vox has been one of the leading songwriters on the ukulele scene.
\$18 in advance, \$20 at the door
carrollcafe.org

Rediscovering Your heART: Finding Joy and Creativity through Expressive Writing

Sundays, Jan. 12 – Feb. 23
(No class on Feb. 16.)

Dance Exchange, 7117 Maple Ave.

Start your year off with writing prompts and creative exercises to help you jumpstart creative projects that may have languished, or simply to live a more creative, zestful life! For more information, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/rediscovering-you-heart-finding-joy-creativity-through-expressive-writing-tickets-78006576771. This class is being offered independently and is not part of Dance Exchange's programming.

Takoma Park Old-Time Jam

Wednesday, Jan. 15, 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.

Poetry from Behind Bars Poetry Reading

Thursday, Jan. 16, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
In a unique poetry reading, Poet Ambassadors from the Free Minds Book Club & Writing Workshop will read poetry they wrote while incarcerated in the D.C. jail or federal prisons across the country. *See p. 5 for more information.*

Documentary Screening - Heather Booth: Changing the World

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center auditorium
The Takoma Park Youth Council is hosting a documentary screening of "Heather Booth: Changing the World," a film about the life and advocacy of nationally recognized activist and Takoma Park resident Heather Booth. The film will be followed by a Q&A session with Heather Booth herself.

A Balkan Journey by the Orfeia Vocal Ensemble

Friday, Jan. 24, 8 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
The Orfeia Vocal Ensemble will lead a magical journey through the rich musical heritage of the Balkans. Free Event with \$10 Suggested Donation. *See p. 5 for more information.*

The Power of Music: By the People, For the People

Concert by the Patagonia Winds
Friday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
The Patagonia Winds will take chamber music out of the drawing room and to the public in an engaging concert by this professional wind quintet. Free Event with \$10 Suggested Donation. *See p. 5 for more information.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer Camp Registration opens

Monday, Feb. 3, 8:30 a.m.
Registration for Takoma Park residents opens for Recreation Department Summer Camps. There will be an early bird discount of 15 percent applied to all registrations completed the week of Feb. 3 – 9. Discount will be applied automatically both in person and online. Spaces fill fast. On Monday, Feb. 10, registration will open for non-residents and all patrons will receive 10 percent off from Feb. 10 – 16. For a complete list of camps and sign-up details, visit takomaparkmd.gov/recreation.