



WHAT'S NEW?

Smart Snow Removal
page 4

TP Safe Routes to School
Awarded Grant
page 11

City offices &
facilities closed
Sunday, Feb. 16 - Monday, Feb. 17
President's Day holiday

Trash/recycling collection
Yard trimming collection canceled
Monday, Feb. 17



From left, Chief James Jarboe, Councilmember Tom Hucker's representative Sarah Wolf, TPVFD's Steve Novik, Mayor Kate Stewart and TPVFD's President Elmer Hamm pose with the mayor's proclamation honoring the volunteer fire department's 125 years of continuous service.

Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department celebrates 125 years without interruption

By Sean Gossard

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department was honored in November with a Mayoral Proclamation and celebration highlighting the department's 125th anniversary. "[T]he Fire Department is part of the identity of Takoma Park," the proclamation from Mayor Kate Stewart reads honoring the department's dedicated history to the city.

The Takoma Park Fire Company was first established in 1894 after a devastating fire in December 1893 that destroyed three shops that comprised the town's business district.

More than 175,000 calls and thousands of volunteers later, the department has provided dedicated service to Takoma

Park and been an integral part of the city. Montgomery County's oldest continuously operating fire service has grown to having 134 members, with 40 of those actively serving alongside career fire and rescue personnel.

The Takoma Park Fire Company opened what's considered the town's first fire station in 1895 in a small log cabin at the corner of Carroll and Laurel Avenues, where the farmers market currently takes place. There it stored its first hose reel, fire hose, and a hand-drawn, hand-operated pumping unit. The fire company incorporated in 1922 as the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, and in 1931 the city constructed a new station on its current

TP VFD □ Page 3

Local flower tips for Valentine's Day

By Sean Gossard

Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and Takoma Park florists are gearing up for the season of love. No matter if you're buying for a lover or just someone you love, there are many options for you to choose from.

For Park Florist at 6921 Laurel Ave., orders are already coming in for the big day.

"Traditionally Takoma Park folks are more geared toward mixed arrangements rather than traditional valentine colors, but this year we're leaning on rose arrangements," said Park Florist owner Jeanne Ha.

Ha says they've already put up



Dance with Me floral arrangement from Park Florist

their flower arrangements on Park Florist's website (parkflorist.us) and are expecting a big rush on flowers this year. "Since Valentine's falls on a Friday this year, we are expecting a lot of orders on that day," Ha said. "We're offering a 10 percent discount on everything that's ordered before the 13th."

Park Florist has more than a dozen designs ranging from \$50-\$200 featuring an array of floral arrangements and colors. "We have a variety of designs that don't just focus on roses," Ha said. "And we have something for every relationship, not just husbands to wives, but also for friends or other family."

Just around the corner at ButterKup Flowers on 26 Philadelphia Ave., Bethany Karn stresses the ideas of keeping it local, going field-to-vase instead of field-to-table, as she said. "I'm all about finding local flowers and interesting flowers

FLOWER TIPS □ Page 3

Editor's note

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

French: Recherchez cette icône à côté des articles du bulletin que

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

Spanish: Busque este icono junto a los artículos del boletín que puede leer en línea en otros idiomas usando

la función de traducción en el sitio web de la Ciudad de Takoma Park. Después de hacer clic en el enlace del artículo, busque en la esquina superior derecha de la página web junto a la barra de navegación y seleccione el idioma que desee con el cuadro desplegable.

Amharic: ከታች ያለውን ደህን ክፍል ይፈልጉ የዚህ መጽሔፍ አርእስት ራስዎ ናቸው በሌሎች ቋንቋዎች በመስመር ላይ ማንበብ ይቻላል ትርጉሙን በመጠቀም በታክሚ ከተማ ውስጥ ያለውን ባህሪ የፓርክ ድር ጣቢያ ጠቀ ከደረጉን በኋላ እጽሑፉ ከገናኝ ላይ ይመልከቱ በላይኛው ቀኝ ጥንግ ላይ ታስባለች የአሰሳ አሞሌን ይምረጡና ይምረጡ የሚጠቀሙበት ቋንቋ ተቀልቋይ ሳትሆን፡፡

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Inside



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and Activism of
Lee A. Jordan
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Xtreme Finances
for Teens
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10th Annual
Mid-Winter
Play Day
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DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Thursday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

COMMISSION ON LANDLORD-TENANT AFFAIRS

Thursday, Feb. 6, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Atrium Room

COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, Feb. 3, 7:15 p.m.
Monday, Mar. 2, 7:15 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

COMPLETE SAFE STREETS COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 13, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Feb. 27, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

FACADE ADVISORY BOARD

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

NOISE CONTROL BOARD

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

PARKING MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Wednesday, Feb. 5, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room
Wednesday, Feb. 19, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 6:45 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

YOUTH COUNCIL

Monday, Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room
Monday, Feb. 24, 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 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.

CityCouncilAction

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

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Takoma Park Sustainability and Climate Action Plan

Wednesday, Feb. 5

7:30 p.m.

Auditorium – Takoma Park Community Center

7500 Maple Avenue

Important Takoma Park Election Dates

The next City of Takoma Park election for Mayor and City Council will take place on Tuesday, Nov. 3. This is the same date at the Presidential Election. Voters will cast ballots at their usual assigned voting location but will check in and vote first in the Presidential Election, and then check in and vote in the Takoma Park Municipal Election.

- Tuesday, Sept. 15 – Nominating Caucus
- Thursday, Oct. 22 through Thursday, Oct. 29 - Early Voting
- Election Day – Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Running for Office?

Information is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov. You can also contact the City Clerk with any questions at clerk@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7267.

BE A 2020 TAKOMA PARK ELECTION WORKER

**Support the democratic process and
be paid for your work!**

As an election worker for the Takoma Park election, you provide an essential service to the functioning of democracy. You contribute to the community's governance and the free and fair election of its leaders. You will also meet neighbors and friends. You are a point of contact between the Board of Elections and the general public. You work with a team to administer the voting procedures and give voters a positive experience. And with five City Election polling places for the first time in 2020, plus eight days of early voting, there are more opportunities than ever before to serve.

Requirements

- Be a registered voter in Maryland or Takoma Park.
- Cannot be a candidate in the city election nor working on a city election campaign.
- Complete a three-hour training session.
- Deal courteously and patiently with the public and coworkers.
- Be available for election day or early voting.
- No prior experience needed.

Additional Considerations

Bilingual workers are especially needed.

Youth ages 14 and up may serve as election volunteers and earn SSL hours.

Apply Now! takomapark.seamlessdocs.com/f/ElectionWorkerApp. For more information, contact Irma Nalvarte, Assistant City Clerk at 301-891-7214 or irman@takomaparkmd.gov

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 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.

site at Carroll and Philadelphia Avenues with stone for the facade coming from nearby Sligo Creek.

Since then, the building has been re-modeled and was updated a decade ago, still incorporating the stones from Sligo Creek on its facade. “[I]ts original building on Carroll Avenue housed a community gym and was an important gathering place for residents,” the mayor’s proclamation reads. “[T]he current building houses a large community room for meetings, babysitting classes, birthday parties, and other uses.”

A big part of the fire department’s history is found with Chief James Jarboe, a longtime firefighter and former chief, who has been involved in the department for the past 60 years.

Jarboe comes from a family of firefighters that began with his brother Teddy, who served as a career fire chief in Kensington and as a deputy fire chief in Montgomery County before his death last February.

Although health issues sidelined him from continuing as a professional firefighter in 1988, Jarboe served as the chief of the volunteer fire department for 12



Chief James Jarboe, left, cuts the cake during the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department’s 125th anniversary celebration as TPVFD President Elmer Hamm and Mayor Kate Stewart look on.

years before retiring in 2008. And although he’s technically retired, Chief Jarboe still serves as a liaison with the community, offering education, awareness and safety tips.

