The State of Sustainability in Takoma Park

By Gina Mathias, sustainability manager, City of Takoma Park

Recent reports from the International Panel and Climate Change (IPCC) and the National Climate Assessment have made clear that the world has run out of time on climate change. The reports also indicate that greenhouse gas emissions are the greatest catalyst of climate change. In light of the reports, we must ask ourselves and the City: Are we doing enough to address our greenhouse gas (ghg) emissions? What ghg reduction strategies should we pursue in 2019?

As many cities do, Takoma Park completes ghg inventories on a three-year cycle. The City completed an update in 2012 and 2015, and the 2018 update will be completed in late 2019 when data becomes available. Despite tremendous efforts and participation in voluntary City-sponsored programs, emissions rose about 2 percent in Takoma Park from 2012 to 2015. There are many factors that affect emissions, including population (per capita emissions) and weather. Taking into account a 15 percent increase in Cooling Degree Days and an 8 percent increase in Heating Degree Days (that means 2015 had harsher weather than 2012), the residential emissions actually went down 10 percent.

Takoma Park People of Color Collaborative, Working with purpose

By Sean Gossard

As the members of the newly formed Takoma Park People of Color Collaborative put it, they really hit the ground running. What started in September 2018 as a Takoma Park Listserv discussion about systemic police abuse toward black and brown people has already grown into so much more, a way to give those very same people stronger representation and support in the community.

“We were feeling very marginalized and disregarded, so we met and talked about our love of Takoma Park,” said Rita Montoya, one of the group’s founders. “We kind of realized that even though it’s a very liberal and well-educated area, representation of black and brown people is minimal, and...”
DOCKET

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS
TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center
CITY COUNCIL
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
BOARDS OF ELECTIONS
Monday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room
COMMEMORATION COMMISSION
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.
TPCC Azalea Room
COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT
Monday, Feb. 4, 7:15 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE
Thursday, Feb. 28, 7 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room
FAÇADE ADVISORY BOARD
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room
POLICE CHIEF’S ADVISORY BOARD
Wednesday, Feb. 20, 7 p.m.
TPCC Atrium Room
RECREATION COMMITTEE
Thursday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room
TREE COMMISSION
Tuesday, February 12, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room
YOUTH COUNCIL
The Youth Council is revising its meeting schedule. For February, check the calendar on the City website.

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 Abbot 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/city/council/agendas.

ADA NOTICE
The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone with a disability who (1) wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services, or accommodations at a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing; or (2) cannot attend a public meeting but would like to record an audio comment to be played during the public comment period of that meeting, is invited to contact Jason Damweber, Deputy City Manager, at jason@takomaparkmd.gov or 301-891-7222 at least 48 hours in advance.

On Jan. 9, 2019 the City Council adopted Ordinance 2018-50. The Ordinance amends Chapter 11.12 Streets - Permits and Improvements to regulate the installation of telecommunications antennas and support structures in City rights-of-way. While the Ordinance is effective immediately, administrative regulations will be drafted to implement the Ordinance by setting forth details such as fees and procedures. Watch for a notice on the website and in this newsletter to review and comment on the regulations during the public comment period. Also on Jan. 9, the City Council adopted Ordinance 2019-1 approving a contract with Independent Officials Association to provide officiating services for Recreation Department sports leagues. The Council made two appointments. Resolution 2019-1 appointed Frederick L. Schultz (Ward 6) to the Commemoration Commission and Resolution 2019-2 appointed Nancy L. Cohen (Ward 1) to the Tree Commission.

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

The Arts and Humanities Commission: The Commission meets every other month on the fourth Thursday. Up to one-third of the members may be non-residents. (3 vacancies)

The Commemoration Commission: The Commission recommends to the City Council procedures and programs to honor and commemorate individuals, organizations and institutions concerned with the arts in Takoma Park and facilitates employment opportunities for artists and the development of self-sustaining arts programs. The Commission meets every other month on the fourth Thursday. Up to one-third of the members may be non-residents. (3 vacancies)

The Ethics Commission: The Ethics Commission oversees implementation and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act and provides public information and issues related to the Ordinance. The Committee meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. (1 vacancy for a business owner in Old Town or Takoma Junction).

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

The Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee oversees implementation and adherence to the Takoma Park Nuclear Free Zone Act and provides public information and issues related to the Ordinance. The Committee meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. (4 vacancies)

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

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

VACANCIES ON CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

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

The Grants Review Committee reviews applications for the City’s Community Grant program and makes recommendations to the City Council. (2 vacancies)

The Emergency Preparedness Commission assists in reviewing the City’s Emergency Operations Plan and other supporting emergency documents and recommending changes; explores the formation of volunteer teams that can assist City in carrying out emergency activities when called upon; coordinates with the City, County, and other agencies to educate residents on their individual responsibilities in preparing for emergencies; provides information on what residents can expect from the City and County during an emergency; collects and provides research and data and comments on emergency-related events for the Council, identifies and promotes volunteer opportunities in emergencies; advises the City on strategies to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of City preparedness activities. The Committee meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. (1 vacancy)

The Ethics Commission: The Ethics Commission provides written advisory opinions, investigates, hears, and decides in ethics inquiries and complaints; conducts a public education program; recommends legislative changes and improvements to the Ethics Ordinance; and promulgates regulations to accompany the Ethics Ordinance. (1 vacancy)

The Facade Advisory Board helps to ensure that facade designs and their maintenance are harmonious and consistent with the intended quality and character of the commercial areas of Takoma Park and provides guidance and assistance to commercial building and business owners seeking permits for facade alterations, signs, and new construction work. The Board meets the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. (1 vacancy for a business owner in Old Town or Takoma Junction).

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

Important City Phone Numbers

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

February 2019
is the 10 percent reduction enough? If not, what else can the City do to get bigger re-
ductions in emissions?

