CITY OFFICES CLOSED

Employee Recognition Day, Feb. 9, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Presidents' Day, Feb. 21

Takoma Park NEWSLETTER

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. . ."
Margaret Mead (1901-1978)

TRASH HOLIDAY

No Yard Waste Pickup Feb. 21

Published by the City of Takoma Park | www.takomaparkmd.gov | FEBRUARY 2011

2011 Legislative Session Underway

By Suzanne Ludlow
Takoma Park Deputy City Manager,
and Michele Douglass
Public Policy Partners

Besides budget gloom and doom, what can be said about the Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session this year?

Maryland State Senators and Delegates meet in Annapolis from mid-January to mid-April, considering the State budget and legislative proposals on many topics. The membership of the General Assembly has changed by 21 percent in each house because of last November's elections, resulting in changes in committee membership and leadership. The District 20 Delegation that represents Takoma Park and Silver Spring remains the same—Senator Jamie Raskin and Delegates Sheila Hixson, Tom Hucker and Heather Mizeur—but their influence in the General Assembly has strengthened.

Because of the election changes, the composition of the State Senate appears more poised than ever to pass same-gender civil marriage. Competing bills will be introduced, one to legalize same-gender civil marriage in Maryland by Sen. Rich Ma-

LEGISLATIVE SESSION
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INSIDE:

City TV turns 25..... pg. 3
Music and art..... pg. 5
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Walgreens to Open in March

Alley Swap Proposal Goes to County

By Virginia Myers

After eight months of construction, the new Walgreen's drug store at Takoma-Langley Crossroads is about to open. Owners estimate they will begin welcoming customers in early spring; construction began last June.

The store is an upscale version of the chain drugstore, says company architect Larry Brozek, "much different than a typical Walgreens." Forget about glaring drugstore lights and crowded aisles. This Walgreens will have an open ceiling, polished floors and track lighting for a "brighter and uplifting look." "We're definitely notching it up," he told the Newsletter.

Walgreens is already largely built, at 1329 University Boulevard East, just east of New Hampshire Avenue, where it displaced the Indian restaurant, Udupi Palace (Udupi moved in with sister restaurant, Tiffin, in the building next door). The original building was gutted and rebuilt; it looks brand new.

In addition to the anchor store, Walgreens Company owns 10 acres around the site. Planners and others who follow development in the area speculate that Walgreens intends to redevelop the property, but is likely waiting until the much-anticipated Purple Line transit hub is completed, across the intersection of University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue. Walgreens representatives say only that they have no immediate plans for redevelopment, but recognize that reconfiguring the property in the future is a possibility.

The Walgreen Company will open its store in March, and hopes to take over the alleyways surrounding the property as well.

Photo by Virginia Myers

Back in the Alleyways

In part to prepare for future development, and in part to address current va-

WALGREENS
continues on page 9

Leaf Blowers Eliminated from Public Works Use

By Virginia Myers

City Council voted four to two on Jan. 10 to eliminate the use of gas-powered leaf blowers by Takoma Park work crews. The new ordinance against the blowers took effect January 11. Residents and contractors are still permitted to use their own blowers.

The decision came after multiple discussions among council members, with the Environmental Task Force (which recommends a resident-included ban on the machines) and with residents over whether to regulate the use of the blowers, which environmentalists criticize as noisy, damaging to the environment and unnecessary. Many residents testified in favor of a leaf blower ban, citing scientific evidence that they are harmful to the environment. Others argued in favor of City use.

At the Jan. 10 meeting, three Public Works employees also weighed in on the measure, asking the Council to allow them to keep the tools. Each testified that without them, clearing leaves would require double or triple the time it takes now, as would removing grass clippings from the street and sidewalk after mowing. Residents would likely complain about lowered maintenance standards in the parks. "Any tool that can enhance our ability to perform, we are for it," said Troy Fingal, who supervises a seven-person parks maintenance crew.

Public Works staff also pointed out that the six blowers used by the City won't make a big difference in the environmental impact or noise reduction of leaf blowers overall. Councilmember Colleen Clay (Ward 2) backed them up, testifying that the complaints she hears from constituents are never about leaf blowers in the parks, but about resident leaf blowers "under their bedroom window" in the early morning, or about multiple blowers on commercial properties.

Despite staff objections, Council voted four to two for the ban. Mayor Bruce Williams, Josh Wright (Ward 1), Dan Robinson (Ward 3) and Reuben Snipper (Ward 5) voted for; Terry Seamens (Ward 4) and Fred Schultz (Ward 6) voted against; Clay abstained because she felt the staff-only ban was too "watered down."

A First Step?

While the new ban on blowers applies only to Public Works use, several councilmembers said they hope the policy might influence residents to set down their own blowers and pick up leaf rakes, instead. "I think we should lead by example," said Councilmember Dan Robinson (Ward 3), who also communicated the urgency many feel on this issue. Referencing concerns over global warming, he said, "The world's getting hotter, the oceans are going to rise, that's why people are so exercised about this."

Clay felt that setting a good example was not enough. "I think there are better statements we can make," she said. "We need to stop diddling around the edges and get into some of the bigger issues that we have

LEAF BLOWER BAN
continues on page 9

Mayor & Council
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Takoma Park, MD 20912

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CITY COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE CALENDAR*

Tuesday, February 1 - Board of Elections Meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Council Conference Room)

Monday, February 7 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, February 8 - Tree Commission meeting, 6:30 p.m. (CC Lilac Room)

Tuesday, February 8 - Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs hearing, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Tuesday, February 8 - Takoma Junction Task Force meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Azalea Room)

Thursday, February 10 - Ethics Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Thursday, February 10 - Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting, 8:30 a.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, February 14 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, February 15 - Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee meeting, 7 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, February 21 – City offices closed for the Presidents Day Holiday.

Tuesday, February 22 – Ward 4 Night Reception, 7-7:30 p.m. (CC Atrium Lobby)

Tuesday, February 22 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

Tuesday, February 22 - Arts and Humanities Commission meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Wednesday, February 23 - Takoma Junction Task Force meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Hydrangea Room)

Monday, February 28 – City Council meeting, 7:30 p.m. (CC Auditorium)

*For the most up to date information, check www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agenda/. Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Avenue (CC). Individuals interested in receiving a weekly Council agenda and calendar update by e-mail should contact the City Clerk at 301-891-7267 or clerk@takomagov.org.

The City of Takoma Park is committed to ensuring that individuals with disabilities are able to fully participate in public meetings. Anyone planning to attend a City of Takoma Park public meeting or public hearing, and who wishes to receive auxiliary aids, services or accommodations is invited to contact the Deputy City Manager at 301-891-7229 or SuzanneL@takomagov.org at least 48 hours in advance.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO SERVE ON COUNCIL APPOINTED BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

There are positions for Takoma Park residents available on many City boards, commissions, and committees. Please consider volunteering to serve. Additional information can be found at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees or contact the City Clerk for more information (301-891-7267 or Clerk@takomagov.org).

Arts and Humanities Commission
(vacancies)
Takoma Park Board of Elections
(vacancy)
Emergency Preparedness Committee
(vacancies)
Ethics Commission
(vacancies)
Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee
(vacancies)
Personnel Appeal Board
(vacancy)
Recreation Committee
(vacancies)

City Council Action*

***Only negative votes and abstentions are noted. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at clerk@takomagov.org.**

January 3, 2011 – Special Session

Resolution 2011-1 was adopted, adopting the Annexation Plan for the Flower Avenue Right-of-Way Annexation Area (if annexed) (Voting No: Wright)

January 10, 2011 – Regular Meeting

Resolution 2011-2 was adopted, establishing a policy on City use of gasoline powered leaf blowers (Voting No: Seamens, Schultz; Abstaining: Clay)

The consent agenda was adopted. It consisted of:

Resolution 2011-3 appointing H. D. (Ed) Edwards to the Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs

Resolution 2011-4 appointing Madona Tyler Le Blanc to the Arts and Humanities Commission

Resolution 2010-5 was adopted, awarding FY 2011 Small Community Grants (Recusal: Wright)

Small Community Grants Awarded for FY 2011

On January 10, the City Council awarded the FY 2011 Small Community Grants. The following organizations received funding:

Manna Food Center - Smart Sacks Distribution Program ($1,000)

Old Takoma Business Association - re-Cycle Public Art Project ($2,000)

Crossroads Farmers Market - Rolling Terrace PTA and Crossroads Farmers Market Partnership Healthy Eating Initiative ($1,500)

Takoma Park JazzFest - Workshops ($1,250)

Montgomery Oaks Management - Gardening Project ($500) contingent upon demonstration of matching funds, donations, or volunteer effort as well as demonstrated interest from the constituents to successfully participate in the project.

Mobile Medical Care, Inc. - MobilMed Clinic Salary Support ($2,500) contingent upon providing data on the number of Takoma Park residents served by the program.