Jarboe, 81, said a lot has obviously changed since he joined the force in 1956 when the City’s ambulance was a brand-

new Cadillac (similar to the famous “Ghostbusters” car).

“Back then an ambulance may have been around \$3,000 to \$4,000, and now a new one runs up to \$400,000,” Jarboe said. “Ladder trucks back then were around \$29,000 and can be up to one million now.”

With the growth of the area over the decades came an increase in the number of calls the department takes every year. “Back in the earlier days, they might have had 20 or 50 calls a year for emergencies,” Jarboe said. “When I came on, there were about 1,000, and now it’s anywhere from 3,500 to 4,000 a year.”

Today, the volunteers act as a supplemental force to help the career firefighters at the station.

“It’s a combination system; every fire station in Montgomery County has career firefighters that are supplemented by the volunteer force,” Jarboe said. “The volunteers are like a partner. They don’t get a paycheck, they just come in because they like it, they want to help the community, and that’s the way it is.”

With 125 years behind it, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department is continuing to go strong in its dedication to protect the people and property of the city. “It’s a very big milestone in the sense that it shows how dependable we can be to the citizens of Takoma Park and that we’ve been here for 125 years,” said Takoma Park volunteer firefighter Brent McCarthy. To donate or volunteer with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department, visit www.tpvfd.org.

FLOWER TIPS
■ From page 1

for Valentine’s Day,” said Karn of sourcing her arrangements. “I’ll be going around the area to see what I can get from local greenhouses and growers.”

Karn says it’s best to buy flowers from local growers since they last longer and have more smell than ones sold at Walmart and other big-box stores. And if you’re looking to go organic, Karn says that roses are probably not an option for you. “There will be a lot of great things, but no roses,” Karn says. “People have tried, but roses are not able to be grown organically. They’re just bred to be cargo.”

Karn also suggests ways to be more environmentally conscious when shopping for flowers.

“It’s a good idea to ask the florist to make the arrangement without floral foam,” she said. “Those little green bricks of foam that many florists use are toxic, non-biodegradable nightmares. If customers make it clear they don’t want it, hopefully florists will get the message and use it less.”

According to her, there are plenty of other ideas, however, if you just think outside the rose box. “My husband gave me red tu-

lips for our first Valentine’s Day together,” she said. “There are so many other beautiful flowers out there that aren’t red roses.”

And it doesn’t always have to be flowers, per se. “There’s also been a big boom in the rise of interior plants,” Karn said, “so a plant would be a great thing because they’ll last a longtime too.”

But she still stresses keeping things local, even if it may be a little more expensive. “You get what you pay for because they won’t last long from the grocery store, but local shops source their flowers from growers they know,” she said. You can check out her arrangements at www.butterkupflow-ers.com.

There also plenty of ways to shop from local farms if you’re looking to go right to the source.

Plant Masters will be at a few Bethesda Woman’s Farm Markets before Valentine’s Day. You can find them at marylandsbest.maryland.gov/producer/plant-masters.

And you can always send some local flowers to a loved one. Hoover-Fisher Florist offers same-day deliveries on flowers, plants and gift baskets in Takoma Park. You may just want to plan ahead with Valentine’s being on a Friday. Visit them at www.hooverfisherflorist.com.

Comment Period Extended - Modifications to
Parking Meters on the 7300 Block of Carroll
Avenue and the Unit Block of Grant Avenue

Modifications are proposed to 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 Block of Grant Avenue. The time limits for the meters will be modified from the current 1 hour time limit to 2 hours and certain meters will be removed to allow for short term drop off and delivery use (15 minute maximum). A diagram showing the locations and modifications is available for review on the City website at www.takomaparkmd.gov/parking.


The comment period has been extended to February 12, 2020. Comments may be submitted to the City Clerk at Clerk@takomaparkmd.gov.

Pursuant to Administrative Regulation 2010-10, notice of proposed modifications and opportunity to comment was published in the January 2020 Takoma Park Newsletter and posted at the site. Such modifications shall not become effective less than 21 days after publication of final notice in the Newsletter.

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





THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER
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Assistant: Sean Gossard
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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



Mr. Lee: The Life, Influence and Activism of Lee A. Jordan

Lee A. Jordan was an iconic figure for Takoma Park, whose values and contributions still resonate in our community. Lee Jordan was a legendary coach and mentor to a generation of Takoma Park youth – both black and white – through his work at Takoma Park Junior High School and as founder of the Takoma Park Boys and Girls Club, the first integrated organization of its kind in Montgomery County. He was also a tireless advocate for the African American community in Takoma Park and led the campaign for the creation of the Heffner Community Center on Oswego Avenue.



Lee Jordan with local children circa 1979

To commemorate Black History Month, the Oral Histories from the African American Community Project will present a program about Jordan's life. Family and community members who knew him well will discuss Jordan's legacy on many fronts. Film clips from some of the project's oral histories will be featured in the program, as well as music and visuals. Oral Histories from the African American Community is a project of Historic Takoma with funding from the City of Takoma Park.

Join us for this special program on Sunday, February 23 at 2 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Takoma Park Community Center.

Get All of Your Money: Free Tax Services

The VITA program provides free tax preparation services for low to moderate income Montgomery County Residents with household incomes of \$56,000 or less. IRS-certified volunteers from nonprofit and public agencies will e-file your taxes. You can direct deposit your federal and state tax refund, so it'll be in your bank account, fast and safe! You may schedule an appointment or walk-in at various locations in the county, including the Community Center in Takoma Park. Tax preparation services continue through April 15, 2020.

BY APPOINTMENT

Takoma Park – Community Tax Aid – 240-777-2577

Wednesday: 10 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Community Center – 7500 Maple Avenue
Saturday: 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. – Community Center – 7500 Maple Avenue

Silver Spring Library – Community Tax Aid – 240-777-2577

Tuesdays: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. – 900 Wayne Avenue, Silver Spring

Gaithersburg – 240-777-1123

Mondays: 3:30 – 7:30 p.m. at 80A Bureau Drive, Gaithersburg

Takoma Park/Silver Spring - 240-777-1123

Tuesdays: 3 – 8 pm at the TESS Community Action Center, 8513 Piney Branch

Road, Silver Spring

Rockville - 240-777-1123

Wednesdays: 11 a.m. – 8 p.m. at the Community Action Agency, 1401 Rockville Pike, Suite 320, Rockville

Silver Spring - 240-777-1123

Thursdays: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the East County Regional Services Center, 3300 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring

Germantown - 240-777-1123

Thursdays: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Work-Source Montgomery, 12900 Middlebrook Road, Germantown

Wheaton - 240-777-1123

Fridays: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. at the Gilchrist Center, 11002 Veirs Mill Road, Suite 506, Wheaton

WALK-IN

Aspen Hill Library, 4407 Aspen Hill Road

Thursdays, 2 – 6 p.m.
Feb 6 - April 9

Rockville Library, 21 Maryland Avenue

Thursdays, 2 – 6 p.m.
Feb 6 - April 9

Wheaton Library, 11701 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring

Sundays, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Feb 2 - April 5

Community Grants Program Now Accepting Applications

The City of Takoma Park is currently accepting applications for its Community Grants Program now through Thursday, Mar. 12, 2020. Projects that provide greater access to the arts and sciences in Takoma Park are eligible for up to \$10,000 in financial support. Additionally, although not required, the City is encouraging applications for programming that connects arts and sciences with skills that promote job-readiness for low-and-moderate-income Takoma Park residents.