First, we should look at what Takoma Park has already done to reduce emis-
sions. Since Takoma Park adopted its Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) in 2014, it has:

• won third place in the national George-
town University Energy Prize Compe-
tition for its municipal efforts and its
voluntary residential energy efficiency
programs;
• completed free energy efficiency pro-
jects for low to moderate income home-
owners;
• won a Metropolitan Council of Govern-
ments award for climate and energy;
• been named Sustainability Champion in 2017 by the Sustainable Maryland
Certified program;
• approved the conversion of nearly all
streetlights in Takoma Park to LED;
• offered grants and programs for mul-
tifamily buildings to increase energy
efficiency;
• hosted solar co-ops to increase solar
installations in the City;
• hosted an annual sustainability chal-
lenge for residents that has included an
energy efficiency challenge, transpor-
tation challenge, and a challenge to
switch to 100 percent renewable elec-
tricity;
• installed 13 electric vehicle charging
stations powered by 100 percent wind;
• increased the availability of bike share
and bike lanes;
• worked with local businesses in an en-
ergy efficiency campaign;
• increased public outreach and educa-
tion through major events and work-
shops; and
• implemented nearly all of the 17 key
strategies to reduce greenhouse gas
(ggh) emissions from the 2014 plan.

Through Montgomery County and state
programs, residents and business have
access to additional rebates and financial
incentive programs to improve energy
efficiency and install renewable energy
systems. Businesses in Takoma Park can
become Certified Green Businesses, and
they have access to both Commercial
PACE (property assessed clean energy)
and a Green Bank for financing sustain-
able projects. The City also offers curbside
food waste collection, has banned plastic
bags, polystyrene food service containers
and cosmetic lawn care pesticides, and
has an ordinance to protect the urban tree
canopy. Sometimes it seems there isn’t
much the City isn’t doing.

One of the biggest hurdles in reaching
regional goals for ggh reductions is that
renewable electricity sources are not the
default options for residents and busi-
nesses—they are opt-in programs. If the
Maryland Public Service Commission al-
lowed municipalities like Takoma Park to
create an opt-out Community Choice Ag-
gregation (CCA) program with 100 per-
cent renewable electricity, then Takoma
Park could go from having approximately
20 percent of residents and businesses
buying renewable electricity to having
nearly 100 percent do so.

Aside from greening the power grid
itself, we need to focus on where the most
emissions in Takoma Park come
from. Buildings in the City account for
80 percent of emissions. About 47 per-
cent of emissions come from single family
homes, with 33 percent from commercial
and multifamily buildings, and less than
1 percent from municipal buildings. (See
chart).

Even the most widely successful vol-
untary programs hit a plateau of partici-
pation and effectiveness. Takoma Park
implemented one of the country’s most
successful voluntary residential programs
with 20 percent of single family homes
participating at some level. However the
actual ggh emission data suggests that the
realized reductions in emissions from the
program are only a fraction of what was
estimated and what is needed to make a
real difference.

State-mandated utility sponsored pro-
grams, such as Home Performance with
Energy Star home energy audit program
and the free Quick Home Energy Check-
up program, are great resources, but after
10 years, only about 25 percent of single
family homes in Takoma Park have got-
ten either service, and only 5 percent
have made significant energy efficiency
improvements to their homes (insulation,
air sealing, etc.), despite additional
City-based incentives and outreach. In
addition, 63 businesses participated in
an energy efficiency assessment project.
However, like homeowners, most busi-
esses in Takoma Park have not
made any significant energy efficiency
improvements.

So what are other cities and counties
doi ng? Montgomery County requires large
commercial properties to benchmark
their energy use. Soon Washington, D.C.,
will require large commercial properties
to meet a minimum energy efficiency
standard. Boulder, Colorado, requires all
rental units to meet a minimum energy ef-
ciency standard. Portland, Oregon, and
Berkeley, California, require single family
homes to get a Home Energy Score when
a home is listed for sale or sold.

The big “players” in sustainability are
moving towards mandatory programs
and policies to achieve the aggressive car-
bon reductions we need according to the
recent report. Why not Takoma Park? If
the City implemented minimum energy
eficiency standards for all buildings, it
could significantly reduce emissions since
buildings make up 80 percent of emis-
sions in the City. Energy efficiency is one
of the best methods for reducing emis-
sions. With very careful research, plan-
ning and consideration, a minimum ener-
gy efficiency standard for all can include
assistance for low-income homeowners
and business owners, improve resilience
to extreme weather events and spur fur-
ther innovation for small cities fighting
climate change.

This year the City’s Sustainable Energy
Action Plan is due to be updated. This
process will include public meetings and
community conversations to enable a va-
riety of voices, opinions, and ideas to in-
form the new plan. The new generation of
climate and energy plans calls for aggres-
sive action. Will the City be ready for this
next level of action? What ideas do you
have to bring to the community conversa-
tions?

To stay up to date on Sustainability pro-
grams in Takoma Park visit takomapark-
md.gov/sustainability.

Takoma Park Tree Canopy Assessment Seminar
Presented by Noah Ahles, University of Vermont

Saturday, March 23
Morning Session, 10 a.m.–12 p.m., TPCC Auditorium
Afternoon Session, 1–3 p.m., TPCC Azalea Room

The University of Vermont is currently prepar-
ing a tree canopy assessment for the City of Takoma
Park using Montgomery County 2018 light detec-
tion and ranging (LiDAR) data. In the morning,
Noah Ahles, a geospatial specialist at the university
will give a presentation on the assessment followed
by Q&A session. The afternoon session will be a
planning session to discuss establishing a Citywide
tree canopy goal and implementation plan. The
morning session is intended for the general pub-
l. The afternoon session will be a more focused
discussion with members of the City Council, Tree
Commission and Committee on The Environment.

Using the Takoma Park Project Directory

What is going on in Takoma Park? The Project Directory can fill you in! The Project Directory lists all major projects currently being worked on or planned citywide and includes need-to-know information for each one.
takomaparkmd.gov/initiatives/project-directory

1. Access the Project Directory from the City of Takoma Park website, on the home page under initiatives, select “Project Directory” as shown at left.

2. You’ll be taken to the “Project Directory” page, which lists all major projects being worked on or planned citywide. Projects are grouped by classification based on their purpose.

3. Then click on the name of the project that inter-
ests you. In this example, a resident wanted more informa-
tion about Police Facility Improvements.

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February 2019

SUSTAINABILITY

From page 1

Takoma Park Newsletter

Editor: Apryl Motley
Assistant: Sean Gossard
www.takomaparkmd.gov
Vol. 58, No. 2

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@
Be smart about 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.

- 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.