Public Hearing on Flower Avenue Annexation Monday, February 7, 2011, 7:30 pm Takoma Park Auditorium, 7500 Maple Avenue

The public is encouraged to attend the public hearing, or submit written comments, on a proposal to annex the area between the Flower Avenue street pavement and the private properties on the east side of Flower, between Piney Branch Road and the location at which the Takoma Park boundary proceeds east at a line south of Division Street. No private property is proposed to be annexed. Detailed information on the proposal is available at www.takomaparkmd.gov/flower. Information was also presented in the December 2010 Takoma Park Newsletter. Advance sign-up to testify at the public hearing is not required and testimony is not restricted to Takoma Park residents. Written comments may be sent to clerk@takomagov.org or City Clerk, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Ward 4 Night – Tuesday, February 22

Residents of Ward 4 are invited to join the City Council on Tuesday, February 21 for a reception from 7-7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Lobby. A special Ward 4 public comment session will be held at the beginning of the City Council meeting, beginning a 7:30 p.m.

The tentative schedule for future Ward Nights is:
Ward 1 - March 21 (Monday)
Ward 3 – April 11 (Monday)
Ward 6 - May 16 (Monday)
Ward 2 - June 20 (Monday)
Residents who have questions may contact their City Councilmember or Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk at 301-891-7267, jessiec@takomagov.org .

Passport Services Not Available February 28 – March 1

The City of Takoma Park accepts passport applications Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This service will not be available Monday, February 28 through Wednesday, March 1. Regular passport hours will resume on March 2. For additional information about passport services offered by the City, see http://takomaparkmd.gov/admin/passports.html or call 301-891-7100.

Interested Residents Invited to Apply to Serve on the 2011 Council Compensation Committee

The City Council is seeking Takoma Park residents to serve on a Council Compensation Committee to review the salaries of the Mayor and Councilmembers. The Committee will make recommendations to the Council regarding whether or not the current salaries should be adjusted. Any adjustment would be adopted by ordinance prior to the 2011 election and would take effect with the next succeeding City Council. The Committee will be asked to make its report and recommendation to the Council on May 2, 2011.

Salaries were last adjusted for the Council term which began in November 2007. The Mayor currently receives $13,000 per year; Councilmembers receive $10,000 per year.

Deadline for applications: February 18, 2011. Application forms and additional information are available online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/. Submit applications to the City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or JessieC@takomagov.org. For additional information, contact the Clerk at 301-891-7267.

Redistricting Task Force to be Appointed

The City Council is recruiting volunteers to serve on a Redistricting Task Force. The Task Force will be charged with applying the 2010 Takoma Park census block data to evaluate the population distribution within the six wards and make recommendations to the City Council as to whether redistricting is needed and, if so, to provide options for revised ward boundaries. The next City of Takoma Park election will be held on November 8, 2011.

Deadline for applications: February 25, 2011. Application forms and additional information are available online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/. Submit applications to the City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912 or JessieC@takomagov.org. For additional information, contact the Clerk at 301-891-7267.

City TV Celebrates 25 Years in Takoma Park

By Virginia Myers

In August, 1985, the first broadcast of Takoma Cable flashed on television screens across the City. It wasn't much to see: just teletext announcements advertising community events. And the station remained bare bones for months before it expanded. Even then, it offered very little: the City Council meetings (barely audible) and an exercise show called "Moving Naturally."

But it was the beginning of what is now a vibrant, award-winning station.

In 1983, then-Mayor Sammie Abbott joined the Cable Committee to sign an agreement with Montgomery County, to bring the first cable services to the city. Front row, from left: John Hansman (Montgomery County Cable Project manager), Bruce Moyer (Takoma Park Cable Committee Chair), Abbott, and Alvin Nichols (city adminstrator). The Cable Committee stands behind them.

Photo by George Ray

The Early Days

It all began in 1980, when Mayor Sammie Abbott formed a committee to decide whether Takoma Park should participate in a county-wide cable television system or run its own franchise. The matter was complicated because, back then, Takoma Park was still divided between Montgomery and Prince George's Counties.

The committee met twice month for many years, ironing out the details of a fledgling cable station—everything from erecting poles to creating footage of the Folk Festival. By 1983, a contract with Tribune United and the Montgomery County cable franchise was signed. Basic service, which was to start in 1984, cost $1.50 a month.

Delays plagued the project (the county eventually won court-mandated penalties against Tribute United for not meeting performance standards) and although video was ready, residents had to come to city hall to watch it (which they did). Finally, on August 1, 1985, Channel 24 went live.

Takoma Cable was launched as a "public access" station as well as government access; it was designed to allow residents to use the equipment and produce their own shows to add to what the City offered. There was a lot of drama around this, especially in the early 1990s; allegations of misuse of the station equipment for personal gain were at the center of the fray. Eventually, the City took over and hired a contractor to film Council meetings. It became a government access channel, though community remained a big part of its mission.

In the late 1990s, the franchise was renegotiated so that the City got a larger percentage of the fee. The work was brought in-house. Major improvements began, much of it under Lonni Moffet, who was director of communications for the City until last year. "The channel really grew in those years, from a fairly lame, technologically unsophisticated program with very little original programming," says Moffet, remembering the days when there was one camera following the Fourth of July parade, and only about ten hours of original programming each year. By the time Moffet left, and her long-time colleague, Alvaro Calabia, took the reins, the station was producing 200 to 300 hours of original programming, and using multiple cameras for many outside events, from the Folk Festival to the Jazz Fest.

"It's really a flagship channel," says Moffet. "I don't know that people really appreciate all the work that's been done over those years of limited resources."

Night and Day

While the early days were plagued by terrible sound quality and severely limited camera work (there was one fixed camera in the Council chambers, so if a person was not directly in front of the camera, they were difficult to see), City TV today boasts state-of-the-art equipment. There are two Panasonic HPX300 cameras and two Panasonic HMC40 cameras; and a Sony Anycast "studio in a box" for broadcasts from the locations other than the Community Center. Through the Public Education and Government Channels (PEG) network, City TV has access to a Mobile Production Vehicle, with four or five cameras used for "EFPs," or electronic field productions. And in the Community Center Auditorium, where City TV records City Council meetings, speaker series, poetry readings, music and more, there are five robotic cameras, three additional cameras with operators, eight instrument microphones, four voice mics, two special mics for orchestra or choir pickup, and, for editing, three Mac pros and two iMacs. All the equipment is digital and HD capable.

There is also webcasting, so that viewers can look up council meetings or feature shows that are archived on the city's web site.

The equipment is paid for through cable equipment grant funds from cable companies like RCN, Comcast and Verizon, collected by the county and shared with the city.

Along with quality, variety has improved: viewers can watch everything from "Preschool Power" in the early morning, to county politics, a National Gallery of Art program to Takoma Park's own festivals: Street Festival, Folk Festival and Jazz Fest. Snapshots, a feature program, highlights activities like the Art Hop and the Adventists' Family Fun Day, and provides information about city programs like senior mediation, development along New Hampshire Avenue, and the Census.

"It's night and day," says Mark Cohen, comparing the early days of Takoma Cable with current programming. Cohen, who hosted The Coffeehouse for 14 years (it filmed its 150th and final episode in June), praises City TV staff: "Lonni and Alvaro have done a great job. They turned it into a watchable, highly useful vehicle for the City of Takoma Park, both for the government and its people."

Industry peers agree: The station has won nearly a dozen awards, most notably the equivalent of the Emmy for public, education and government access channels, the Overall Excellence award from the Alliance for Community Media, won by City TV in both 2006 and 2002. In 2009, it won the Hometown Video Festival award for a Snapshots segment on WordImage: Fusion of Poetry and Art; and two Government Programming Awards, for Visual Arts, and Arts and Entertainment. The National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors awarded City TV for films of the Jazz Band Brawls, and there have been other accolades for a PSA about the Humane Society, and for a profile of the police department's K-9 unit.

Commitment to Community

What hasn't changed at City TV is its commitment to community. From its roots as a public access station, it has retained an intention to teach: six interns are involved in production on a regular basis, and at least two past interns have gone on to get "real" jobs in the field. With just one full-time employee—Calabia—the interns get plenty of hands-on practice at every aspect of video production.

The emphasis on community service is also alive and well. Many viewers depend on the station to produce City Council meetings and other events they can watch from home, says Calabia. "I think it is a very useful tool to keep a healthy democracy working," he says, adding that programs like the "College Bound" series from the library and the poetry series are also popular. "We bring home as many activities as we can."

In addition, City TV is covering events other media don't touch. "We give a little more relevance to the activities that are important to the residents," Calabia continues. "We take seriously even the smallest events, from the Boy Scouts soapbox derby to the naming of Belle Ziegler Park, to the President's inauguration.

"More than a government station, we are a community station."

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter is printed on recycled–content paper.

Franklin Celebrates Green Renovation

By Linda Walker
Affordable Housing Manager

Snow did not deter or distract from the lively celebration that took place on Wednesday morning, January 12, at the Franklin Apartments, a 185-unit rental facility located at 7620 Maple Avenue and home to 240 low-income elderly and disabled residents.

It all started in the spring of 2009 when Franklin Associates Limited Partnership applied for and received a loan of approximately $3,566,000 through the Green Retrofit Program for Multifamily Housing. The federal program was created by Title XII of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and was designed to enable owners of HUD project-based properties (Section 8 and 202-811 for the Elderly/Disabled) to make energy and green retrofit investments which would ensure maintenance, preservation and an upgrade of energy efficiency technologies.