Recently funded projects include afterschool homework help, community house concerts, healthy eating programs,

art therapy program for at-risk youth, film festivals, public history projects, and creative aging through dance.

Funding for FY21 is available for projects taking place between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021. The online application is open now and closes on Mar. 12, 2020. To apply, visit the Community Grants page link at TakomaParkMD.gov/Grants.

For more information, please 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.

Snow Removal

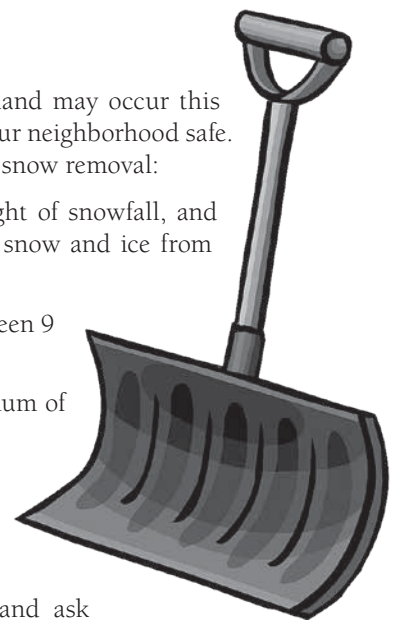
While you enjoy whatever winter wonderland may occur this year, do your part to keep the sidewalks in your neighborhood safe.

The City has specific regulations regarding snow removal:

- Residents have until noon following a night of snowfall, and 9 p.m. after a day of snowfall, to remove snow and ice from sidewalks.
- Businesses must keep sidewalks clear between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- The full width of the sidewalk, or a minimum of a three-foot-wide path, must be clear.
- You may not shovel snow into the street.
- Rock salt is prohibited on sidewalks and within 10 feet of trees.

After your sidewalk is done, reach out and ask neighbors if they need assistance with keeping their sidewalks clear.

Do you need help with your own shoveling? Look for the nearest teenager, or if you are a Takoma Park resident with a disability that prevents you from shoveling, or are age 55 or older, contact Paula Lisowski at 301-270-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov to add your name to the Snow Angels program's waiting list.



Books and Family Fun!

Takoma Park Middle School PTA will host a huge two-day used book sale in conjunction with a silent auction and various family activities. Silent Auction features many terrific Takoma Park and local businesses. **When:** Friday, Feb. 7, 6 – 9 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Where: Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road, Silver Spring, MD 20910

What: Friday Night - Used book sale, silent auction, student/staff basketball game, pizza and bake sale; Saturday Morning - Used book sale (big discounts at noon), silent auction, face painting, balloon animals, stories, and bake sale

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/2724542991106162.



Takoma Park Arts Celebrates Black History Month

The City of Takoma Park's *Takoma Park Arts* cultural series is celebrating Black History Month in February with a wide range of events, including a lecture, film screening, and concert. The Takoma Park City Council and the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission are dedicated to supporting diversity and racial equal-

ity through our free programs that are open to everyone. Please check out details about our upcoming events here and on the City's website at takomaparkmd.gov/arts. You can sign up for our weekly e-newsletter at <https://bit.ly/303ZyVW>.

From Slavery to Freedom: A Black Union Soldier's Life Story

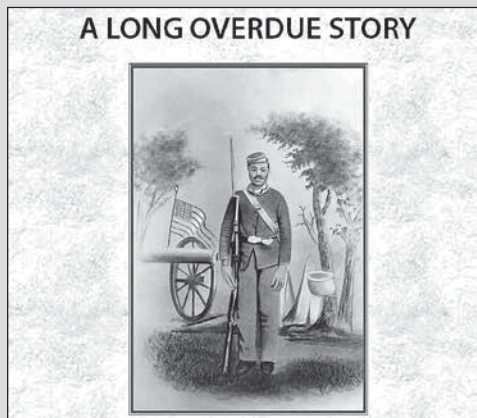
Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community
Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue

Free Event

In an engaging lecture, Dianne Cross will share the remarkable story of her great-great-grandfather Sgt. Isaac Hall, who earned his freedom from slavery fighting in the Union Army during the Civil War. Starting with only his name, a portrait, and oral family history, Dianne spent years researching his background to weave a compelling story of his life as one of more than 200,000 black soldiers who fought for freedom during the Civil War while facing discrimination and low pay in segregated units.

After earning a bachelor's degree in history from Rutgers University, Dianne worked for 31 years for Lockheed Martin (now L-3 Communication System). She is retired and lives in Laurel, Md., and she is dedicated now to sharing Isaac Hall's story.



Overlooked Films from the Civil Rights Movement

Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center
Auditorium

7500 Maple Avenue

Free Event

The civil rights movement is a long ongoing struggle with a fascinating history and some neglected stories. Please join us for this screening of vintage films that shed light on the heroic pursuit of social justice and racial equality. Local filmmaker and film historian Richard Hall, who hosts the popular Vintage Movie Night series, will lead this screening of three short documentaries.

Filmed in 1963 by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, *We'll Never Turn Back* features interviews with Fanny Lou Hamer, a 20-year-old Julian Bond, and black farmers in Mississippi, who were harassed when they tried to register to vote.

A Time for Freedom documents the 1957 Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom where Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks spoke at the Lincoln Memorial, six years before King's famous "I have a dream" speech. In 1977, the U.S. government produced *The Time Has Come*, narrated by actor James Earl Jones, with interviews of prominent black elected officials, including a young John Lewis.



A Night of Guitar Music with Yasmin Williams

Feb. 7, 8 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center
Auditorium

7500 Maple Avenue

Free Event with \$10 Suggested
Donation

Have you ever heard a guitar played with a bow, lap tapping, or alternate tunings? In this unique concert, finger-style guitarist Yasmin Williams expands the possibilities for guitar in a night of captivating music. She will perform



songs from her debut album *Unwind* along with covers of instrumental classics.

NPR Music says Yasmin's music "transcends the standard idea of what a guitarist should do." U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly said, "If only we could supplant gun violence in America with the beauty of Yasmin's music."

The concert is free with a \$10 suggested donation, and no tickets or reservations are required.

To hear some of Yasmin's music, go to www.yasminwilliamsmusic.com.

Yasmin Williams in concert

Third Thursday poetry

Love Poems by Poet Couples

Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue

Free Event

Poetry about love has been written for centuries, ranging the full gamut of emotions from serious to sentimental to absurd. Local poet couples Mary Ann Larkin and Patric Pepper and Terri Cross Davis and Hayes Davis will read their own love poems along with romantic poetry

by famous poet couples, including Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes and Allen Ginsberg and Peter Orlovsky. Bring someone you love to this free poetry reading a week after Valentine's Day!

Mr. Jon & Friends Children's Music Concert

Feb. 22, 1 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue

Free Event with \$5 or \$10 Suggested Donation

Mr. Jon & Friends performs energetic music for the entire family that is all about fun, dancing, and laughter. The group has won a Parents' Choice Award for their music and attracted loyal audiences across the D.C. area. Please bring your kids to this free concert and tell your friends!

Singer-songwriter Jon Lewis has released three albums that have become top sellers on cdbaby.com. Sometimes performing solo or in a group, he plays more than 100



Jon Lewis

shows a year for kids across the country. To hear some of his music, go to mrjonmusic.com.

The concert is free with a \$10 suggested donation for adults and \$5 for kids. No tickets or reservations are required. We hope to see you there!

RECREATION

Registration for Winter Programs is open!



REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!