Open period for Community Grants Program closes this month

The City of Takoma Park is accepting letters of interest for its Community Grants Program through Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019. The Community Grant Program provides up to $10,000 in financial support for projects and events that improve Takoma Park residents’ quality of life by providing greater access and opportunities for participation in the arts and sciences. Funding is available to nonprofit organizations and business associations for projects taking place between July 1, 2019, and June 30, 2020.

To apply, interested parties should visit www.takomaparkmd.gov for a link to the online application and eligibility requirements. For more information, contact the City of Takoma Park’s Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7119 or grants@takomaparkmd.gov.

Interested applicants may also attend an information session about the grant program on either Tuesday, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. or Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. Both sessions will be held at the TP Community Center, 7500 Maple Avenue.

COLLABORATIVE

From page 1

we still feel marginalized.”

In October, the group held its first meeting with around a dozen or so people at what has become a de facto headquarters of theirs, Clippers and Combs barbershop on Flower Avenue.

“It was a small group, but we were very talkative from the beginning,” Montoya said. The group discussed the community and its demographics and history and brainstormed all the ways they thought they could help.

“We’re putting together resources and a hub for people to get together,” said Aubrey Henry, the owner of Clippers and Combs. Henry also coaches and gives jobs to kids in the community. “There’s a lot of little things around here to do and a lot of little holes that need to be filled.”

The group also noticed that many children or mothers with children didn’t have coats as the weather was beginning to turn colder, so they decided their first initiative would be a winter coat drive.

“The first thing was to speak to local businesses to be drop off points for the drive,” said group member Sandy Ogunfolu. “We were very well received … and momentum picked up very quickly.”

In just a few short weeks, the collaborative was able to gather over 500 pieces of warm winter gear like coats, hats and gloves. They also got help from the City of Takoma Park, which offered space to hold a coat distribution event in November.

“It was a very cold, chilly and rainy night, which wasn’t as well attended as we would have liked,” Ogunfolu said, “but we are more into getting things done and we set a very good tone with the first drive.”

They also noticed something else at the distribution event. “We didn’t get a lot of people at the coat distribution, but many came to collect coats for friends and family who needed them,” member Kendra Salois said. “The reach was much further than just the day and the event.”

And the collecting didn’t end there. Salois said after the first coat drive someone from the community reached out to the group asking for help in gathering supplies for dozens of families displaced in an apartment fire in Northwest D.C. “Since we already had everything in place with the coat drive, we kept up the collecting,” Salois said.

And in just about a week the group had collected 40 bags of clothes, toys, feminine hygiene products and other supplies for the families in need. “Both these events really highlight the generosity of our neighbors,” Salois said. “And really shows the affluence of the area with the high-quality of products being dropped off.”

Any leftover warm-weather gear that wasn’t taken was given to the Takoma Park Police’s annual winter coat drive.

In January, the group planned to get their main initiatives settled and spoke with representatives from Takoma Park’s Housing and Community Development Department to get in contact with their target audience in the area. “We want to work with a purpose and make sure what we do yields the highest help for people,” Ogunfolu said. “We don’t mess around.”

Anyone interested in joining or volunteering with the collaborative can contact them on Facebook, Instagram at tppcollaborative or by emailing poccollaborative@gmail.com.

“We’re really interested in anyone who wants to make positive impacts on people of color in the Takoma Park area,” Ogunfolu said. “All are welcome, we are very inclusive, and our doors are open.”

In the meantime, the group is looking forward to the New Year and new ways to help those underserved and underrepresented in the community. As Montoya said, “2019 is going to be an exciting year for the collaborative.”
The Remarkable Man Who Inspired Uncle Tom’s Cabin

Josiah Henson: The Man
Beyond the Myth Lecture
Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event

After escaping from a cruel slave owner, Rev. Josiah Henson inspired thousands of people through his memoir, and his remarkable life served as the inspiration for the title character in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s influential 1852 novel Uncle Tom’s Cabin, which generated outrage about the horrors of slavery before the Civil War. However, Henson’s important role as an abolitionist remains largely unknown. Montgomery County senior historian Jamie Kuhn will discuss Henson’s life, which is chronicled in her new biography, Sharp Flashes of Lightning Come from Black Clouds.

Henson, who was born around 1789, grew up on a plantation near Port Tobacco, Md., where his father was whipped and had his ear cut off just for hitting a white man, who tried to rape his wife. He was sold to another slave owner, and Henson never saw his father again. Despite not knowing how to read, Henson memorized Bible verses and became a minister. He worked for 35 years on a plantation in North Bethesda, which is now the Josiah Henson Park and the future site of the Josiah Henson Museum. He escaped to freedom in 1830 by walking more than 600 miles to Canada with his wife and children.

Henson established a community for escaped slaves in Canada, and he returned to the United States over the next three decades to help more than 100 enslaved people escape through the Underground Railroad. He also established a grostmill, horse breeding facility, and sawmill in Canada to provide employment and self-sufficiency for his community.

His memoir, The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada, as Narrated by Himself, was published three years before Uncle Tom’s Cabin, and his life bore many similarities to the Uncle Tom character. Henson met with Stowe at her home in Andover, Mass., and he told her his life story before she wrote Uncle Tom’s Cabin. The novel had a huge influence, selling more than 300,000 copies in its first year and becoming the best-selling novel of the 19th century. In the 1860 presidential campaign, the Republican Party distributed 100,000 copies of the novel to increase support for Abraham Lincoln’s candidacy.

Henson later became an international celebrity. In 1876, he gave speeches across the United Kingdom, and Queen Victoria invited him to Windsor Castle. President Rutherford Hayes also invited him to the White House before his death in 1883 when he was 93 years old.

The Uncle Tom character later became an epithet after it was twisted in “Uncle Tom” minstrel shows where white performers wearing black face wrongly portrayed Uncle Tom as an obsequious servant, who betrayed his own race to please his master.

When he learned of his connection to Uncle Tom, Henson was proud of the title. “If my humble words in any way inspired that gifted lady to write,” he said, “then I have not lived in vain for I believe that her book was the beginning of the glorious end (of slavery).”

The Beauty of Decay Art Exhibition
On view until March 5
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
Free event

In our consumer society that disposes of everything that isn’t new, decay is a scary word, conjuring images of obsolescence, advancing age, and death. But decay can be beautiful as shiny metal rusts and abandoned buildings crumble, leaving relics transformed by time and neglect. Three local artists will explore these themes in The Beauty of Decay, a new group exhibition on view at the Takoma Park Community Center until March 5.