The Franklin Apartments got an environmentally friendly makeover courtesy of Recovery Act funds.
Photo by Linda Walker

Both Russell Katz and Ginny Johnson of Franklin Associates, LP, the ownership group of Franklin Apartments, indicated that this funding opportunity came at a perfect time, as they had already been contemplating renovations that would increase the building's energy efficiency. Of the 549 applications received by the HUD deadline, the Franklin Apartments was among one of 100 properties that received approval to begin the project.

The rehabilitation project included a replacement of more than 800 windows and an overhaul to the HVAC system, including partial conversion to a water source geothermal system. Franklin Associates Limited Partnership additionally invested another $2 million to renovate the lobby and community spaces in the building at the same time.

The end result has been applauded by the residents, the staff, and all who helped get this project off the ground.

Present at the grand opening were the residents of the Franklin Apartments and its staff, the staff of Montgomery Oaks Management, Inc., the building's management company, representatives from HUD including Ted Toon, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office for Affordable Housing Preservation, a representative from Congressman Chris Van Hollen's office, Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams, Councilmember Terry Seamens from Ward 4, where the property is located, and a host of other dignitaries and well wishers.

Because of the renovation, it is hoped that the property will achieve a 50 percent reduction in energy demand, and will lower its operating costs by dramatically slashing utility bills that were topping $400,000 per year. The improvements have already provided a healthier and more sustainable living environment for residents.

Overcrowded Apartment Breaches Lease

COLTA's CORNER

By Moses A. Wilds, Jr.
Landlord-Tenant Coordinator

Simms v. Murtie (10-23L)

On December 20, 2010, COLTA issued a decision on a landlord complaint that the tenant created a defective tenancy by allowing individuals to live in his apartment without the knowledge or consent of the landlord, causing the apartment to be overcrowded in violation of the County law.

The tenant's response to the complaint asserted that the landlord had condoned the overcrowding of the apartment for many years and alleged that the complaint was in retaliation for the tenant having made a complaint to the County Code Enforcement Office regarding a defective stove ventilation fan.

Following an emergency hearing the Commission issued a decision that:

(1) the tenant caused a defective tenancy by allowing people to live in his apartment without the landlord's written permission and despite the landlord's written instructions that the unauthorized tenants move out;

(2) the tenant had substantially breached his lease which indicated the landlord could pursue repossession of the apartment in accordance with the Real Property Article of the Maryland Code; and

(3) the tenant had failed to prove that the landlord's issuance of the notice to vacate violated section 6.16.180, Retaliatory Practices of the Takoma Park Code.

Tenant-to-Tenant Disputes Addressed by Mediation

HOUSING Mail Box

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

A tenant contacted the Mailbox asking if Takoma Park's landlord-tenant office resolves tenant-to- tenant disputes that do not involve their landlord.

Takoma Park's landlord-tenant office attempts to resolve disputes arising under the City's Landlord-Tenant Law (Chapter 6.16). Disputes between tenants, housemates, roommates and/or family members are referred to the Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County, Inc., which has a 10-year history of providing a venue for resolving disputes that do not involve a landlord and tenant.

Utilizing professional mediators and facilitators, the Center's mission is to assist Montgomery County residents in constructively managing conflict by offering free mediation services, in English and Spanish. The Center's services also include community conferencing, group facilitation, neighborhood problem solving and training. A partial listing of the types of issues/ disputes the Center has successfully worked with includes:

- Family member disputes
- Roommate/housemate disputes
- Neighbor to neighbor issues
- Small Claims and selected other court referrals.

The Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County, Inc. is located at 2424 Reedie Drive, Suite 301, Wheaton, MD 20902. The Center's telephone number is 301-942-7700.

Tenants or landlords having questions regarding the city's Landlord-Tenant Law are requested to call 301-891-7215 and/or contact me via the web at MosesW@takomagov.org.

Rental Housing Licensing Goes On Line

By Clifton Bouma
Takoma Park Code Enforcement

The City is rolling out a new online licensing program for 2011 which allows local landlords to apply online for the renewal of their rental housing license. With the advent of this new system, the City will no longer be accepting paper copies of the license renewal form.

While the process to renew a rental license may have changed, the requirements have not. If you own one or more rental housing properties in Takoma Park, you are required to obtain a rental housing license or you could face fines for operating an illegal rental facility.

There are five requirements that must be satisfied before you can get your rental license renewed. You must 1) complete the online application form, 2) pay the License Fee ($95 per unit), 3) maintain a valid Landlord Certification, 4) provide the City with a copy of your MDE Lead Certificate and 5) successfully pass a Property Maintenance Code inspection. Licenses are issued for the calendar year and only after all requirements have been met.

If your landlord certification has expired, we offer a monthly class here at the Community Center that introduces and briefly reviews the requirements and laws that apply to rental housing in Takoma Park. The classes are held the third Thursday of every month on alternating mornings and evenings. If you plan on attending, please call 301-891-7255 to register for the class.

If your property was built before 1950, the State's Lead Risk Reduction Requirements must be satisfied. Additional information is available online www.MDE.state.md.us/lead or by contacting the Maryland Department of the Environment at 800-633-6101 x4199 / 410-537-4199.

These same requirements apply to new, previously unlicensed rental facilities. The one exception: new landlords will be unable to submit their license application online.

To obtain the required application form, ask questions, or register for the Landlord Seminar, please call the Code Enforcement Division at 301-891-7255. We are located on the third floor of the Takoma Park Community Center (7500 Maple Avenue) and we encourage you to stop by if you need assistance.

You are invited

to a free class

"Tenant Rights in Takoma Park"
on
Tuesday, March 8
7 – 8:30 p.m.

Takoma Park
Community Center
Lilac Room
7500 Maple Avenue
Takoma Park, Maryland

Light Refreshments will be served

To Register: Call 301-891-7215

TAKOMA *Arts*

Ethnic Ensemble Combines African and American Tradition

The We Are Takoma performance series will feature musical group, the Ethnic Heritage Ensemble (EHE) on Feb. 23, featuring drummer/percussionist Kahil El' Zabar, saxophonist Ernest Khabeer Dawkins and trumpeter Corey Wilkes.

The group, which combines African American music and African roots, was founded by drummer/percussionist Kahil El' Zabar, a native of Chicago. As former president of that city's famed Association for the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM), El' Zabar led EHE's first performance in Chicago, in 1973, upon his return from the University of Ghana. Nearly 40 years later, this legendary band is still delivering its special brand of 21st century Griot music.

Dawkins, also a former AACM president, continues to teach music and culture to youth during the AACM's ongoing free Saturday youth programs. Dawkins, a multi-reed instrumentalist, is the founder and leader of the two-decade plus New Horizons Ensemble, and continues to release movements of his Chicago 12 music series. The current movement reflects on the life of slain civil rights icon Emmitt Till.

Trumpeter Wilkes is known as a fresh and original young musician immersed in today's jazz scene. In addition to assuming the trumpet chair of the famed Art Ensemble of Chicago, Wilkes has released on number of recordings under his own name, including 2009's "Cries from Tha Ghetto," with his ensemble Abstrakt Pulse.

"We Are Takoma"

THE ETHNIC HERITAGE ENSEMBLE

Wednesday, February 23, 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
7500 Maple Avenue
FREE EVENT
Donations Welcome.

Institute of Musical Traditions Presents Three "Next to the House" Concerts in Takoma Park

In an extension of its folk and roots-centered programming offered elsewhere in Montgomery County, the Institution of Musical Traditions has begun to present regular concerts at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. IMT, long affiliated with the House of Musical Traditions instrument and music store in Old Town Takoma, moved some of its fare to the Community Center Auditorium after major renovation to the sound, stage and lighting there.

The following three concerts are scheduled for February and March

Eric Brace and Peter Cooper, with Mike Auldridge

Wednesday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.
$15 advance, $20 door

Since high school here in the D.C. area, Eric Brace and Peter Cooper's instrumental hero has been Mike Auldridge, who plays dobro with the popular bluegrass band, Seldom Scene. Now in Nashville, Eric and Peter got this bright idea: invite Mike Auldridge and Lloyd Green, both giants of their respective instruments, into a Nashville studio to record an album with them. Now Mike is joining them as they release the CD with an IMT concert.

Tripping Lily

Wednesday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.
$15 advance, $20 door

This young quartet might be described as a string band with pop music sensibilities, or perhaps a cutting edge vocal quartet with acoustic instruments. Tripping Lily blends a unique sound of traditional and contemporary genres. The band's ability to absorb traditional music while speaking to the here and now is proof of their versatility as contemporary musicians.

Pierre Bensusan

Wednesday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.
$20 advance, $25 door

Join French-Algerian guitar visionary Pierre Bensusan as he celebrates the release of his latest CD. "Vividly" is a showcase of Bensusan's rich and multicultural world, where guitar instrumentals share the spectrum with songs (in French and English). The words that Pierre sings are about freedom, tolerance, human interactions, fears, challenges, initiation and transformation, combined with original music that covers a vast ground where spirituality and geography are always combined in unique tapestries.

Tickets and information at www.imtfolk.org

Speaker Series Tackles State of the Union

Economic crisis, foreign wars and imperiled domestic initiatives: veteran journalists and commentators Clarence Page and Naftali Bendavid will discuss them all and offer a prognosis of the health of the American body politic at the We Are Takoma Speaker Series, Feb. 3 at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.