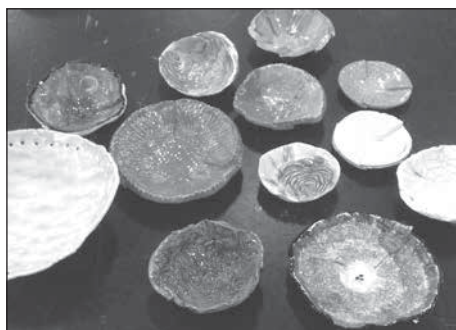
City Residents: February 3

Non-residents: February 11

Early Bird discounts the first two weeks.

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
Spanish: Fridays
10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Free

YOUTH

ART

Clay for Kids

In this class, children will receive instruction on how to utilize a variety of techniques (coil, pinch, and slab work) to create one-of-a-kind sculptures and vessels out of clay. Caregiver participation required for children ages 4–5. There is a \$15 materials fee (per child) due to the instructor on the first day of class. Instructor: Caroline Mackinnon
Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
4–13 years
6 Week Sessions
Mondays: March 2–March 30
Wednesdays: February 19–March 25
Resident: \$140 / Non-resident: \$160

Clay in the Studio

A great class for homeschoolers, those 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. There is a non-refundable \$20 materials fee (per participant) due to the instructor on the first day of class. All glazes are non-toxic and food safe. Instructor: Caroline MacKinnon
Takoma Park Community Center
Art Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
4 and older
6 Week Session
Wednesdays, 10–11:30 a.m.
February 19–March 25
Resident: \$130 / Non-resident: \$150

CAMP

Spring Break Camps, registration is already open!

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. 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 & get to work acting, singing & 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 & 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

DROP-IN



Takoma Park Kids Chess Meet Up

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

42 Oswego Avenue
Grades K–5
Ongoing
Sundays, 1:45–3:30 p.m.
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT

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 monitoring homework and providing academic help when needed. Instructor: Javonte McDonald
New Hampshire Towers
7401 New Hampshire Avenue
Grades 5–12
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 3:30–5 p.m.
Through March 26
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. Members will learn self-expression, coordination, self-discipline and teamwork. The team will consist of approximately 10–12 youth ages of 6–17 years old. Practice will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays for one 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

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 the students defend themselves by strengthening hand-eye coordination. The student will gain physical fitness as well mental and spiritual strength. There is a one-time, non-refundable fee of \$50 paid to the instructor at the first class for a uniform. Instructor: Master Robert Thompson
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
4–16 years
10 Week Sessions
Saturdays, through March 30
Beginners: 10:15–11:15 a.m.
Advanced: 11:15 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
Resident: \$155 / Non-resident: \$185

TEENS

CAMPS

Spring Break Filmmaking Camp: Focus on Takoma Park

A spring break camp intended for budding journalists. Youth (ages 12–17) will learn the basics of video production while also discovering more about Takoma Park. Campers will gain skills in how to shoot video on professional cameras, will learn how to conduct interviews with local residents, and how to film “b-roll” footage of Takoma Park in supervised production shoots. The collected footage will be edited together as a single piece by the instructor after the camp and will be shared with participants and the broader Takoma Park

community via YouTube.
Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
1 Week Camp
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
April 6–April 10
Resident \$120 / Non-resident \$140

Spring Break PREPS Week - Teens

Spring Break PREPS (Planning and Researching for Educational and Professional Success) week is about assisting teens in planning for their future. During this week, teens will be able to participate in discussions with business professionals and take a few college tours to get a sense of life after high school. Occasional break away trips such as: bowling, laser tag, or roller skating will be included. Come with questions, an open mind, and a bag lunch!
Takoma Park Community Center
Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
1 Week Camp
Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
April 6–April 10
Resident \$175 / Non-resident \$225

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
Monday–Thursday, 3:30–4:30 p.m.
Ongoing
Free

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
Tuesdays, 4:30–5:30 p.m.
Free

EDUCATION & DEVELOPMENT



Montgomery County National College Fair Trip

Decisions, Decisions. Who has the best academics? Who has the best athletics? Should I stay on campus?

RECREATION

■ From page 6

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, March 31 5:30–8:30 p.m. Resident: Free / Non-resident: \$10

Xtreme Finances for Teens
Welcome to Money Smart, an exciting interactive exploration of the concepts of money. This standards-aligned, cross-curricular program is designed to promote personal financial education in grades 6 through 12 and for students and young adults aged 18 to 20. Extension activities support English language arts, math, social studies and economics, and technology, while also helping students build the foundation to become financially responsible adults. Takoma Park Community Center Hydrangea Room 7500 Maple Avenue Grades 6–12 Tuesdays, 3:30–5:00 p.m. February 4-March 24 Resident: \$10 / Non-resident: \$20

ADULTS

ART

Collage
Have fun working with found, purchased and altered papers, while learning how collage methods can enhance your art making process, whatever medium you use. This class explores ways of combining collage materials and art media. You will be introduced to a variety of collage techniques, work with elements and principals of design, and explore creative two- and three-dimensional assembly. Instruction will be given in surface preparation, adhesives, color theory and composition and is suitable for beginners, as well as more experienced students. Basic materials (adhesives, supports, papers and paints) will be available (some personal or found collage elements may be desirable in addition to materials provided). A materials fee of \$30, paid directly to the instructor, will be due on the first day of class. Instructor: Katie Dell Kaufman Takoma Park Community Center Art Studio 7500 Maple Avenue

17 years and older
6 Week Session
Tuesdays, March 3-April 14
(No class 4/7)
11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Resident: \$230 / Non-resident: \$260

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



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 and older Saturdays, 11:45 a.m.–12:45p.m. Through February 15 \$55 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



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.

strengthening hand-and-eye coordination as well as assist 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 Dance Studio 7500 Maple Avenue 16 years and older 9 Week Session Mondays, through March 25 (No class 2/17) 7:30–8:30 p.m. Resident: \$165 / Non-resident: \$195

PLAN AHEAD FOR THE SPRING!

Registration is open!



SPORTS

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 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, February 25 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

If you could go back in time and give your teenage self some advice, what would it be? What would you say to teen (insert your name here) about money, finances, investments, retirement (Yes, I said retirement.)? Would you say now (as a teen) is the time to start thinking about saving for retirement? Would you warn him/her to be careful with credit cards (It's not free money.)? Do you know what a credit score is? What about life insurance? When is the appropriate time to discuss life insurance (Hint: It's now.)? Ways to invest? Did you know that there are three types of income: earned income, passive income and portfolio income? For those of you adults who still aren't aware, earned income consists of income you earn while you are working a full-time job or running a business. Passive income is income earned from rents, royalties, and stakes in limited partnerships. Portfolio income is income from dividends, interest, and capital gains from stock sales. Do you think that maybe, just maybe you could have avoided some serious pitfalls or debt if someone was there to