Kristina King created handmade paper and a large site-specific installation that investigates decay, fragility, turbulence, and the ephemeral. Her ragged handmade paper pieces are riddled with holes and frayed edges, resembling a topographical map of mountain ranges or pock-marked craters on the moon.

David Mosher photographed himself in a deteriorating former mental institution, evoking scenes of melancholy and regret. By sharing very personal and psychological scenes, he seeks to engage viewers to explore their own emotional responses. He is inspired by artists including Man Ray, Robert Mapplethorpe, and Francesca Woodman who used self-portraiture to portray different personal identities.

Yellow Room by David Mosher

Drawing from personal loss, Chrissy Wilkin’s paintings depict her psychological journey through grief toward acceptance. She uses different mediums, including marker, charcoal, and bleach, and her work illustrates how life comes full circle as we continue to live in spirit even after death.
**RECREATION**

**YOUTH CAMPS**

**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.

Helffner Park Community Center
42 Dowsing Avenue
Newborn–5 years
Ongoing

**English:** Mondays

**Spanish:** Fridays

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

**Free**

**MARTIAL ARTS**

**Kung Fu**

Bunsa Fu is the Jamaican style of Kung Fu. Come learn meditation, self-defense, improved flexibility and self-awareness! This ancient Chinese art form allows you to control the body, mind and spirit. Taekwondo benefits include enhancing self-esteem by heightening your physical and mental powers. It builds confidence by encouraging you to succeed and to take control of your life. Develop discipline by thoroughly training your body and mind in the tenets and techniques of Taekwondo. Taekwondo emphasizes kicking techniques and is a fun way to achieve fitness and focus. There is a one-time, non-refundable $40 uniform fee paid to the instructor at the first class.

**Instructor:** Felix Lindeire

**Takoma Park Community Center**

Auditorium

7500 Maple Avenue

11–16 years

Monday, 4–5:30 p.m.

**Discount:** $10

**Non-resident:** $125

**Trips, activities and performers are subject to change.**

**On Stage: Scene Study**

In On Stage: Scene Study students focus on building believable characters and connections using scenes from plays and films as performance material. Class is comprised of acting exercises/warmups and application of acting theory to scenes in the Auditorium theatre space at the Takoma Park Community Center. Students will partner up and work on one scene for the 8 week session. We will be applying acting theory from Konstantin Stanislavski, Uta Hagan and Sanford Meisner, and we have lots of great material from award winning plays and popular films for teen students.

**Instructor:** Gretchen Weigle

**Takoma Park Community Center**

Auditorium

7500 Maple Avenue

11–16 years

Monday, 4–5:30 p.m.

**Discount:** $10

**Non-resident:** $125

**Serves Up!**

For many years, the Takoma Park Recreation Department has proudly offered our community a multitude of events, programs, classes and activities. More specifically, the sports department has provided our community with fun and organized leagues, such as futsal, t-ball, adult softball, youth and adult basketball. We are always looking for ways to improve our leagues and add to our department. This year, we are delighted to announce that coming spring 2019, we will offer an adult volleyball league for our community and our surrounding areas!

We hope that our Takoma Park Coed Volleyball League involves a fun and exciting recreational program for competitive adults of all skill levels. The games will be played in a six-versus-six, rally-scoring format. This means a point is scored on every single rally. It doesn't matter which team serves the ball, points can be scored by either the serving or the receiving team. The season will be eight weeks long, and games are tentatively set for Monday and Wednesday evenings (subject to change). Registration opens March 15 for residents and March 22 for non-residents, so be sure to get your teams in early. Free agents or individuals can register as well.

Aside from the pure fun of volleyball, the league has many benefits. It's an enjoyable way to burn calories, get the heart rate up, and a perfect way to spend time with friends or make new ones. So break out your sneakers and get back on the court to have fun in a team-oriented, recreational environment.

**Gather your friends, family and coworkers and create a team by registering in person or online at www.takomparkmd.gov/recreation/sports. For additional information, send inquiries to tpssports@takomparkmd.gov. We are excited for new beginnings within our sports community and hope you are too!**
**DANCE**

**World Dance Academy**

Learn about celebrations from different countries that are fun for teens in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe and areas of the United States. Students will create costumes for celebrations and choreography for stage presentation. Group Projects will include visual presentations showcasing the cultures and communities teens will discover. Participants will learn about creative artists from different countries and how they use their art in celebrations. Weekly projects and collaborations will aid in discovering the history of each celebration. No experience is necessary. The workshops begin with educational tools (maps, video, or written presentations); the second part of the program showcases the movements and history of the movements with warmup and teaching movements from the specific dance culture; the third part of the program enables the group to engage in choreography assignments and short group projects. The workshops end with cool down and vocabulary review.

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Tuesday and Thursdays 6:30–8 p.m.
No Class on: 4/17
Resident: $50 / Non-resident: $75

**ADULTS**

**DANCE**

**Mindful Movement**

What happens when you combine meditation, dance and yoga together? Mindful Movement! This class is for dancers and non-dancers alike, offering creative movement and principles from different dance styles, we will explore and observe, through sensing and moving, our mind-and-body connections and awareness and creative freedom to the wonderful world of your body. Expect free dancing, some technical elements of dance, (e.g., African, jazz, contemporary, modern) breathing techniques, meditative stretching, and lots of insight and fun. Whether you want to view your body with more compassion and understanding, learn to properly stretch and tone, or gain dancing insight and creativity, this class is for you.

Instructor: Beth Mwano
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
16 years and older
Saturdays, 12:45–2 p.m.
Through March 2
Resident: $65 / Non-resident: $95
Drop-In: $15 (check or credit card only)

**Healthy Cooking for Teens**

The Healthy Eating Program is a fun and interactive hour-long learning course about basic cooking and kitchen skills as well as healthy recipes (easy to replicate at home). Teens will be able to learn some nutritional components and how to create their own recipes. Teens will also take a trip to the Crossroad's Farmer’s market and learn about growing and purchasing the right foods. Participants will meet at Takoma Park Community Center at 3:30 p.m. to be transported to site. Instructor: Crossroads Farmers Market
Takoma Park Community Center
Meet at: Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Mondays, 3:45–4:45 p.m.
April 1-May 20

Resident: $10

**Skills to Pay the Bills**

This 8-week, hour-long, engaging course will prepare you with soft or applied skills such as teamwork, decision-making, and communication that will help you become effective employees and managers. Each lesson is designed to get you thinking about, practicing, and discussing skills important for career and personal success.