Taking President Obama's State of the Union address as their starting point, Page and Bendavid will offer their assessments of Obama's own "vision thing," his attempts at bipartisanship at a time of increasingly virulent political divisions, and the strategic decisions he has made from the timing of major legislative initiatives to his conduct of the wars and selection of deputies. The discussion will be followed by a question and answer session during which audience members can ask these seasoned Takoma Park resident correspondents about both politics and their own embattled profession of journalism.

"State of the Union: Snapshot of the Body Politic"

Clarence Page, Chicago Tribune / Naftali Bendavid, Wall Street Journal
Thursday, February 3
7:30 - 9 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Avenue
FREE EVENT

Takoma Park Arts & Humanities News

celebrating the creative spirit of our community

The following free events are sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities.

"Four in February" with Jan Stovall, Ruth Pettus, Ted Shroll and Corwin Levi

On view in the Atrium Gallery are the multimedia works of Jan Stovall in Script and the footwear-turned sculpture of Ruth Pettus in Shoes. Upstairs in Gallery 3, enjoy the radiance of nature in Close-up Photography by Ted Shroll, and keep an eye out for Faint Fields, a selection of miniature works installed through the galleries. Join us at the artists' reception on Friday, February 4 from 6:30 to 8:30 p m. in the Atrium Gallery at the Takoma Park Community Center.

"State of the Union: Snapshot of the Body Politic" with Clarence Page, Chicago Tribune and Naftali Bendavid, Wall Street Journal

Taking the State of the Union address as their starting point, veteran journalists Page and Bendavid will offer their assessments of President Obama's own "vision thing," his attempts at bipartisanship at a time of increasingly virulent political divisions, and the strategic decisions he has made from the timing of major legislative initiatives to his conduct of the wars and selection of deputies. The discussion will be followed by a question and answer session. Lecture will be held on Thursday, February 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.

"Love at Last Sight" Musical

Written, produced and directed by long-time Takoma Park resident, John Guernsey, "Love at Last Sight" is a romantic musical comedy set in 1949, about a 19-year-old singer fleeing from a troubled home life in Salt Lake City. She boards a bus for the Big Apple to pursue her dreams of a Broadway career. For a night to remember, join us at the Takoma Park Community Center on Friday or Saturday, February 4 and 5, at 8 p.m. or for the Sunday matinee performance on February 6 at 2 p.m. This is a free event, though donations, which will be shared among the actors, are welcome.

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Please join us on Thursday, February 17 to hear the original work of poets Yvette Neisser Moreno, Samantha Magrath and Kimberley Becker. The reading begins at 7:30 p.m. and will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium.

"We Are Takoma" Concert - The Ethnic Heritage Ensemble

This month's musical offering is The Ethnic Heritage Ensemble, featuring drummer and percussionist Kahil El' Zabar, saxophonist Ernest Khabeer Dawkins, and trumpeter Corey Wilkes. The concert begins at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, February 23 and will be held in the Auditorium at the Takoma Park Community Center. This is a free event, though donations are welcome.

For information on these and other activities sponsored by the Takoma Park Arts and Humanities Commission, please contact Sara Anne Daines at 301-891-7224, by email at SaraD@takomagov.org or check us out on Facebook http://facebook.com/TakomaParkMD

February Recreation

Kindermusik ABC Music and Me

Ages 4 – 6 years
Develop pre-literacy and language skills through a child's most-loved rituals: music and story time. ABC Music and Me supports early childhood standards and requirements for "high quality programs" as defined by the National Institute for Early Education. Plus, for the older age group, ABC Music and Me aligns with pre-K national and state standards. Each session 4 weeks. Maximum eight, minimum four. Price includes home materials.

Rose Room, TP Community Center
Tuesdays 4 – 4:45 p.m.
Feb. 8 – March 1
Theme: "Sounds Abound"
TP resident $70
Non-resident $80

Creative Kids InterAct Story

Ages 5 – 7; 8 – 10
An innovative and dynamic, literature-based drama program introduces students to acting, increases their love of books, encourages literacy and builds vocabulary. Each week, a professional actor/teacher will lead the class in exploring and dramatizing specially selected children's stories based on books, using communication and teamwork that boosts self-esteem. And it's loads of fun! Six weeks. Maximum 15, minimum 10. Instruction provided by InterAct Story staff. Six weeks.

Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Ages 8 – 10
Wednesdays 4:45 – 5:30 p.m.
March 2 – April 6
TP resident $110
Non-resident $130

Video Editing with Final Cut Pro

Advanced
Ages 12 and older
Learn how to use powerful tools within Final Cut Studio to produce broadcast-quality videos. Using Motion, Soundtrack Pro and Compressor, participants will be able to create 3D graphics, compose soundtracks and export videos for any kind of platform such as YouTube, Facebook and HDTV. Six weeks. Instructor John Pitt. Minimum four, maximum eight. Participants must bring his/her own hard drive.

Multi Media Lab, Takoma Park Community Center
Wednesdays 6 – 7:30 p.m.
March 2 – April 6
TP resident $80
Non-resident $100

Basic Puppy Obedience

Puppies six months and younger
The purpose of this class is to socialize your puppy and begin training in basic obedience commands. You will learn how to teach your dog commands such as sit, down, come, stay and stand. Learn loose leash walking and husbandry. And don't forget about teaching your dog a trick or two. Problem behaviors such as nipping, barking and jumping will be addressed. Must have proof of rabies vaccine. Six weeks. Minimum five, maximum 12.

Heffner Community Center
Tuesdays, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 22 – March 29
TP resident $85
Non-resident $105

Rosie Silvers learned how to properly fit a bike helmet, bike safety tips and how to adjust her bike at the Bike Rodeo held during the Afternoon Addition at the Community Center. This was a partnership between the Recreation Department and Safe Roads to School.

Photo by Carey Antoszewski

Basic Dog Obedience

Dogs six months and older
Teach your dog basic obedience and expand on any commands they already know. We will cover problem behaviors such as nipping, barking, jumping, lunging and digging. Learn loose leash walking and heel. Learn techniques to increase the length of time your dog can perform sit/stay, down/stay and increase the distance for come. Other items covered are distance stop, directional commands and tricks. Must have proof of rabies vaccine. This class is not appropriate for aggressive dogs. Six weeks. Minimum five, maximum 12.

Tuesdays, 8 – 9 p.m.
Feb. 22 – March 29
TP resident $85
Non-resident $105

Yoga for Beginners

Ages 18 and older
Come discover how to work with your body in a safe, gentle, non-competitive way which promotes increased flexibility, strength, balance and awareness. Develop the foundation of standing poses and basic actions in forward bends, back bends and twists. Each pose can be modified to accommodate all physical conditions. Ten weeks. Instructor Carolyn Bluemle. Maximum 15, minimum five.

Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Tuesdays, 6 - 7:15 p.m.
Feb. 8 – April 12
TP resident $125
Non-resident $145

Yoga and Meditation, Intermediate

Ages 18 and older
Iyengar yoga teaches stability and openness through alignment so that the flow of energy and the focus of the mind are found in each pose. This class will include inversions and more advanced poses and an understanding of basic alignment. The practice of postures in yoga is traditionally a preparation for mediation. Some time for seated meditation will be included at the end of class. Instructor Carolyn Bluemle. Maximum 15, minimum five.

Dance Studio, TP Community Center
Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9 p.m.
Feb. 8 – April 12
TP resident $125
Non-resident $145

Body Sculpting/Pilates

Ages 16 and older
A combination of precision body toning, stretching and core strengthening that will assist you in reaching your goal in obtaining flat abs, toned arms, loss of inches and a leaner body. The ultimate mind-body exercise for anyone who wants to tone, streamline and realign. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Students

RECREATION continues on page 7

Silver Foxes For Active Adults Over 55

Special Bingo

Come try your luck. Win a prize. Drop-in. No registration required.

Senior Room, TP Community Center
Thursday, Feb. 24
12 – 2 p.m.
No cost.

Silver Foxes Senior Advisory Group

Would you like to help set goals and implement programs for your senior recreation program? We are looking for dedicated senior volunteers from the community to join our advisory group. Come to an open forum and get involved! Drop-in. Dates and time are subject to change. Check the Silver Foxes Newsletter for updates.

Senior Room, TP Community Center
Fri. 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Feb. 11
1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
No cost.

Open Art Studio

Expand your art skills or learn new techniques in our open art studio with instructor Alice Sims. You can draw, paint or work with clay. Be creative in a relaxed atmosphere and have fun. Registration is required to participate in this class. Please call 301-891-7280 to register.

Art Studio, TP Community Center
Monday, Feb. 14
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
No cost.

RECREATION

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are required to bring their own mat and hand weights. Maximum 25, minimum five. Instructor Denise Hines. Four week sessions.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Wednesdays, 6 – 7 p.m.
Feb. 16 – March 9
$50

Zumba

Ages 16 and older
Fuse hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a kind fitness program that will blow you away. Zumba helps you achieve long-term benefits while experiencing an absolute blast in one hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing movement. The routines feature interval training sessions where fast and slow rhythms and resistance training are combined to tone and sculpt your body while burning fat. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Instructor Edurama. Four weeks.