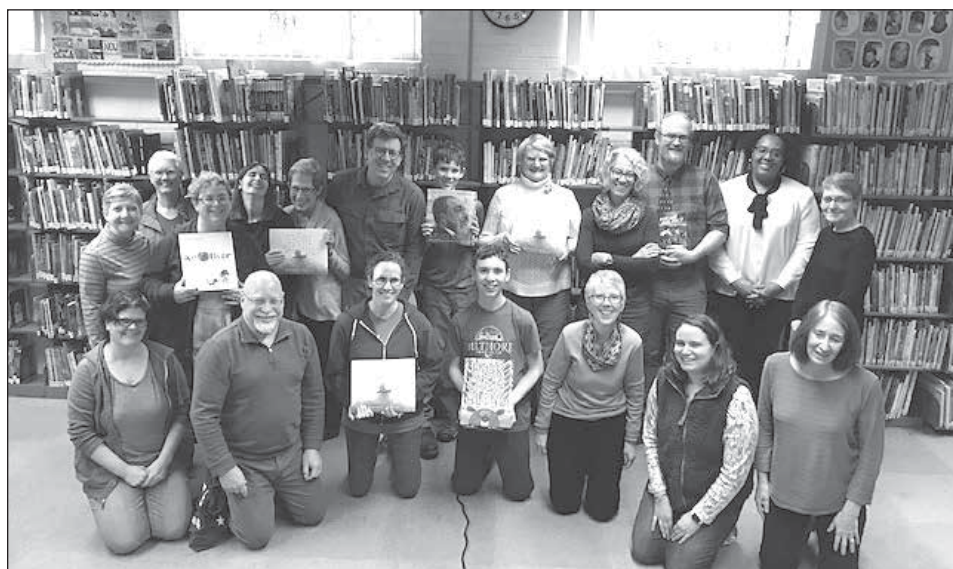
XTREME FINANCES FOR TEENS

give you advice or tips and tricks as how to steer the reins when it came to financial management? Guess what? Ronald Jennings, Sr. LUTCF from The Jennings Business Group LLC is that person, and he will be teaching our Xtreme Finances for Teens Series. Though he may not have been able to help teenage you, he is here to help our teens maneuver their financial potential. Jennings is a financial services professional, who entered the financial services industry in 1992 with John Hancock

Financial services in New York where he was #1 in the county in managed investments in 1997 and 1998. He received his Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow (LUTCF) designation in 1996, which gives him expertise in business, retirement, and estate conservation planning. Most recently, Ronald Jennings received the 2019 Financial Education & Capability Community Champion Award for exemplifying excellence in financial education. **Xtreme Finances for Teens** is an exciting interactive exploration of the con-

cepts of money. Ronald will be teaching the **Money Smart** curriculum. This standards-aligned, cross-curricular program is designed to promote personal financial education in grades 6 through 12 and for students and young adults aged 18 to 20. Extension activities support English language arts, math, social studies and economics, and technology, while also helping students build the foundation to become financially responsible adults. Classes will take place at the Takoma Park Community Center **9 – 12th Grade:** February 6 – March 24, 2020 from 3:30pm to 5pm on Tuesdays **6 – 8th Grade:** April 21 – June 9, 2020 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays* **(6-8th grade registration will take place during our Spring registration)* One last question to ask adult you: **Why haven't I registered my teen yet?** I'll make it easier for you; here's the link: apm.activecommunities.com/takomaparkrecreation. For more information on programs for teens please contact Leicia Monfort at leiciam@takomaparkmd.gov.

LIBRARY



2020 Mock Caldecott for Adults: Two dozen children's librarians and children's literature experts gathered for several hours on Saturday, January 11 to read and discuss 10 possibilities for the 2020 Caldecott Medal. Our 2020 Mock Caldecott winner was *A Stone Sat Still*, illustrated and written by Brendan Wenzel. We also chose four Mock Caldecott Honor books: *Another*, illustrated and written by Christian Robinson; *Bear Came Along*, illustrated by LeUyen Pham and written by Richard Morris; *A Place to Land*, illustrated by Jerry Pinkney and written by Barry Wittenstein; and *This Was Our Pact*, illustrated and written by Ryan Andrews.



2020 Caldecott Club Winners: *Field Trip to the Moon*, illustrated and written by John Hare, was the 2020 Mock Caldecott choice of our Caldecott Club. We met on Monday, Jan. 13 to re-read the nine "finalists" from our 2019 Caldecott Club meetings and choose a winner. In addition to *Field Trip to the Moon*, the Caldecott Club had one 2020 Mock Caldecott Honor book: *A Stone Sat Still*, illustrated and written by Brendan Wenzel (the same book as the Mock Caldecott for Adults chose as their winner!). The actual finalists for the 2020 Caldecott Medal are secret, as are the deliberations of the "real" Caldecott Committee. The actual winners were announced by the American Library Association on Monday, January 27.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

- Nearly every four years, an extra day is added to the calendar year to keep it synchronized with the seasonal year. This is year is one of those years – a Leap Year – where we will have 366 days, instead of 365. And that means there is a Leap Day this year – February 29. To celebrate, Ms. Kati, our children's librarian, has planned a special Leap Day program on Saturday, Feb. 29, from 10–11 a.m. There will be leap-themed stories, such as *Leap Back*

Home to Me by Lauren Thompson, and leap-themed activities like skip counting, leapfrog, jump rope and long jump. All ages are welcome, and no registration is required.

- March is Women's History Month and we will have a special "Art Exploration" program for kids focused on famous women artists and illustrators on Sunday, March 8, from 2–4 p.m. Kids will be able to make art inspired by Yayoi Kusama's polka dots, Lois Ehlert's collage, Faith Ringgold's story quilts and others. For children ages 4 up.

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, Feb. 2, 1:30–3 p.m.

Building fun for ages 3–10.

Caldecott Club Book Party

Monday, Feb. 3, 7 p.m.

We'll eat cake and read the 2020 Caldecott Medal and Honor books. We'll also have lemonade and allergy-free treats. All welcome.

Bedtime Stories & a Craft

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.

Join Ms. Kati for some stories and a take-home craft project.

Petites Chansons

Saturday, February 8, 10:30 a.m.

Led by Madame Marie

Black History Month Celebration

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2 p.m.

Join us as we close out our year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the

Coretta Scott King Book Awards. We'll focus mostly on CSK-winning picture books. Lemonade, cookies, and allergy-free treats will be served!

Comics Jam

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 4 p.m.

Come read some great comics!

Kids' Author Lesa Cline-Ransome & Illustrator James Ransome

Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

The husband-wife team will discuss their new book, *Overground Railroad*, and *Leaving Lymon*.

Alternative Games

Sunday, Feb. 23, 2–4 p.m.

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

Leap Day!

Saturday, Feb. 29, 10–11 a.m.

Join Ms. Kati for some Leap Day stories and fun. All ages.

COMING UP...

- LEGO Club**, Sunday, March 1, 1:30–3 p.m.
- Best-selling Kids Novelist **Ally Carter** talks about her new book, *Winterborne Home for Vengeance and Valor*, March 3, 7:30 p.m.
- Women's History Month Art Exploration for Kids**, Sunday, March 8, 2–4 p.m.

Black History Month at the Library

We're hosting two celebrations of Black History Month! First, on Saturday, Feb. 8 at 2 p.m., we'll close out our year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Coretta Scott King Book Awards by reading some of the wonderful picture books that have won the CSK Award over the years. Lemonade, cookies and allergy-free treats will be served at this hour-long event.

Then, on Wednesday, Feb. 12, at 7p.m., kids' author Lesa Cline-Ransome and illus-

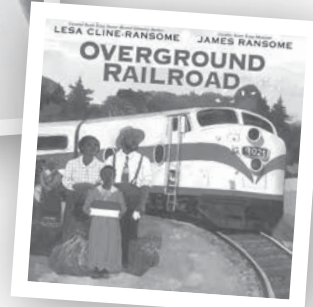
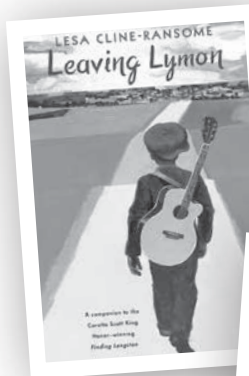
trator James Ransome will present two new books.

This dynamic husband-and-wife team – both winners of the Coretta Scott King Award over the years – will talk about their new picture book, *Overground Railroad*, which offers a window into a child's experience during the Great Migration. The second book they'll discuss is *Leaving Lymon*, a kid's novel written by Lesa Cline-Ransome, which features a cover illustrated by James Ransome. Also set during the Great Migration, *Leaving Lymon* is a sequel to Cline-Ransome's award-winning kids' novel, *Finding Langston*, and focuses on the bully from that book.