Takoma Park Community Center
Multi Media Lab
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Wednesdays, 4–5 p.m.
April 3-May 29
(No Class 4/17)

Residents: $20 / Non-residents: $30

**Youth Summer Employment Program Interest Meeting**

Is your teen in need of a summer job? The City of Takoma Park is pleased to announce the return of the City’s Youth Summer Employment program. Parents and teens come to the Interest Meeting and learn about this 8-week program, which will begin June 24 and end Aug. 17. The purpose of the Youth Summer Employment Program is to provide young people with a summer-long adventure that is more than just a job, but a true learning experience. There are a limited number of meaningful employment opportunities available this year. To register for the Interest Workshop or to get more information, call Counselor in Training (CIT)
Sign up now for a three day training to become a Certified CIT while becoming First Aid/CPR certified. Work with children ages 5–12 during our youth summer camps and earn your 33L hours, which will be fun!
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Avenue
Ages 14–21
Tuesday, April 30
Thursday, May 2
4-5 p.m.
Saturday, May 4
10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Resident: $25 / Non-resident: $35

**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: Tehseen Chettri
Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 years and older
Wednesdays, 6–7:15 p.m.
Through March 27
Resident: $170 / Non-resident: $200
Drop-In: $15 (check or credit card only)

**Total Body Tabata**

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

Instructor: KJ Fitness
Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 years and older
Sundays, 1–2 p.m.
Through March 3
Resident: $85 / Non-resident: $115
Drop-In: $15 (check or credit card only)

**Yoga (Iyengar): Beginners**

This class will introduce you to yoga as taught using the Iyengar Method. In this method the emphasis is on alignment and precision. The basic postures are introduced, and awareness is created in the whole body. As awareness of every part of the body is felt, so also energy is generated and the breath is engaged. The goal is to bring into alignment not just the different parts of the body but alignment of the body with the mind and the mind with the soul. Mats and props will be provided to make all poses accessible to all. Students are requested to wear comfortable clothing, and please do not eat in the two hours prior to the class.

Instructor: Tehseen Chettri
Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
18 years and older
Wednesdays, 6–7:15 p.m.
Through March 31
Resident: $170 / Non-resident: $200
Drop-In: $15 (check or credit card only)

**Yoga (Iyengar): Intermediate**

Practice and persistence brings transformation. After achieving a firm foundation in the beginner’s class, a student wishes to go forward in her/his exploration of the discipline of yoga. This intermediate level offers a deeper penetration of the concepts from the periphery towards the core. The more advanced postures are introduced and inversions are included. The practice of pranayama (breathing) is included in the session. Mats and props are provided. Instructor: Tehseen Chettri
Takoma Park Community Center Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue
16 years and older
Wednesdays, 7:30–9 p.m.
Through March 27
Resident: $170 / Non-resident: $200
Drop-In: $15 (check or credit card only)

**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 coordination. Zumba makes the work out of workout, by mixing low and high intensity moves. The class will incorporate Latin music that will easily move you through the session. Mats and props will be provided to make all poses accessible to all.

Instructor: Leicina Monfort
Takoma Park Community Center
Meet at: Teen Lounge
7500 Maple Avenue
Grades 6–12
Tuesday, April 30
7:30–9:30 p.m.

No Class on: 2/5, 2/19, 2/26, 3/12
Resident: $35 / Non-resident: $50
Drop-In: $15 (check or credit card only)
CSK: 50 Years Strong

CSK Awards turn 50

This year, there’s a big anniversary in the world of children’s literature: the 50th anniversary of the Coretta Scott King (CSK) Book Awards. While many people know of the Newbery Medal and Caldecott Medal, the Coretta Scott King Book Awards, also given annually by the American Library Association, are less known.

But the CSK Awards have made an important impact over the years in spotlighting and encouraging the publishing of excellent children’s books by African-American authors and illustrators. CSK-winning books have both allowed African-American children to see themselves in books and provided windows into African-American life for young readers of other cultures. The awards also have expanded the marketplace for African-American artists and writers, although there is still a long way to go to truly diversify the white-majority world of children’s book publishing.

Yet 50 years is an anniversary worth celebrating! And that’s what we’re doing at the Library. We’ll have a year-long display of CSK winners, and we are developing a take-home brochure of the titles. In addition, we’re planning some special events to spotlight CSK-winning books, so stay tuned.

There are several CSK awards: the Author Award, the Illustrator Award, the John Steptoe New Talent Award, and the Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement (given alternately to an author or illustrator, and a teacher or librarian). During the past 50 years, CSK winners have included Nobel Prize winner Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, Walter Dean Myers, Virginia Hamilton (the first African-American author to win a Newbery Medal), Jerry Pinkney (the first African-American illustrator to win the Caldecott Medal), Christopher Paul Curtis, Jacqueline Woodson (the current National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature), and a host of other African-American authors and illustrators.

The award was the brainchild of two African-American librarians, Mabel McKissack and Glyndon Greer, and John Carroll, a white publisher. McKissack and Greer met by chance at an American Library Association conference in 1969 as they were both vying for a post of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on display at the Carroll Publishing Co. booth. As the two talked, they realized they were concerned about a lack of recognition of African-American authors and illustrators. Carroll then chimed in: “Then why don’t you ladies establish your own award?” Before the conference ended, the idea of an award for African-American artists and writers became a reality. It was decided to name the award after Coretta Scott King, honoring her “courage and determination in continuing the work for peace and brotherhood” and commemoration of the life and work of her husband.

In 1982, the CSK Awards became an official award of the American Library Association. The winners are announced each year in the same “Youth Media Awards” program as the Caldecott and Newbery winners.

Next Friends Book Club discussion

By Tim Rahn

The novel, When the Emperor was Devine, by Julie Otsuka, will be discussed by the Friends Book Group on Tuesday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Azalea Room of the TP Community Center.

When the Emperor was Devine tells the story of a nameless Japanese American family declared enemy aliens after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December 1941. The mother, daughter and son are sent to an internment camp in Utah, while the father is given the additional label “dangerous” and imprisoned in a separate camp.