Takoma Park Recreation Center
7315 New Hampshire Avenue
Wednesdays, 5:55 – 6:55 p.m.
Sat. 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Feb. 9 – March 5
$40

Encaustic Collage

Ages 18 and older
Encaustic collage is a collage medium that uses bees wax as an adhesive, and allows for layering papers and lightweight found materials with oil and encaustic paint. Class covers the collage layering process, using translucent and opaque papers, and sculptural effects, using wax, stencils, stamps and incising. All materials will be provided for the $35 materials fee, including all substrates. A list of optional collage materials to bring will be sent out after registration.

Art Room, TP Community Center
Saturday and Sunday, 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Feb. 26 and 27
TP resident $215
Non-resident $245

Piney Branch Pool Open For Fun

The Piney Branch Pool has updated hours and offers classes for everybody! Classes offered include water aerobics, a canoe club, deep and shallow water classes as well as early bird and drop-in swimming.

The Piney Branch Pool is located in Piney Branch Elementary at 7510 Maple Avenue right here in Takoma Park.

Please visit the Piney Branch Pool's website (http://www.acsgw.org/pool.htm) for more details.

Cartoon and Manga

Ages 9 – 12
Using a sketch pad and your imagination, create whimsical pictures like Manga and cartoons. Learn to draw the most famous mouse in the world. Create your own super heroes. Work on developing the whole story from beginning to end by visually depicting time and using a sequence of events. Draw animals and lots of cartoon characters. Explore art secrets and much more. Six weeks. Instructor Rain Young. Maximum 12, minimum six.

Art Room, TP Community Center
Thursdays, 3:45 – 5 p.m.
March 3 – April 14
TP resident $100
Non-resident $120

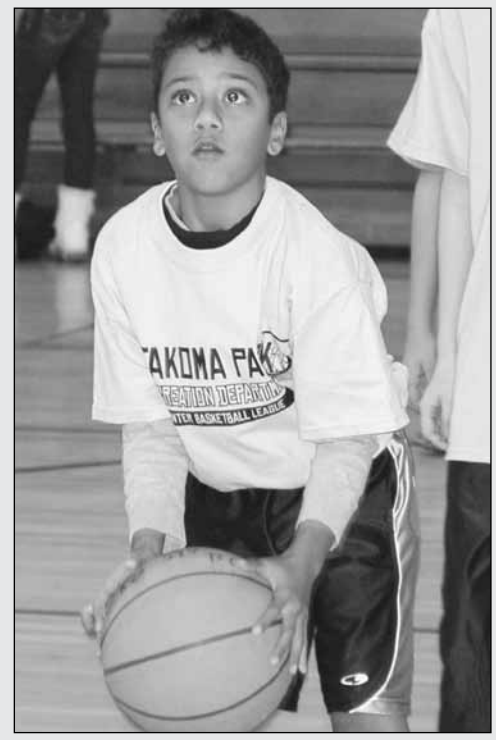
Not Your Grandma's Threads

Ages 8 – 12
Want to jazz up your jeans? Spruce up your shirt? Beef up your backpack? Learn the art of embroidery embellishment. From six basic stitches, create a sampler of your work and pick from dozens of patterns to embellish the personal item of your choice. Plus, you will have learned a new skill that you can use again and again to create home-made treasures to keep or share. Eight weeks. Maximum eight, minimum four. Instructor Karen Krueger.

Lilac Room, TP Community Center
Mon. and Wed., 3:45 – 4:45 p.m.
Feb. 2 – March 23
TP resident $40
Non-resident $45

Camille Francis looks like a pro DJ as she attended the open house for the new media lab in the Community Center.

Photo by Carey Antoszewski



DRIBBLE AND SHOOT

Concentration is key to making a free throw during the Recreation Department's Winter Basketball League's Saturday game at the Piney Branch Elementary School.

Photo by Debra Haiduven

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

continued from page 1

daleno (D, Montgomery County) and the other to legalize civil unions in the state by Sen. Alan Kittleman (R, Howard County). The City of Takoma Park has long supported the legalization of same-gender civil marriage in Maryland.

Takoma Park has submitted one local bill for consideration by the Montgomery Delegation (the senators and delegates that represent districts in Montgomery County): Bill MC 6-11 would allow certain restaurants in Takoma Park to also sell beer and wine to go. If supported by the Montgomery Delegation, the General Assembly is almost sure to pass the legislation, out of local courtesy.

During the course of the Session, several thousand bills will be introduced and debated on topics such as the environment, immigrants, landlord/tenant responsibilities, economic development, transportation, and health and social services. The City of Takoma Park will express its positions on many of them, based on resolutions passed by the City Council over the years. Councilmembers will go to Annapolis to testify on key items.

Day-to-day lobbying is done by Michele Douglass of Public Policy Partners, with local assistance by Suzanne Ludlow, the Deputy City Manager. This joint approach is the same one that has been used for the past three years, as Takoma Park has helped influence state legislators on issues of relevance to the City and its residents.

Budget Challenges

Now to the budget: the 2011 Maryland General Assembly Session will be heavily dominated by budget issues again this year. With a state budget deficit more than $1.6 billion, and the need to close an even larger structural deficit resulting from the recent national economic recession, significant reductions in state programs will continue to occur.

A state hiring freeze remains in place, state agencies are understaffed, and programs serving vulnerable Marylanders have been significantly reduced during the previous two years, even as there has been an increase in demand due to the economic climate.

It is expected that all state programs and services will suffer even deeper cuts. Current discussions include consideration of collapsing some state departments within others. Cuts are expected in safety net programs that had been spared in the past, such as Medicaid and K-12 public school education funding. Budget issues affecting counties will be important topics of budget negotiations, especially the state funding of county teacher pensions and maintenance of effort requirements for K-12 public education funding, which requires a county to spend at least the same as in previous years.

An increase in the state gasoline tax will be one source of additional revenue the Maryland General Assembly is likely to consider. This increase could help restore the state's Transportation Fund, the source of highway user funding for Takoma Park and other municipalities, counties and the state to repair, maintain and build roads. Stimulus funding helped the State and counties do road projects over the past two years, but these funds may not be available in the coming year.

Municipal road maintenance budgets were harder hit than those of the State or counties since municipalities had little access to stimulus funds for transportation, to make up for the 90 percent cut in highway user revenue. Despite the grim budget picture, there is an understanding in the Governor's office that municipalities will need some assistance to pay for basic road maintenance. The General Assembly changed highway user revenue formulas last year to help address municipal need, although the financial benefits will be phased in.

The other potential tax increase under serious consideration is an increase in the state's alcohol tax by 10 cents a drink in restaurants and bars to provide a dedicated revenue stream for alcohol and substance abuse programs, community mental health programs, community developmental disability programs and the expansion of health care for lower wage earners.

Regular discussions about pending legislation will occur in City Council meetings into April. For information on the City's positions on legislation or activities in Annapolis, please contact Suzanne Ludlow at SuzanneL@takomagov.org or 301-891-7229.

Takoma Park Library CALENDAR

Community Circle Time

Every Tuesday
Two times: 10 a.m. OR 11 a.m.

Spanish Circle Time

Every Thursday
10:30 a.m. with Señora Geiza
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Bedtime Stories

Monday, Feb.7, 7 p.m.
Come in p.js, bring your teddy or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs in this half-hour program.
Perfect for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their grown-ups.

French Circle Time

Saturday, Feb. 12
10:30 a.m. with Madame Marie
Registration strongly encouraged
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Make Your Own Valentines

Saturday, Feb. 12
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.
Registration required; best for ages 3 up.

Friends of the Library Board Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 15, 7:45 p.m.

Resume Workshop

Thursday, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. (see article at right).

French Circle Time

Saturday, Feb. 26
10:30 a.m. with Madame Marie
Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program

Junior Banned Books Club

Monday, Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m.
For kids in third, fourth and fifth grade
Our book is "The Castle in the Attic" by Elizabeth Winthrop. A limited number of copies are available for check-out at the main desk, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.
Registration is required.

Banned Books Club

Monday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.
For kids in middle school and high school.
Our book is "Lady Chatterley's Lover" by D.H. Lawrence. A limited number of copies are available for check-out at the main desk, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library.
Registration required.

Book Awards Offer Treasury of Medal-Winning Choices for Kids

By Karen MacPherson

The Caldecott and Newbery medals may be the stars of children's book awards, but they're just two of the many accolades presented each year to authors and illustrators who write for children and teens. Other awards, which — like the Caldecott and Newbery — are administered by the American Library Association, recognize the best children's books in a variety of categories.

The 2011 award winners were announced recently by the ALA at its midwinter conference and, as usual, the Caldecott and Newbery winners stole the show.

This year, the Caldecott Medal was awarded to Erin Stead for her illustrations in "A Sick Day for Amos McGee." Written by Stead's husband, Philip Stead, this delightful picture book tells how some zoo animals head out into the city to bring comfort to their beloved zookeeper when he stays home with a cold.

The Newbery Medal was given to Clare Vanderpool, author of "Moon Over Manifest" (ages 9-12), an intriguing Depression-era mystery about a girl trying to uncover her father's past.

Here's a look at some of the other winners:

"Kakapo Rescue" (ages 10-14) won the Robert D. Sibert Medal, which is awarded annually to the best "informational," or non-fiction, book for children. Written by Sy Montgomery, with photographs by Nic Bishop, the book details the intensive efforts to save the "world's strangest parrot" from extinction.