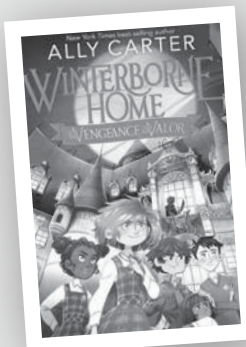


credit John Halpern

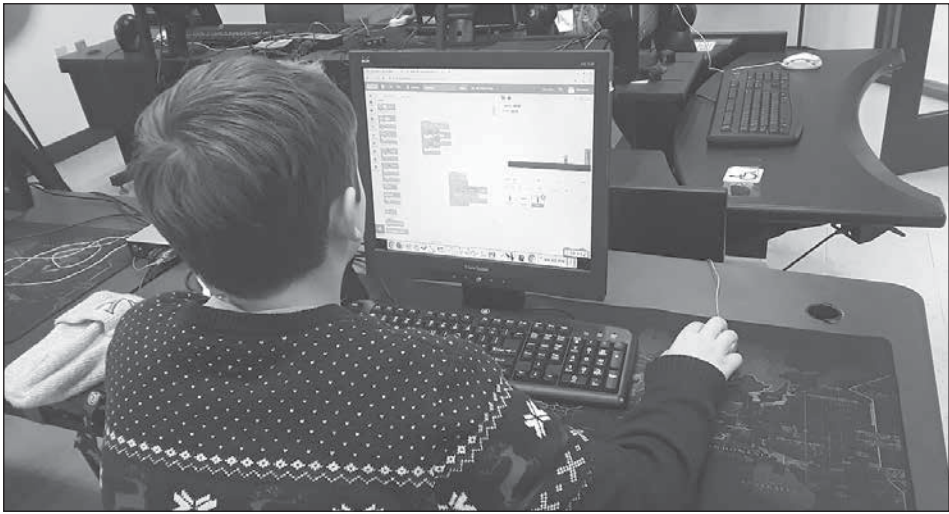
Lesla Cline-Ransome and James Ransome, 2019



Best-selling teen author Ally Carter will preview her debut book for kids 8-12 at the Library on Tuesday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. Titled *Winterborne Home for Vengeance and Valor*, Carter's book tells the story of five foster children living in the wealthy Winterborne home who must help the Winterborne family heir — who is in hiding — to foil a plot that could endanger them all. In its review, Kirkus



called it "an entertaining adventure with villains, heroes, and tantalizing mysteries galore," while Publishers Weekly noted: "In her middle grade debut, Carter ... offers up mystery, intrigue, and swashbuckling action in a rollicking story of long-lost secrets and found family." At our event, Politics & Prose will have copies of Carter's books for sale, but the program is free, and no purchase is required. Please join us!



A young resident uses the library's Computer Center.

News from the Computer Center!

By Phil Shapiro

Our City's public computers are accessible seven days a week and get wide usage from community members doing homework, looking for jobs, teaching themselves new skills, printing tax and immigration forms, and creating art.

Library staff have deep strength on technology matters and invite questions about computers, smartphones, Internet, ebooks, and anything tech related. Phil loves answering questions about creating video, and digital storytelling, for YouTube. Alt, who works Saturdays, is very adept with Windows (and knows Mac and Linux, too). Anne, who works Sundays, teaches our Seniors' Computer Class on Wednesday mornings and can help you with the Library's digital tools such as Freading, Hoopla, and RBDigital.

The library subscribes to several such

digital services. Another of these is Pronunciator, an online service that can help you learn more than 80 languages. All you need is your library card to use it. Learning another language can sometimes open new career doorways and also allow you to more fully experience the wonders of diverse cultures. You can access all these tools at home as well. The Computer Center staff is available to help you with the initial set-up on your phone or pad.

In addition to this technical support, our Computer Center staff can also coach you on ways to protect your privacy and avoid scams. Did you know that many people are leaving their home address off their resume these days? Learn how to protect your privacy and stay secure. In this digital age, that's a skill we all need to have. Bring your most difficult questions to our computer staff; you might be surprised at how much they know.

RECREATION

■ From page 7

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 Extras

In this three-week course experiment with social media, 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, March 4-18

10 a.m.-12 p.m.

\$5

FITNESS & HEALTH

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, through March 14

9:15-10:15 a.m.

\$5

Kundalini Yoga and Meditation

Kundalini Yoga will introduce participants to integrating mind, body and spirit using meditation, sound vibrations (chanting) and modified poses to help increase strength, flexibility and tranquility. Please bring a yoga mat. Limited space. Instructor: Polly Matthews

Takoma Park Recreation Center

Gymnasium

7500 Maple Avenue

55 and older

Tuesdays, through March 10

2:30-3:30 p.m.

\$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

STAY CONNECTED!

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

- Social Media:** Follow TakomaParkMD
 - 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

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**

LET'S PLAY AMERICA PRESENTS

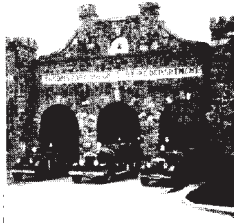
10th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day

Free Event!

Everyone deserves to play!

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

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



THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service assigned to the station responded to 519 fire-related incidents and 3,219 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a grand total of 3,738 in 2019.

Grand totals for 2018 were 593 and 3,067 representing an increase of 78 incidents. The Takoma Park volunteers put in a grand total of 12,198 hours of standby time in the station compared to 12,513.5 hours in 2018, a decrease of 415.5 hours.

Maryland fire deaths

The Maryland State Fire Marshal Office reported that the total fire deaths for 2019 was 57 compared to 71 in 2018. As of Jan. 24, 0 people have died in fires compared to 8 in 2019.

Safety message

Winter time is here! It's also the time for the high potential of injuries due to falls. We must be extra careful when going outside doing snow and ice conditions.

125 years and going strong

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department celebrated their 125th Anniversary in 2019. A special

thanks to all the past members that got it all started in 1894; the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department was the first organized fire department in Montgomery County.

The volunteers built the fire station located at Carroll Avenue and Philadelphia Avenues in 1931. It was replaced with a new station on the same site in 2010. Since 1927 to present, several thousand members have walked through the doors of the two fire stations. They were either responding to the "house siren" for an emergency, attending a meeting, participating in a station drill, a community event, or just to hang around waiting for the next alarm.

They have provided more than 92 years of dedicated service to the department, citizens of Takoma Park and the surrounding jurisdictions since 1927. The department has responded to more than 175,000 emergency calls. The use of the house siren became obsolete in 1974. Some other key accomplishments by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department include:

First pumper (1895 manually operated)

- First ladder truck (1896)
- First to own a motorized pumper (1938)
- First to use fog nozzles ((1936)
- First to own a 50 foot 3-section ladder (1938)
- First to use portable radio equipment (1940)

In 1929, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department Ladies Auxiliary was organized. They have provided valuable service to the department and community.

Again, we want to thank all the members past and present for their dedication and commitment.



Yes, It's Winter in Takoma Park, and Being Prepared Is Critical

By Claudine Schweber, co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee



Here we go again—winter weather. Last month, we got a reminder: snow, heavy winds, cold temperatures and freezing rain. Changes to the climate also meant 30-degree days mixed with others in the 40s and 50s and then 30s and back to 50s. As such, we must be even more vigilant and prepared in the event of an emergency. Here are two winter challenges. They may sound familiar. Do you remember what to do?

Q: I don't have a car. I walk to the metro, to the Co-op, to other areas in Takoma Park. How can I be prepared for the remainder of winter?