The novel follows the family from the day the mother learns their fate until they return after the war to a much-changed Berkeley. California. Otsuka compresses the story into four taut chapters, using detailed and historical accuracy to render a heartbreaking story about one of the more shameful events in American history.

Michael Upchurch, writing in the New York Times said of the novel “what impresses you most is how much Otsuka is able to convey – in a line, in a paragraph – about her characters’ surroundings, about their states of mind and about the mood of our country at a time of crisis that did not, on this particular front, bring out the best in its character.”

Happy Valentine’s Day to our readers!

Beginning in February, “new” adult books, which have not been reserved by other patrons, will be automatically renewed, just like other books, magazines and audiobooks in the library’s collections. They will still have the “New” stickers and be shelved next to the Philadelphia Avenue entrance to identify them.

New and popular books in demand should be placed on reserve by patrons who want them – to make them available in three weeks, rather than the six weeks that come with automatic renewal. Reminder notices will reflect this new, expanded policy beginning in February.

Calling all fairy tale fans!

Join us on Saturday, Feb. 16, from 2–4 p.m. for a Fairy Tale Party. Wear your fairy tale finery! Ms. Kati will kick off the fun by reading some great fairy tales. Then we’ll have crafts and snacks. Kids of all ages are invited, crafts will be most appropriate for ages 3 and up. Registration encouraged, so we can be sure to have enough snacks and craft materials.
Reading Club choices in the months ahead

The Friends Big Book club – entering its 10th year – will begin discussions of 100 Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. The group’s discussions of literary landmarks, facilitated by Phil Schewe, and formerly by Merrill Leffler, originated with an idea of Wally Malakoff, who recommended reading a new translation of War and Peace followed by several discussions. The idea caught on and has been a popular series ever since.

A lecture will be held on March 27 (Historic Takoma), with discussions on April 3 (Hydrangea Room), April 17 (Library) and May 1 (Azalea Room).

The Fortnightly Book Club was also facilitated by Merrill Leffler for many years and is now moderated by Tim Rahn. Tim has chosen several books for the months ahead: When the Emperor was Divine, by Julie Otsuka (March 10), Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders (May 22), and RQ by Joe Ide (July 10). All books will be available at the Library soon.

In conjunction with her window installation “Wintry Mix” (shown above), artist Marty Ittner will present a curated collection of photography from the archives of Historic Takoma. See page 12 for details.

Video with vision

By Rick Henry

Watch out world. The youth of Takoma Park now have one more powerful outlet to assist them in their ongoing quest to positively affect social change.

Thanks to a $5,000 community grant from the City, Gandhi Brigade Youth Media (GBYM), a pioneering afterschool program that empowers young people in the region to use multimedia as tools to promote community building, multicultural understanding and the common good, will implement a free after-school program for middle and high school students in Takoma Park. Students in the Promoters Program will learn the fundamentals of video production and use those skills to produce original short films about social justice topics and community-related issues. The program for middle and high school students in Takoma Park.

Summer program in 2017: During the filming of their short documentary about immigration, students visited the Capitol Building to interview U.S. Representative Adriano Espaillat (D-NY).

**LIBRARY**

**From page 8**

**RECREATION**

16 years and older

Saturdays, 11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
Session 1: through February 16

Session 2: February 23–March 30

$50

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-eye coordination as well as assist with the maintaining of balance as they get older. The student will gain physical fitness, mental and spiritual strength. Instructor: Master Robert Thompson

Takoma Park Community Center
Dance Studio
7500 Maple Avenue

17 years and older

Monday, 7:30–8:30 p.m.

Through March 25

No class 2/18

(No class 2/18)

Resident: $165 / Non-resident: $195

55+

**ART**

Glazing Ceramic Bisque

Coming soon, a new workshop for early spring. A variety of items will be available for you to choose from and decorate. All materials provided. Space will be limited, so sign up soon. Instructors: Alice Sims and Sue Bracey

Takoma Park Community Center
Azalea Room
7500 Maple Avenue

55 and older

Tuesday, March 12

11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Free

**DROP-IN**

Bingo

Come and try your luck and win a prize! No registration required.

Takoma Park Community Center
Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue

55 and older

Tuesday, February 26

12–2 p.m.

Free

**Blood Pressure Screening**

Adventist Healthcare will be doing a monthly blood pressure screening. Drop-in; no registration is required.

Takoma Park Community Center

Senior Room
7500 Maple Avenue

55 and older

Tuesday, February 26

11:30 a.m.–12:30 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

Ongoing

Monday-Wednesday & Friday: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Thursdays: 9 a.m.–12 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 6–20

10 a.m.–12 p.m.

$10

**SPORTS/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
7500 Maple Avenue

55 and older

Saturdays, 9:15–10:15 a.m.

Through March 23

Free

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.

Through March 21

Free

**VIDEO WITH VISION**

Page 11
More tips for snow shoveling season

It's the season for bad weather and snow to shovel. This task alone sends more than 11,000 adults to the hospital every year. The most common issues are back strain and sprains, followed by broken bones, head injury and heart attacks. Shoveling snow is slippery business, and you need to take certain steps to make sure that you are not adding to these statistics. Here are a few helpful hints to keep you healthy this shoveling season:

• Keep your back straight, and don't bend over to pick up the snow.
• Bend your knees to lift.
• In terms of your shovel, use a smaller one. The less snow you move at once, the safer you'll be.
• Push the snow, don't lift it.
• Dress warmly and take regular breaks inside.
• Drink plenty of water.

The weight of snow per shovel is 5 lbs. for dry snow and 20+ lbs. for wet snow.

Winter Safety Q & A

By Claudine Schweber, co-chair, Emergency Preparedness Committee

For the past two years, I have shared answers to questions sent to Bea(trice) Prepared with WOWD Takoma Park Radio (94.3 FM) listeners on “Talk of Takoma” with Eric Bond at 1 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month. Here are three questions that focus on winter safety.

Dear Bea(trice) Prepared:

I have to drive at night to and from work. I haven't ever done this on a regular basis. The other night, I almost hit an oncoming car. Is it true that I can do something to limit the danger of nighttime accidents? I want to survive beyond February.