Two Sibert Honor books were named: **"Ballet for Martha: Making Appalachian Spring"** (ages 7-12), written by Jan Greenberg and Sandra Jordan, and illustrated by Brian Floca, and **"Lafayette and the American Revolution"** (ages 10-14), written by Newbery Medalist Russell Freedman.

"Bink & Gollie" (ages 5-8) won the Theodor Seuss Geisel Award for the best beginning reader. In three stories, all comically illustrated by Tony Fucile, Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo and Alison McGhee explore the ups and downs of friendship between two disparate characters, whose love bonds them together despite their differences.

Two Geisel Honor books were named: **"Ling & Ting: Not Exactly the Same!"** (ages 5-8), written and illustrated by Grace Lin, and **"We Are in a Book!"** (ages 4-7), written and illustrated by Mo Willems.

"Ship Breaker" (ages 12 up) won the Michael L. Printz Award for the best teen novel. Written by Paolo Bacigalupi, this gripping dystopian novel about the ravages of climate change focuses on a young man named Nailer who rescues a shipping heiress and then

AWARD WINNERS
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LIBRARY *Briefs*

Make Your Valentine

Kids: don't buy valentines – make your own! On Saturday, Feb. 12, from 1 – 3 p.m., we'll have all the materials you need to make some wonderful valentines for friends and family. Just bring your creativity. Registration is required to ensure that we have enough materials for everyone. To register, go to: www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259. Thanks to the Friends of the Library for sponsoring this program.

Resume Workshop Navigates Post-Job Economy

Resume building workshops with local expert Gabe Heilig return this month with a new format. Two classes will be offered: one targeting private sector resumes and strategies, the other for the federal job market.

Each class will meet twice. First sessions will discuss how to approach the market in today's "post-job economy," and second sessions will involve working with individual resumes. The few weeks between class sessions enable participants to begin composing their "proactive" resumes. In order to accommodate individual coaching, classes are limited to 12 people.

Classes will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursdays, February 24 and March 10, for private sector resumes, and Thursdays, March 24 and April 7, for public sector resumes. Participants would attend both dates for each category.

Pre-registration is required for these free workshops. You can register on-line at www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or by calling the Library at 301-891-7259.

Mark Twain Abides

Last year marked the 175th anniversary of Samuel Langhorne Clemens' birth, the 100th anniversary of his death, and the 125th anniversary of what may be his most celebrated and controversial work, "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," written under the pseudonym, Mark Twain. The first volume of his lengthy and long-awaited autobiography was published and enjoyed record sales during the winter holidays.

Recently a new edition of "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," edited by Alan Gribben, an English professor at Auburn

LIBRARY BRIEFS
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AWARD WINNERS

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sets off with her to find her family.

Four Printz Honor books were named: **"Stolen"** (ages 14 up), by Lucy Christopher; **"Please Ignore Vera Dietz"** (ages 14 up), by A.S. King; **"Revolver"** (ages 12 up), by Marcus Sedgwick; and **"Nothing"** (ages 12 up), by Janne Teller.

"One Crazy Summer" (ages 8-12), won the Coretta Scott King Author Book Award for the best book by an African-American. In this historical novel, which also was named a Newbery Honor, author Rita Williams-Garcia tells the story of three girls who travel to Oakland, Calif., in the summer of 1968 to visit their estranged mother, a member of the Black Panthers.

Three King Author Honor Books were named: **"Lockdown"** (ages 14 up) by Walter Dean Myers; **"Ninth Ward"** (ages 10-14) by Jewell Park Rhodes; and **"Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty"** (ages 12 up) by Greg Neri.

"Dave the Potter: Artist, Poet, Slave" (ages 5-10) won the Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award for the best illustrations by an African-American. Illustrator Bryan Collier teams with author Laban Carrick Hill to depict the life of a slave who wrote short poems on a number of his beautifully-designed pots. The book also won Caldecott honor.

One King Illustrator Honor book was named: **"Jimi Sounds Like a Rainbow: A Story of the Young Jimi Hendrix"** (ages 10-14), illustrated by Javaka Steptoe and written by Gary Golio.

"The Dreamer" (ages 10-14) won the Pura Belpre Author Award honoring a Latino writer. In this novel, author Pam Munoz Ryan joins with artist Peter Sis to create a lyrical look at the boyhood of poet Pablo Neruda.

Three Belpre Author Honor books were selected: **"Ole Flamenco"** (ages 7-10), written and photographed by George Ancona; **"The Firefly Letters: A Suffragette's Journey to Cuba"** (ages 12 up), by Margarita Engle; and **"90 Miles to Havana"** (ages 8-12), by Enrique Flores-Galbis.

"Grandma's Gift" (ages 5-8), won the Pura Belpre Illustrator Award honoring a Latino illustrator. In this book, author/illustrator Eric Velasquez remembers special times with his grandmother in Spanish Harlem.

Three Belpre Illustrator Honor books were selected: **"Fiesta Babies"** (ages 1-4), illustrated by Amy Cordova and written by Carmen Tafolla; **"Me, Frida"** (ages 8-12), illustrated by Caldecott Medalist David Diaz and written by Amy Novesky; and **"Dear Primo: A Letter to My Cousin"** (ages 5-8), written and illustrated by Duncan Tonatiuh.

"Almost Perfect" (ages 12 up) is the winner of the Stonewall Children's and Young Adult Literature Award, given annually to the best books relating to the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered experience. Written by Brian Katcher, the book tells the story of Logan, a high school senior, who is shocked to learn that Sage, a cute girl at his school, was actually born male and is in the process of becoming female.

Four Stonewall Honor books were selected: **"Will Grayson, Will Grayson"** (ages 14 up) by John Green and David Levithan; **"Love Drugged"** (ages 12 up) by James Klise; **"Freaks and Revelations"** (ages 14 up) by Davida Willis Hurwin; and **"The Boy in the Dress"** (ages 12 up) by David Walliams.

Three books were selected for the Schneider Family Book Award, given to books that "embody an artistic expression of the disability experience." **"The Pirate of Kindergarten"** (ages 4-8), written by George Ella Lyon and illustrated by Lynn Avril, was chosen for readers under age 10. This book tells the story of a girl struggling with double vision. **"After Ever After"** (age 10-14), written by Jordan Sonnenblick, was chosen for Schneider Award for a book aimed at ages 11-13. In the book, Sonnenblick shows how eight-grader Jeffrey Alper deals with life after cancer. **"Five Flavors of Dumb"** (ages 14 up), written by Antony John, won in the teen category. The book revolves around high school senior Piper and her decision to become the manager of a popular student rock band, despite the fact that she is profoundly hearing-impaired.

LIBRARY BRIEFS

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University, has reignited heated and continuing controversy because it will replace the "n" word (which occurs 219 times in the book) with "slave." It also substitutes "Indian" for "Injun." In an introduction to the new edition, the editor writes: "…even at the level of college and graduate school, students are capable of resenting textual encounters with this racial appellative."

However, Jim Nelson, author of "Volunteer Slavery: My Authentic Negro Experience," writes: "There are vast differences between calling a character "nigger" and calling them "slave." They are not interchangeable. Writers choose their words thoughtfully. Our words create, color, layer and texture and contextualize the stories we tell. The notion that one can change one of those carefully chosen words – much less 219 of them – to suit their perception of contemporary mores and eliminate the possibility of hurt sensibilities is an abdication of a teacher's responsibility to illuminate and guide students through an unfamiliar and perhaps difficult text." (New York Times 01/05/2011).

On March 16, the Friends Reading Group will discuss "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," and participants will have a chance to air their views on the many aspects of this complex and beloved novel. All are invited to join the discussion, which will be held in the Community Center at 7:30 p.m.

"What ought to be done to the man who invented the celebrating of anniversaries? Mere killing would be too light. Anniversaries are very well up to a certain point."

--Mark Twain

WALGREENS

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grancy and crime, Walgreens last month proposed that the City transfer ownership of four alleyways behind and around the new building to Walgreens. The company would then be able to police and maintain the alleys itself.

The alleys are City "right of way," but, as City planner Sara Daines describes them, "they don't go anywhere," and are largely a place for people to loiter. They are poorly maintained.

Walgreens has proposed that the City exchange the alleys for another alley that currently belongs to Walgreens; it runs between University Boulevard and Holton Lane, and is about 70 feet long. The other alleyways total about three times that distance. Nevertheless, "Walgreens believes this is a good deal for the city," said Attorney Bob Harris, representing Walgreens at the City Council meeting Jan. 24. "Walgreens would improve the conditions of those alleys and it would be on their nickel, not on the city's nickel." No payment for the alleyways has been offered.

Unless it rejects the proposal outright, City Council is required to refer the proposal to the county planning board for consideration—a process called "mandatory referral." After it hears the county's advice, Council can make a decision on whether or not it will accept the proposal.

After some discussion weighing the prospects of tax revenue generated by a revitalized area around the new store, the pros and cons of maintenance for a road that might be heavily used by Walgreens delivery trucks, and the possibility of police input on the decision (since crime has been an issue in the alleyways under discussion), Council voted unanimously for mandatory referral to the county.

Planning for the Future

Although City planners and City Council have no specific influence over the Walgreens project—the nature of the project keeps it under county planning board jurisdiction— they continue to keep a close watch on Takoma-Langley Crossroads as they anticipate revitalization of the area. Planners have participated in Sector Plan meetings, among other things, helping shape an overall plan for the area that is expected to be finalized over the next year or so.