A: To remain warm and safe:

- Wear layered clothing (waterproof outer shell), including gloves (mittens are warmest, although not as adaptable as using fingers), warm socks, and closed shoes that hug the feet.
- For hands and feet, you might consider buying hand and/or toe warmers; these heat up within five minutes when exposed to air and stay warm for hours. They are available at many drugstores and outdoors activity shops.
- Wear a hat that covers the ears or add earmuffs; a head cover that allows for covering part of the face, or a scarf that does the same, is also important.
- Carry a portable flashlight (make sure it works before putting it in your pocket).
- If it's a long walk, have a small water bottle handy. Yes, you can get overheated in freezing weather.
- For walking in darkness, wear a reflective vest.

If you're a riding a bike, the same recommendations apply as for walking. And make sure you have a tire pump and changing kit, lights on yourself and on the bike, visible clothing, and first aid kit.

Q: My friend had frostbite. What is this, and what can I do?

A: Frostbite occurs when the skin and body tissue just beneath it freezes. Symptoms include loss of feeling and white or pale appearance in extremities, such as fingers, toes, earlobes, face, and the tip of the nose as well as numbness and white or grayish-yellow skin. If you think you have frostbite:

- Go to a warm room.
- Soak in warm water.
- Use body heat to get warm.
- Cover exposed skin, but do not rub the affected area to warm it up.
- Do not massage or use a heating pad.
- Seek medical help immediately.

In addition to knowing how to prepare for these scenarios, it's important to remember the following:

- Do you have your health support information list nearby? This includes contacts for medical personnel, health insurance information, medical records, nearest hospital, and family/friend contact?
- Do you know what your insurance covers for emergencies? Check now and make any necessary changes if you feel they are needed.

In closing, want to have some fun indoors and learn more about emergency preparedness? Visit these websites and see how well you and your family can manage disasters:

- Red Cross: Disaster Game or Lights Out! <https://tinyurl.com/yx3f8gy2>
- Disaster Master, from Ready.gov: www.ready.gov/kids/games/data/dm-english/index.html

Enjoy the winter variations and be glad we have four seasons! It's easy to contact us at tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7126.

Join us for "Dear Bea(trice) Prepared" on Talk of Takoma WOWD/LP 94.3 at 1 p.m., the first Sunday of the month.

Passport Services

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

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



A special thanks to Terry Delasanta, director, Takoma Park Child Development Center and the children for donating toys to the TPVFD Toy Drive. The children presenting the toys to the fire department.

Local student-led nonprofit sweats the small stuff

By Taylor Dibbert

Small Things Matter is a nonprofit organization that strives to make a big difference in Takoma Park and elsewhere. Created in 2017, the student-led organization focuses on three areas: literacy, crafting and food distribution.

Lana Anderson, 15, is in tenth grade and created the organization when she was in middle school. Her parents, Roxanne Yamashita and John Anderson, have been extremely supportive and remain quite involved.

The family lives in Rockville, but Lana – as a result of her acceptance into a magnet program – attended Takoma Park Middle School and currently attends Montgomery Blair High School. Yamashita told me that her family spends most of their time in Takoma Park.

Through its crafting program, Small Things Matter makes crafts to distribute to children in hospitals. Through its literacy program, the organization distributes books to children in need; according to its website, the organization “is committed to educating children with an emphasis on reading, which we believe lays down a strong foundation for educational success.”

Anderson noted that her membership in the Difference Makers club in middle school led to her decision to create Small Things Matter. She said that kids of all ages should be able to get involved and make an impact. Anderson is focused on organizing events for Small Things Matter’s various programs. She also does a lot of community outreach, such as contacting people to participate in food distributions or getting other groups to volunteer.

This work appeals to her because she likes helping people. “It’s important to try to give back to the community,” she



Credit: Taylor Dibbert

Lana Anderson at the Takoma Park Community Center

said. It’s also fun. Anderson said that she’s made a lot of good friends by doing this work.

Anderson said that the Takoma Park community has been very supportive of Small Things Matter: “At all the events we’ve hosted ... they all seemed very enthusiastic and excited.”

“It’s all about children finding ways to help others in need,” Yamashita said.

The members of Small Things Matter are mostly teenagers, though there are some younger kids too. “It goes from kindergarteners all the way up to high schoolers,” Yamashita said.

There are about 40 members, although the degree to which people are involved varies. There are at least 10 very active members who participate in the events. Small Things Matter is student-led, but also benefits from adult support and participation, especially from Kokua Foods, which is the food distribution component



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

of the organization that was created in May 2017. Adults are very involved in the distributions since the need for drivers is paramount.

Steve Whitney, a volunteer driver for Kokua Foods who has lived in Takoma Park since 1981, said that the founders of Small Things Matter “manage to turn all their activities into enjoyable experiences for everyone, volunteers and beneficiaries alike.”

Seth Grimes, who has been a Takoma Park resident since 1996, has been volunteering with Kokua Foods from the beginning. He described it as “a wonderful program that is providing vital food assistance to Takoma Park residents and school families that need support.” He also noted that it “is keeping good, nutritious food out of the landfill, which helps us (broadly) reach our environmental waste and greenhouse-gas reduction goals.”

“We have a great team of adults [working to rescue] food,” Yamashita said. On the food-rescuing front, other key collaborators include Wegmans, Imperfect Foods, KOL Foods, Silver Spring Cares and the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-op.

This work really appeals to Yamashita. She enjoys working with kids and helping people. She also likes “the idea of community coming together to solve problems.” Small Things Matter is run entirely by volunteers, and according to her, obtaining funding is always challenging.

Last year, 2,184 kids received books as a result of the organization’s work, and a total of 3,794 books were shared. The organization distributed 3,125 crafted items in 2019 too, including toiletry bags, scarves, bookmarks and coasters.

Since its Kokua Foods program began, Small Things Matter has rescued more than 233,000 pounds of food.

Small things matter indeed.

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School Awarded America Walks Community Change Grant

Call it serendipity, call it coincidence, call it happenstance. It was Wednesday, Oct. 23, 2019. America Walks, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to a vision of a walkable America had recently announced the Community Change Grant. Proposals should address the following, “demonstrate that they will show increased physical activity and active transportation in a specific community, work to engage people and organizations new to the efforts of walking and walkability and demonstrate a culture of inclusive health. Projects will create healthy, active, and engaged communities that support walking as transportation, health, and recreation.”

Applying for the grant meant having a really good idea, one that checked all the boxes: increase physical activity and active transportation, encourage walking in a new way, foster inclusive health benefits. The Safe Routes to School Coordinator thought it over, considered options, asked colleagues for ideas. Nothing seemed quite right, nothing hit all the marks. Until...

Leaving the building was difficult on



SafeRoutes



Oct. 23, 2019, a steady stream of students was walking along the sidewalk making it hard to get to the parking lot. After the last student passed, Ms. Faulk, a Piney Branch teacher, was bringing up the rear. “We’re walking for Unity Day,” she shouted with a smile. Unity Day, a day to wear orange and send the “message that together we can create a world without bullying by uniting for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.”

Bingo, Ding-ding-ding, lightning bolt, flash! There it was. The idea complete with walkability, inclusivity, equity, health, fitness and mindfulness all wrapped up in a tidy package. More research, consensus building and mapping it out resulted in a winning proposal for an equity themed

sensory/fitness route right here in Takoma Park. And here it is:

Takoma Park Safe Routes to School envisions a one mile themed sensory/fitness route titled “Walk in Someone Else’s Shoes.” The route intersects with two elementary schools and one middle school, Takoma Park Community Center and Library and Takoma-Piney Branch Local Park. Walkers can begin the route at any point to enjoy a 15-30-minute walk enhanced with fitness activities and themed prompts.