Signed, Lights Out

Dear Lights Out:

You are right to be concerned about night driving in winter. First, it’s time to clean up your act. Make sure that you clean your front and back windscreens. Dirty ones can impact the light beams causing glare from oncoming cars; second, make sure your headlights are clean. When they are dirty, this cannot only affect your visibility but also create glare for oncoming cars. Also, make sure your headlights are properly aligned, so they face straight ahead; too high or too low beams can limit your visibility or blind oncoming drivers. You can find additional tips for safe night driving from Geico vehicle insurance at https://tinyurl.com/y8392fb8.

Dear Bea(trice) Prepared:

I'm worried about snow because I cannot shovel my sidewalks or the street, which I know is required in Takoma Park. I'm 58 and live alone. My right side is in a cast due to an accident last year. My neighbor said there are “angels” in Takoma Park who do this. Am I losing my hearing and my sanity, too?

Signed, Snow Help

Dear Snow Help:

I'm worried about snow because I cannot shovel my sidewalks or the street, which I know is required in Takoma Park. I'm 58 and live alone. My right side is in a cast due to an accident last year. My neighbor said there are “angels” in Takoma Park who do this. Am I losing my hearing and my sanity, too?

Signed, Snow Help

Your hearing is fine, and so is your sanity. Takoma Park's “Snow Angels” can dig you out. These angels are Takoma Middle School Students in the Difference Makers Club. You fit the qualifications. Takoma Park resident, 55 or older or have a disability, and have no one at home who can help with shoveling. However, 2018-19 program is full, but you can get on the waiting list. Contact Paula Lisowski at 301-891-7280 or paulal@takomaparkmd.gov. For more information, visit takomaparkmd.gov/government/recreation/snow-angels.

Dear Bea(trice) Prepared:

I now live in a high-rise building. Since it's winter, I'm staying indoors more and chatting with my neighbors. Last week I was talking in the hallway with the woman next door, and suddenly we smelled smoke. It was in her kitchen; she had left the stove on. I asked why she didn't stay with the food. She said she's too much? I'm staying indoors more and chatting with my neighbors. Last week I was talking in the hallway with the woman next door, and suddenly we smelled smoke. It was in her kitchen; she had left the stove on. I asked why she didn't stay with the food. She said she's too much?

Signed, Burning with Curiosity

Dear Burning:

You are correct. Unattended cooking is the number one cause of home fires. Stay with the cooking until the heat is completely turned off. And here's another suggestion. If you need to test doors that are hot, use the back-of-the-hand trick. Instead of touching the door with your palm, very gently use the back of the hand. You might offer the trick to your neighbor as a goodwill gesture.

Until next month, enjoy a safe winter wonderland.

Don't hesitate to send questions or concerns to tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7126. Listen to WOWD 94.3 Talk of Takoma at 1 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month.

Dear Beatrice:

I'm worried about snow because I cannot shovel my sidewalks or the street, which I know is required in Takoma Park. I'm 58 and live alone. My right side is in a cast due to an accident last year. My neighbor said there are “angels” in Takoma Park who do this. Am I losing my hearing and my sanity, too?

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Until next month, enjoy a safe winter wonderland.

Don't hesitate to send questions or concerns to tpepc@takomaparkmd.gov or call 301-891-7126. Listen to WOWD 94.3 Talk of Takoma at 1 p.m. on the first Sunday of the month.
Safety tips for avoiding robberies

In response to the surge in robberies during the past few months along the borders of Takoma Park in Montgomery County and the District of Columbia, with at least two occurring in Takoma Park, the TPPD Community Advisory, January 15, 2019.

The advisory also offered these safety tips to residents:

- Please be aware of your surroundings. If you see something out of the ordinary or suspicious, call us immediately at 301-270-1100.
- Always be alert and aware of your surroundings. As you walk, look around you. Scan the area.
- Do not allow yourself to be distracted by using a cell phone or head phones.
- Walk purposefully and look confident. Keep your head up.
- If you see an individual, a group or a parked vehicle that looks suspicious or causes you concern, keep your distance. Take another route or ask for help.
- Do not walk close to shrubbery, doorways or cars where someone can easily hide.
- Hide your valuables. Don’t flash jewelry or other expensive belongings. Keep any bag or purse close to your body, preferably in front.
- Try to limit your use of ATM machines to daytime, avoiding those that are out of the way and as always, be aware of your surroundings.
- If you think you are being followed, quickly change directions, and if possible, go to a location where there are other people that can help you.
- If an unknown vehicle approaches you, immediately change directions.
- If you do find yourself being robbed, avoid being injured by giving the robber what they want. Don’t attempt to resist or attack the subject.
- If possible, try to note details that will help in catching the suspect, such as race, hair, facial features, height, weight, build, clothing and vehicle and tag information.
- Call “9-1-1” and stay in a safe place nearby until police arrive.

For more information, contact Catherine Plevy, Public Information Officer, Takoma Park Police Department, cathep@takomaparkmd.gov.

Local Boy Scout to provide bat houses in Takoma Park for Eagle Project

The Friends of Sligo Creek and Boy Scout Troop 33 are partnering with local Eagle Scout candidate Jonathan Andersen on his Eagle Scout Project. Jonathan, a senior at Blair High School, is building and distributing bat houses in the Takoma Park portion of Sligo Creek. Encouraging more bats to live nearby can help Takoma Park. Bats are a key part of natural pest control, especially mosquitoes. Within the D.C. Metro region, one bat can consume up to 1,000 mosquitoes in an hour, significantly decreasing the amount within our area. In urban areas, bats and other creatures are losing their natural habitat. There is enough space in and around Sligo and Long Branch Creeks, within Takoma Park, that is ideal for promoting safe places for bats to live.

Construction of the houses started last month. They will be distributed to interested homeowners in March. Priority will be given to homes that meet the following criteria:
- a spot for mounting the bat house at least 10-15 feet off the ground
- Southeast or Southwest facing walls
- no trees within 20 feet
- sit within 25 mile of Sligo Creek Homeowners can have bat houses installed or be provided with the necessary equipment to mount them. If you are interested in this project or have questions, contact Jonathan Andersen at 301-270-1089 or jandanersen@gmail.com. Interested homeowners can also complete an online application at http://bit.ly/33BatHouse.