The NewAve marketing/community-building campaign (see theNewAve.com) is another tool Takoma Park has used to shape interest and development in the area. The web site lists not only shops and restaurants of interest to residents, but also includes information helpful to developers who may be considering the area for their next project. New Ave funding has helped improve the appearance of storefronts and landscaping in the area as well.

LEAF BLOWER BAN

continued from page 1

to address. This role modeling idea goes so far, after that it becomes pretentious and showy."

Councilmember Josh Wright (Ward 1) called the new blower ban a "good first step" in a process he says may lead to the temporary ban on blower use by residents that he favors. Such a ban would apply only during non-leaf season; blowers would be allowed in autumn. Wright anticipates the Public Works ban might even lead to a "future permanent ban."

Schultz disagreed with any ban. Influenced in large part by budget constraints, he questioned any measure that will cost the city money. Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite estimates the additional cost for labor hours required to remove leaves manually will amount to $3,000 to $5,000 each year. She also said other tasks could be delayed because of the time it will take to rake. Lawn mowing, for example, might be done every three to three and a half weeks, instead of the current two weeks. "It will take us longer to do what we do if we're using manual methods," she told the Council.

"My constituents aren't going to support it," said Schultz. "This is going to cost us money." Schultz said the Council has considered a number of expenses over the last year and made decisions to spend in some cases—but, he said, "If we keep doing that this coming budget year, it's just going to be that much harder to balance our budget. Do we let off more employees, do we reduce our services, or do we raise property tax?"

Beyond the Ban

Other leaf blower possibilities considered by Council included more efficient, less noisy leaf blowers. Electric blowers emit less environmentally harmful carbon, but if Public Works employees were to use them, they would require portable generators and hundreds of feet of extension cords in the parks. Battery powered models have not yet been developed with strong enough blowing power. Four-stroke engines (as opposed to the more common two-stroke blowers currently in use) are another alternative, as they burn cleaner.

Council also discussed the possibility of a partial, seasonal ban for blowers used by residents. In this scenario, leaf blowers would be banned during the summer, spring and winter, when leaves are less evident. They would be allowed in fall.

EMERGENCY?

If you see a crime in progress and need to contact the Takoma Park Police,

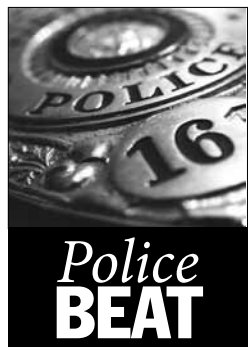
CALL 301-270-1100.

If you need to report an emergency that involves the need for fire or rescue services, you must

CALL 9-1-1.

Three New Police Officers Join Takoma Park Force

By Cathy Plevy



Takoma Park Police Chief Ronald A. Ricucci, Mayor Bruce Williams and City Manager Barbara Matthews welcomed three new officers to the Takoma Park Police Department in a swearing-in ceremony held on Monday, Jan. 10. The men bring the total number of officers to 42.

Afuw Muhammad, Peter Marable and Thomas Sims graduated from the Montgomery County Police Training Academy, Session 55, just four days before, on Jan. 6. The Academy, which runs a demanding six-month program to prepare officers for the field, recognized each of the graduates with awards for excellence.

Muhammad was recognized for his academic success in patrol operations; Marable was recognized for his academic success in traffic investigative techniques; and Sims received the prestigious Captain James E. Daly, Jr. award, presented by Daly's wife. This award is of particular significance to Chief Ricucci, as Daly, then a Sergeant, was his supervising officer when he attended the Academy himself, during Session 2 in 1969.

On March 26, 1976, Daly and Corporal John M. Frontczak made the ultimate sacrifice in giving their lives while attempting to apprehend an armed subject wanted for a bank robbery. To honor his memory, the Captain James E. Daly, Jr. Award was established.

This prestigious award is given by the Academy staff to the recruit who best exemplifies the ideals of guidance, knowledge, courage, skill and dedication to public service for which Captain Daly so proudly stood.

Also recognized at the swearing in ceremony was Takoma Park Police Corporal Paula Gaskin, who recently became certified as an instructor for the Academy. Gaskin was recognized by Captain Nancy Demme, Director of the Training and Education Division, for her exceptional dedication and contribution to the success of the graduating officers.

Afuw Muhammad, 27, graduated from Friendly High School in Ft. Washington, Maryland. He has taken courses at the University of the District of Columbia in computer science and was formerly a security officer for the Marriott Corporation Special Police.

Peter Marable, 23, graduated from East Carolina University in North Carolina with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. He was formerly a Montgomery County District Court Commissioner.

Thomas Sims, 45, graduated from Park University in Missouri with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration in law enforcement. He retired from the Air Force in March 2009.

All three graduates will now complete their three-month field training program with veteran officers of the department.

Newly sworn in Takoma Park Police officers, from left, Peter Marable, Afuw Muhammad and Thomas Sims, with Police Chief Ronald Ricucci, third from left.

Photo by D/Sgt. Tina Smith

Keeping Pets Safe in the Cold

Cold weather can be treacherous for pets, and in unexpected ways. Here are some things to keep in mind as you care for pets during the winter months.

Space heaters

Be careful where you place these: make sure your cat isn't tempted — or able — to jump on the heater, your cat or dog can't brush up against it, or that the temperature doesn't get too hot. Coming into contact with the heater could cause serious burns. And, of course, don't let them chew on the cords.

Temperatures below 45 degrees

That's the point at which your pet is in danger, if it is out for extended periods of time. Below freezing calls for even more caution. Your pet's feet, ears, nose and tail could get frostbitten, and signs might not show up for a couple of days. If the areas are severely affected, the tissue changes to blue-black and starts to die, and your pet will get severe infections. You may see limping or pain and licking at the area. Hypothermia is also a risk. Symptoms include weakness, shivering and lack of mental alertness.

Leaving pets alone outside, in the car or in the garage

Leaving pets by themselves, even in a vehicle, is strongly discouraged, especially if they're not used to cold temperatures. If pets do need to be left alone in cooler temperatures, limit it to 20 minutes And remember, outdoor cats like to sleep under cars, so take caution before starting your engine: hit the hood of the car before you start it. The ASPCA also advises against leaving outdoor cats outside all winter long, as doing so increases their risk of freezing, theft, injury and death.

Salty sidewalks and driveways

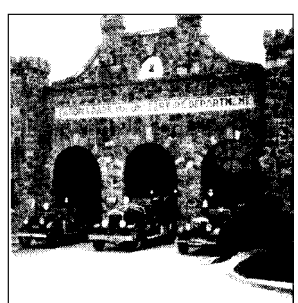
It's not toxic, but salt on the ground can irritate your pet's paws. Particularly sensitive animals might limp after exposure. Dress feet in booties or consider buying pet-safe ice melters. The ASPCA recommends massaging petroleum jelly into your pet's foot pads before going outside and toweling off the feet and applying moisturizer once

everyone's back inside.

Antifreeze

It is estimated that 90,000 animals die each year from antifreeze poisoning. As little as a half teaspoon can be toxic to a cat and just a quarter cup can kill a medium-sized dog. The ethylene glycol in antifreeze is sweet-tasting and appealing to cats and dogs. Do not leave antifreeze unattended or allow it to spill onto the garage floor or into the street. Consider using nontoxic antifreeze with a bittering

PET SAFETY continues on page 11



By Jim Jarboe

Totals for 2010 were 793 fire-related incidents and 3,123 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a grand total of 3,916. Totals for 2009 were 765 and 2,949 incidents, for a grand of 3,714. That is an increase of 202 incidents.

Cooking Cautions

Remember - Cooking is still the number one cause of home fires. Smoking material is the number one cause of home fires involving injuries or death. You must be prepared! Have a working smoke alarm on each level of the home, especially outside the sleeping areas. Check them monthly. Also have an escape plan for you and your family. Plan and practice. Know two ways out of every room, especially the bedrooms.

Fire Engines Vs. Ambulance

Have you ever wondered why a fire engine came to your house when you called only for an ambulance?

Due to the number of ambulance calls and the number of ambulances available in Montgomery County, an ambulance may not always be immediately available. When this happens, the Emergency Communication Center will dispatch the closest emergency unit to the location of the reported emergency. It may be an engine, ladder truck or squad. And, at the same time, the nearest available ambulance will also be dispatched.

First aid and oxygen equipment are carried on all the units. In addition, all of the personnel riding the unit will be qualified to perform Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR). Most of the time, all will be certified EMT-A's and still others may be paramedics.

At times, some of the newer members riding may only have CPR. And depending what type of emergency is reported by the 9-1-1 caller, you might see a lot of units on the scene. Don't get alarmed, this is all done because the fire department cares about servicing the area the best way it can.