The proposed messaging will relate to inclusion, mindfulness, and kindness while the fitness prompts engage the walkers in bursts of activity. For example, users may be prompted to do five jumping

jacks and with each one say something kind about someone. Pavement markings will be stenciled with paint or pre-made decals. Students today, especially in Takoma Park, have the advantage of growing up in an era marked with increased tolerance, acceptance, and understanding of differences in race, gender, or ability.

However, we still struggle as a nation to address equity. The themed route, “Walk in Someone Else’s Shoes,” provides a safe space for dialogue and exploration of these issues. Using the route together as a class, family, or group of friends gives walkers a break from the routine and a time to move forward, both physically and emotionally. The planned route is ADA compliant.

Safe Routes to school will use the \$1,500 in grant funding to create the walking route along with a tool kit for teachers and residents to use to enhance the experience. This year on Unity Day, Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2020, the students can use the new “Walk in Someone Else’s Shoes” route.

FEBRUARY '20

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 March issue is Feb. 14, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Feb. 28. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov. "TP Community Center" is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park. All addresses are in Takoma Park or Takoma, D.C., unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC MEETINGS OF NOTE

City Council

City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 26, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
Detailed agendas are always available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/citycouncil/agendas.

Presidents Day - City Offices Closed

Monday, Feb. 17
All City offices and facilities will be closed Monday, Feb. 17, for the Presidents Day holiday. Yard waste collection is canceled. The Takoma Park Police Department is open 24/7 for emergency services

Takoma Park Emergency Food Pantry

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

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Circle Time

Tuesdays, 10:30 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, 10:30 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.

Folklore Society of Greater Washington's Midwinter Festival

Saturday, Feb. 1, noon – 11 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
FSGW's Mid-Winter Festival is a great way to cure your mid-winter blues. The Mid-Winter Festival transforms the Takoma Park Middle School into a festival site, with two dance floors, a storytelling room, a jams room, four rooms for intimate concerts and workshops, and the "big stage" in the school cafeteria. Visit fsgw.org/mini-fest.

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.

From Slavery to Freedom: A Black Union Soldier's Life Story

Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
In an engaging lecture, Dianne Cross will share the remarkable story of her great-great-grandfather Sgt. Isaac Hall, who earned his freedom from slavery fighting in the Union Army during the Civil War. Free Event (*See p. 5 for details.*)

Books and Basketball and Family Fun

Friday, Feb. 7, 6 – 9 p.m.;
Saturday, Feb. 8, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School
Takoma Park Middle School PTA hosts a two-day event featuring a huge used book sale with student/staff basketball game Friday night and family activities (story readings, face painting, balloon animals, and games) for young kids on Saturday morning. Silent auction with items from amazing local business both days.

How to Search House Histories

Sunday, Feb. 9, 2 – 4 p.m.
Historic Takoma, 7328 Carroll Ave.
Local resident Jim Douglas will present detailed step-by-step instruction on how to search property histories in Maryland along with tips on when houses were built and learning about the people that lived in them. Bring your laptop, a pencil and a notebook to work directly with Jim on researching your house's history. Visit historictakoma.org or call 240-393-6060.

VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK EVENT

Curated tour, Renwick Gallery

Friday, Feb. 21; meet at Takoma Park Metro at 10:45 a.m.
Join members and friends of The Village of Takoma Park to explore the Renwick Gallery's latest exhibition, Hearts of Our People: Native Women Artists. We will be guided by curators Jill Ahlberg Yohe, associate curator of Native American Art at the Minneapolis Institute of Art, and Teri Greeves, an independent curator and member of the Kiowa Nation. This is the first major thematic exhibition to explore the artistic achievements of Native women. Registration is required. For additional information and/or to register, go to villageoftakomapark.com. Register under "Events." This event is free; Village membership not required.

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.

"Show Some Love" Donation Drive

To benefit the Humane Rescue Alliance
Saturday, Feb. 15, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Takoma Park Library Parking Lot
Boy Scout Troop 33: Eagle Scout Project
We accept dry and wet food, towels, fleece blankets, treats, poop bags, etc.

Mr. Lee: The Life, Influence and Activism of Lee A. Jordan

Sunday, Feb. 23, Time 2 p.m.
TP Community Center
The focus will be on Lee Jordan, the iconic leader of the African American community in Takoma Park. (*See page 4 for details.*)

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

Teeny Revelers

Tuesdays & Thursdays, February 4 - March 12, 10 – 11 a.m.
Washington Revels Studio Space, 531 Dale Drive, Silver Spring
Bring your little ones for fun, early arts enrichment activities at Washington Revels. On Tuesdays, kids have a chance to explore some of the parts and pieces that make up Revels traditions in Revels Play Space. Then on Thursdays, embark on a global voyage through children's literature and music in our Mini Voyageurs program, where picture books come to life through songs, movement, crafts, games, and more! Aimed at ages infant – pre-k. Free (donations welcome). For information contact Jo Rasi at jrasi@revelsdc.org

revelsdc.org or 301-587-3835; visit revelsdc.org/revels-kids/teeny-revelers.

A Night of Guitar Music with Yasmin Williams

Feb. 7, 8 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
In this unique concert, finger-style guitarist Yasmin Williams expands the possibilities for guitar in a night of captivating music. Free Event with \$10 Suggested Donation (*See p. 5 for details.*)

Docs In Progress: Filmmaking at Your Fingertips

Saturday, Feb. 8, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
This special workshop from Docs In Progress will give Takoma Park residents and those who work for Takoma Park-based nonprofits the opportunity to learn how to get the most out of your smartphones when it comes to video. From pre-production to post-production, you'll be able to produce documentaries or documentary-style videos with the "production studio in your pocket." Visit www.docsinprogress.org/calendar for more information. Free

Overlooked Films from the Civil Rights Movement

Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Please join us for this screening of vintage films that shed light on the heroic pursuit of social justice and racial equality. Free Event (*See p. 5 for details.*)

Carroll Cafe

Friday, Feb. 14, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Seekers Church, 276 Carroll St. NW
Multi-talented singer-songwriter Tom Prasada-Rao will be performing this month at Carroll Cafe. Prasada-Rao's music combines folk with R&B creating a sound that's been described as melodic, ambitious, and reverent. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door
carrollcafe.org

Takoma Park Old-Time Jam

Wednesday, Feb. 19, 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: Love Poems by Poet Couples

Thursday, Feb. 20, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Local poet couples Mary Ann Larkin and Patric Pepper and Terri Cross Davis and Hayes Davis will read love poems they have written to each other along with romantic poetry by famous poet couples. (*See p. 5 for details.*)

Mr. Jon & Friends Children's Music Concert

Feb. 22, 1 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Mr. Jon & Friends performs energetic music for the entire family that is all about fun, dancing, and laughter. Free Event with \$5 or \$10 Suggested Donation (*See p. 5 for details.*)

Winter Concert featuring Mr. Gabe

Saturday, Feb. 29, 11 a.m.
Takoma Park Child Development Center gymnasium, 310 Tulip Ave.
Takoma Park child entertainer Mr. Gabe will be holding a winter concert to help raise money for the Takoma Park Child Development Center's playground. Tickets are being sold for \$5 per person age 1 and up at the door or the center's office. Pizza and baked goods will be sold at the event. All are welcome.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Caring for Soils and Lawns Organically

Monday, March 16, 7 p.m.
TP Community Center Azalea Room
Join us for a talk by Mary Travaglini, the City's sustainable landscapes manager, to learn about the importance of healthy soils for an organic lawn and tips for caring for your lawn without synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.