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. There is also a Showcase or screening at the end of each session. Whitty noted that some student projects have been accepted into film festivals around the country. She pointed out that many alumni have done their senior capstone projects about their GBYM film projects and have obtained after-school jobs working with younger students in media production programs. "Students gain confidence in talking about issues that affect them and they feel pride about creating something meaningful. They are empowered to use their voices and feel heard," she said.

The program also welcomes repeat participants. "We have a lot of people return," Whitty said. "The students are always coming up with new project ideas and there is always something new for students to learn."
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. 8, and the newsletter will be distributed beginning Feb. 22. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomaparkmd.gov.

“TP Community Center” is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7000 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. 6, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.
City Council Meeting, Wednesday, Feb. 27, 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. 18

All City offices and facilities will be closed Monday, Feb. 18, 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.
240-450-2082 or educare_ssi@yahoo.com
www.educareupportservices.org

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Circle Time

Tuesdays, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.
A beloved local tradition, the 30-minute program of songs, fingerplays, rhythms, 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 303-883-4304.

Kids’ 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. Host. Come to our meetings to sharpen your abilities, meet new friends, and make a difference in your life.

In honor of Dr Martin Luther King Jr, the City Staff was proud to volunteer at Shepherd’s Table. Since 1993, their mission has been to provide meals, social services, medical support, clothing and other assistance to those needing support in the community.

Community Self Defense

Wednesdays, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
6636 New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park
Certified Gracie Jiu Jitsu Black Belt instruction
Free and open to all

Parents of Special Needs Adults (POSSNA)

First Thursdays
TP Community Center
This support and advocacy group of parents and other loved ones of adults with special needs including autism, Down’s syndrome, and severe chronic psychiatric challenges usually meets the first Thursday of every month. For more information, contact Mary Muchai at muchai@comcast.net.

Takoma Park Middle School Used Book Sale

Friday, Feb. 8, 6 – 9 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 9, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Road

To benefit the PTA, more than 400 books available on all subjects and for all ages. Most books priced at $1-$3. Additional offerings include: silent auction (both days), student/staff basketball game Friday night and children’s activities Saturday morning.
Website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/takomaparks

Takoma Park’s 9th Annual Mid-Winter Play Day
Sunday, Feb. 10, 1 – 4 p.m.
7500 Maple Avenue Takoma Park
Let’s Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department have teamed up to present to you the ninth annual Mid-Winter Play Day. Come join Let’s Play America and the Takoma Park Recreation Department for a fun afternoon of indoor play. Free fun for all. To see a full list of activities and performances, visit www.letsplayamerica.org.
Volunteers’ contact Pat, 301-928-9682, theplayaday@gmail.com.

Fairy Tale Party

Saturday, Feb. 16, 2 – 4 p.m.
Takoma Park Library
Calling all fairy-tale enthusiasts. You’re invited to join the Library for a Fairy Tale Party. Enjoy tales, crafts and snacks. Wear your favorite fairy tale-inspired clothes. All ages welcome. Registration required. All materials will be provided.

Fairy Tale Circle Time

Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Join Senora Geiza for a 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

English Poetry Workshop

Thursday, Feb. 21, 7:30–9:30 p.m.
TPC Auditorium
TP Community Center

Free and open to all. In honor of Virginia Woolf, join local poets from the Takoma Poets Collective, the Takoma Poets Society, and the Takoma Park Community Band for an evening of poetry and music.

Prepared to Plunge!

Saturday, Feb. 23, 10 a.m.
Historic Takoma, 7230 Carroll Ave.
In tandem with her window installation “Wintry Mix,” artist Marty Ittner will present a curated collection of photography from the archives of Historic Takoma. Go back in time to learn more about Takoma’s prolific Morris Bien, who in the early 1900s photographed the four boys featured in the window installation. Ittner will also talk about the influence of vintage imagery in her own work. Original glass negatives, ephemera of the era and printed examples of early photography will be on display.

People’s Open Mic

Sundays, 9 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6929 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 Jacqui 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, 6929 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

Open Mic Night

Tuesdays, 6 – 8 p.m.
Republic restaurant, 6929 Laurel Ave.
www.republictakoma.com

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 p.m.
The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St.
Hosted by Katy Gaughan and friends

Humanities Lecture

Thursday, Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center

Experts share their insights on history, pop culture, politics, and more timely topics.

Film Screening

Thursday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center

Do you have a film in the works? Docs in Progress and other filmmakers present a wide variety of documentaries on compelling subjects. Past documentaries have explored discrimination against the Deaf community, artists who help overthrow a dictator in Sierra Leone, and the life story of civil rights pioneer Fannie Lou Hamm.

Writing a Village

Monday, Feb. 18, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room
Led by former Takoma Park Poet Laureate Anne Becker, this free workshop provides a friendly atmosphere for writers to share their poetry and creative writing.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Thursday, Feb. 21, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
The popular “Third Thursday” poetry series features the work of a wide range of poets from across the region. Held in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, the free readings are followed by a light reception and an opportunity to meet the featured poets.

Photo Salon

Monday, Feb. 25, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room
Professional and amateur photographers can show and critique their work in this free monthly workshop led by photographer Rob Rudick.

DECAYED Art Exhibition

Through March 10
TP Community Center

Three talented artists display their work in DECAYED, an exhibition exploring the beauty and melancholy of decay. The exhibition will be on view until March 10. Kristina King painstakingly creates handmade paper using beaten cotton or flax fibers that are suspended in water and pulled through a mold. Chrsissy Wilkin explores the inevitability of death through paintings of skeletons that display a macabre sense of humor. David Mosher explores abandoned buildings where he photographs himself in scenes that possess a surreal beauty and sense of loss amidst layers of peeling paint and crumbling plaster.

UPCOMING EVENTS

My Monster & Me: Stories and a Craft

Saturday, March 9, 10:30-11:30 a.m.
Takoma Park Library
Kids are invited to come read some fun picture books about (friendly) monsters and then create their own “monster stuffie” toy. This program is presented in partnership with Small Things Matter, a local nonprofit created by Roxanne Yamashita and her teen daughter Lana. At the program, Lana and friends will read several monster-themed picture books and then lead participants in making a monster stuffie to take home. All materials will be provided courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.

Staff in Service

Prepared to Plunge! (Left to right): Deputy City Manager Jason Damweber, City Manager Suzanne Ludlow, and Chief Tony DeVaul supported TPPD’s Polar Bear Plunge to benefit Special Olympics of Maryland.