Takoma Park VFD 2011 Officers Elected

During the recent election of volunteer fire department officers, in December, the following were selected to serve:

President Elmer Hamm
Vice President Richard Willey
Financial Secretary Steve Novik
Treasurer Bruce Allen
Directors
Jorge Alfaro
Michael DeVore
Sherry Novik
Chief Jim Jarboe
Fire Chief Tom Musgrove
Mayor Bruce Williams (City Rep)
Colleen Clay (City Rep)
Recording Secretary Leslie deLeon

Takoma Park VFD Auxiliary 2011 Officers

President Edna Fiske
Vice President Betty Fickes
Treasurer Marion Brown
Secretary Pam Taylor
Sgt-At-Arms Patti Butler
Chaplain Hilda Baker
LOSAP Coordinator Tina Willey

We Are Takoma

In February, City TV will continue covering the We Are Takoma series, this month featuring journalists Clarence Page and Naftali Bendavid discussing "State of the Union: Snapshot of the Body Politic" as part of a Speakers Series (see page 5 for more information). This will take place February 3 at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium.

City TV will also cover the Third Thursday Poetry Series on Thursday, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m. with poets Yvette Neisser Moreno, Samantha Magrath and Kimberly Becker.

Snapshots, the show that features slice-of-life accounts of city activities, has a rich archive full of everything from the Independence Day Parade to Community Policing. The show continues this month with segments on the new Media Center, where kids are putting together their own videos; the Safe-Routes-to-School Bike Rodeo; the dedication of the newly named Belle Ziegler Park; and the Holiday Art Sale.

If you are a non-profit or a community organization, you can advertise your activities on our bulletin board, and also on the City's facebook page and twitter feed. Contact Craigt@takomagov.org or call 301-891-7236. Also, if you would like City TV to cover an event or add specific programming to its line-up, call 301-891-7118 or send an e-mail to cabletv@takomagov.org.

Photo courtesy of Keller Brothers, Inc.

Photo by Virginia Myers

Transforming Public Works

Renovation of the Public Works facility started in August, 2009, and the 12-month project is proceeding on schedule. The first phase involved site work, relocation of the Oswego Avenue parking area, regrading and replacement of the Ritchie Avenue driveway and installation of geothermal wells. Current work includes installation of utility lines and foundation footers in preparation for construction of the new buildings. Most Public Works employees continue to work out of the site on Oswego Avenue, however administrative staff, the arborist and the engineer, have been relocated to the Community Center.

The project has applied for LEED certification and includes many green features such as a geo thermal heating and cooling system, rain water harvesting from the roof surfaces, filtration of stormwater to remove sediment, oils, hydrocarbons and other pollutants, reusing parts of the existing structures, optimized energy performance, low VOC paints and product selection to include recycled contents and locally harvested materials.

PET SAFETY

continued from page 10

agent to discourage pet consumption. If you see your pet drinking any amount of antifreeze, take it to a veterinarian immediately.

Bodies of water

If your dog is a swimmer, keep him on a leash around open water or unstable ice. Hypothermia can set in quickly, and the dog may be unable to get out of the water.

Going off-leash in the snow

Canines often lose their scent in cold weather and can become lost. Dogs also can panic in snow storms and run away. The decreased daylight does not help either. More dogs are reported lost during the winter than any other season, so always keep dogs on a leash when outside a fully fenced yard and make sure your pet always wears proper identification.

Adapted from www.pawnation.com by Mary Kearl*

LETTER *to the Editor*

Solar Proponent Responds to Tree Ordinance

The January newsletter article "Takoma Park reconsiders its tree ordinance" failed to mention any of the benefits of solar energy. We are the homeowners who removed one aging, hollow tree in order to install solar panels. Like many residents, we are gravely concerned about climate change, and know we must make difficult choices to wean ourselves from fossil fuels.

Pepco's electrical power mix is 54 percent coal, 35 percent nuclear, and 10 percent oil and natural gas — all with high environmental costs. Our solar panels will generate about 5.7 megawatt hours of electricity annually, preventing the release of nearly 7,000 pounds of carbon dioxide. It would have taken our tree — which was nearing the end of its life — 150 years to sequester the carbon that our panels will offset each year. Solar energy also keeps the pollutants that cause acid rain, ground level ozone and smog out of our local air. Urban trees filter air pollutants, but overall they only reduce pollution by about 1 percent. The maxim "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" holds true for pollution as well.

Tree protection is an emotional issue and trees have immeasurable aesthetic value. However, when we look to our neighbors further west, we see the disastrous environmental and social consequences of our dependence on coal—mountain tops removed, forests leveled, rivers polluted, lives lost. Why are the trees in a wealthy suburban city worthy of more protection than the forests, mountains and rivers in the poor, coal-producing regions of West Virginia? And can we truly call ourselves a nuclear-free zone when more than a third of our electricity is nuclear?

Takoma Park is usually very progressive, but with renewable energy we lag behind the Federal, State and County governments, which all offer solar incentives. We should amend the tree code to credit homeowners who remove one or two trees to create high quality solar sites. The city should also spur the development of solar cooperatives that locate panels on shade-free public buildings. And we challenge everyone to sign up for 100 percent wind energy through Clean Currents, promoting wind power in other areas of the country. It will even save you money. Mention "Takoma Park" and they will donate $10 to an environmental project in our City.

Sincerely,
Patrick and Shannon Earle

Snow Shovels Required: City Law Governs Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal

By Clifton Bouma

While it is unlikely that another 20-inch snow storm is in our future this winter, we do need to remember that, regardless of the amount of snow that may fall, Takoma Park law requires us to keep the public sidewalks free of snow and ice. These regulations are in place to ensure the safety of all pedestrians in our community.

In the event of snow, residents are required to clear any public sidewalk adjoining their property of snow for the "full paved width of the sidewalk" by 7 p.m. on the day of the snowfall, or by the end of four hours of daylight after the snowfall, whichever is later.

Shoveling the sidewalk to your front door is not required by code, but your mail carrier, your family and friends will appreciate the effort. Consider offering to help the neighbor down the block who may be less able to shovel their own sidewalk.

Commercial property owners are required to keep the public sidewalk free of ice and snow (and out of the street) between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. In the event that the snow is frozen so hard that it cannot be removed without damaging the sidewalk, sand, sawdust or other appropriate material must be applied to the sidewalk so that it is safe to walk on.

Failure to abide by these rules is a Class C offense and could result in a $200 fine.

Be a good neighbor! Keep your sidewalk free of ice and snow.

TAKOMA PARK CALENDAR

February 2011

Do you have an item for the City calendar? Let us know if you have a non-profit event that would be of interest to most City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar. Deadline for the March issue is Feb. 14. To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomagov.org.

GENERAL CITY EVENTS

Presidents Day Holiday

Feb. 21
Community Center and City offices closed
No yard waste pick-up

Employee Recognition Day

Feb. 9, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Community Center and City offices closed
Police Department remains open

PUBLIC MEETINGS

City Council Meeting

Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

Public Hearing on Flower Avenue Annexation

Feb. 7, 7:30 pm
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
See page 2 for more information
clerk@takomagov.org

City Council Meeting

Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

City Council Meeting and Ward 4 Night

Feb. 22, 7 and 7:30 p.m.
Reception, 7 - 7:30 p.m.; Meeting 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

City Council Meeting

Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
See takomaparkmd.gov for agenda

ARTS AND LITERATURE

IMT Concert - Eric Brace and Peter Cooper, with Mike Auldridge

Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
$15 advance, $20 door
www.imtfolk.org

State of the Union: Snapshot of the Body Politic Speaker Series

Clarence Page, Chicago Tribune and Naftali Bendavid, Wall Street Journal
Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
FREE EVENT
301-891-7224, SaraD@takomagov.org

"Four in February" art exhibit

Jan Stovall, Ruth Pettus, Ted Shroll and Corwin Levi
Opening Reception Feb. 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
The Galleries at the Takoma Park Community Center
FREE EVENT
301-891-7224, SaraD@takomagov.org

"Love at Last Sight" Musical Comedy

Feb. 4 and 5, 8 p.m.
Feb. 6, 2 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
FREE – Donations Welcome
301-891-7224, SaraD@takomagov.org

Drum for Joy

Feb. 12, 2 – 4 p.m.
The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll St.
Featuring Jaqui MacMillan and The Drum For Joy Orchestra.

IMT Concert - Tripping Lily

Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
$15 advance, $20 door
www.imtfolk.org

Third Thursday poetry reading

Poets Yvette Neisser, Samantha Magrath and Kimberely Becker
Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
FREE EVENT
301-891-7224, SaraD@takomagov.org

The Ethnic Heritage Ensemble Concert

Feb. 23, 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
FREE – Donations Welcome
301-891-7224, SaraD@takomagov.org

Art for the People Exhibit

Ongoing through March
Mark's Kitchen, 7006 Carroll Ave.
Work from Community Vision Day Shelter for the Homeless

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

Annual Father-Daughter Dance

Feb. 5, 7 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Presbyterian Church. 310 Tulip Ave.
$12/couple plus $4 for each additional girl
Sponsored by Girl Scout Troop 2986
301-891-2192 or loeb90@comcast.net

The Washington Humane Society Dog and Cat Adoption Event

Feb. 16, 6 – 8 p.m.
The Big Bad Woof
(corner of Carroll and Maple St. NW)
Visit with dogs and cats available for adoption

SENIORS

Field Trip: DEA Visitor Center/Fashion Centre Mall at Pentagon City

Feb. 15, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Meet at Takoma Park Community Center
A dual field trip to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Museum and Visitor's Center and Pentagon City Mall.
Bus pick up at Franklin and Mapleview Apartments and Victory Tower.
Register by Feb. 11
301-891-7280