February 2013

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 52, No. 2 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

WHAT'S NEW?

President's Day
Feb. 18
City offices closed
No yard waste collection

New K-9 Bus
See page 11

Children from Piney Branch Elementary School took turns reading from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s I Have a Dream *speech during the Jan. 12 celebration marking King's birthday. The day also included a volunteer clean-up of Takoma Woods, creating a banner-sized message to President Obama, a documentary about King and local civil rights leader Lee Jordan, music from the Labor Choir, visits from local leaders and former members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and a community potluck. The event was sponsored by Takoma United for an Engaged Community, with support from the Takoma Foundation, CHEER and the Takoma Park Recreation Department.*

Photo by Selena Malott

New TV feature showcases Takoma Park faces

It all started when the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium reopened, with new sound equipment and ambitious programming. The We Are Takoma Series invited musicians, dancers, filmmakers and other artists to perform and highlight their arts in front of the community. The auditorium became a meeting ground; the series an open-door, welcoming, free-for-all performance market place. And City TV was typically at every performance, recording the action.

The station also saw the potential to expand offerings beyond the performing arts. Now, it is inviting organizations, individuals, City departments and committees to communicate their work to the rest of the City and county through a new program, also called We Are Takoma. The

TP ON TV ☐ Page 9

Black's to open eatery in Takoma Park

By Virginia Myers

It's chef-driven. It's local. And it's coming to Takoma Park.

Local foodies are all abuzz with the news that Black's Restaurant Group is opening a new eatery in Old Town Takoma. The restaurant will take over 6937-6939 Laurel Ave., the space where Video Americain and Summer Delights operated; Video Americain has closed, and Summer Delights, which closed at the end of January, anticipates returning in another location, at a future date.

The Bethesda-based Black's, which includes the well-regarded BlackSalt and Pearl Dive Oyster Palace in D.C., Black's Bar and Grill in Bethesda and Addie's and Black Market Bistro in Rockville and Garrett Park, is a local chain but each restaurant is distinctive. The developing plan for the one in Takoma Park features 80 seats, an oyster bar (Black's has a reputation for fine seafood), two bar areas and, eventually, a patio out back. Owners are hoping to have live entertainment

NEW EATERY COMING ☐ Page 10

Construction resumes at Carroll and Maple

By Roz Grigsby
Housing and Community Development

A tower crane rising from the depths of the muddy excavation site is a sign that work is underway again at Takoma Central, the long-awaited development at the corner of Carroll Street and Maple Avenue on the Takoma Park/Takoma, D.C. line. With the arrival of heavy equipment and a load of steel I-beams, one of the most visible developments in the Takoma area seems to be back on track.

Takoma Central has a new configuration of partners and they say they are determined to see the project through to completion. The original developer, SGA Architects, is joined by Level 2 Development, Federal Capital Partners and Hamel Builders to develop the properties in the 200 block of Carroll Street, NW. They plan to erect a building with 150 rental units and 9,000 square feet of commercial space on the street level. No commercial tenants have yet been announced, but retail and restaurant space are possibilities.

Patty Baker, co-director of the Old Takoma Business Association, is pleased with the progress. "OTBA is looking forward to welcoming many new residents and additional businesses," she says. "Takoma Central will be a major addition to the vibrancy of Old Takoma."

The project, in the works since 2004, has experienced numerous reconfigurations and setbacks, including the discovery of buried gas tanks that had to be excavated, the associated environmental cleanup, and unanticipated financial challenges. At one

TAKOMA CENTRAL ☐ Page 9

This artist's rendering of Takoma Central shows a street view of the mixed use development slated for the corner of Carroll Street and Maple Avenue in Takoma, D.C.

Mayor & Council
7500 Maple Ave.
Takoma Park, MD 20912

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VFW OPENS DOORS *Page 3*

GREEN STREET UPDATE *Page 4*

SLAVE STORIES *Page 8*

DOCKET

TAKOMA TOPICS:

Check our new e-newsletter for Takoma Park Arts Happenings http://eepurl.com/uvfEb

www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS*

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

Monday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium

CITY MANAGER SELECTION COMMITTEE

Monday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Azalea Room

ETHICS COMMISSION

Tuesday, Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, Feb. 14, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL LAND USE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7 pm.
Washington Adventist Hostpial

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

Wednesday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Feb. 28, 8:30 a.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

*All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. Additional meetings may be scheduled after the Takoma Park Newsletter deadline. For the most up to date information, check www.takomaparkmd.gov/committees/calendar. Most meetings are held in the Takoma Park Community Center – Sam Abbott Citizens' Center, 7500 Maple Ave. (TPCC). 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.

Notice on ADA Compliance

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 Acting City Manager at 301-891-7229 or suzannel@takomagov.org at least 48 hours in advance.

CityCouncilAction

All actions take place in scheduled legislative meetings of the City Council. Only negative votes and abstentions/recusals are noted. Adopted legislation is available for review online at www.takomaparkmd.gov. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at jessiec@takomagov.org.

RESOLUTION 2013-1

Adopted (Jan. 7)

Recognizing and expressing appreciation to Barry and Annie Solan and Video Americain

The resolution recognizes and expresses appreciation for Video Americain upon its closing after 18 years in Takoma Park.

RESOLUTION 2013-2

Adopted (Jan. 7)

Providing for an appointment to the Board of Elections

The resolution effects the appointment of Robin Schafer to the Board of Elections.

RESOLUTION 2013-3

Adopted (Jan. 7)

Providing for an appointment to the Tree Commission

The resolution effects the appointment of Linette Lander to the Tree Commission.

RESOLUTION 2013-4

Adopted (Jan. 14)

Appointing a City representative to the Montgomery County Cable and Communications Advisory Committee (CCAC).

The resolution effects the appointment of Garry G. Burnett to the CCAC.

RESOLUTION 2013-5

Adopted (Jan. 14)

Appointing members to the Committee on the Environment

The resolution effects the appointment of the following individuals to serve on the Committee on the Environment: Shannon Baker-Branstetter, Wendy Bell, Rocco Casagrande, Paul Chrostowski, Cindy Dyballa, Stuart Gillespie, Sat Jiwan Ikle-Khalsa, Melanie Isis, Lauren Marshall, Sarah Mazur, John Peterson, Allyson Piazza, Lindsey Robinett, Dan Seligman, and Anne Sergeant.

ORDINANCE 2013-1

Adopted (Jan. 7)

Authorizing execution of a contract with Habitat for Humanity of Montgomery County, Maryland, Inc. for services required in the Exterior Home Repair Program

The ordinance authorizes execution of a contract for services in an amount not to exceed $80,000 for the Program.

ORDINANCE 2013-2

Adopted (Jan. 14)

Awarding small community grants

The ordinance awards funds from the Small Community Grant Program as follows: Old Takoma Business Association, Recycle – Take a Seat ($2,500); Takoma Women's Business Network Workshops and Website Development ($2,500); Takoma Jazz Fest Community Events and Booklet ($2,000).

Opportunities to serve on City boards, commissions and committees

Have you applied yet?

- Arts and Humanities Commission (vacancies)
- Emergency Preparedness Committee (vacancies)
- Ethics Commission (vacancies)
- Facade Advisory Board (terms expiring March 31)
- Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)
- Personnel Appeal Board (terms expiring March 31)
- Recognition Task Force – short term commitment (vacancies)
- Recreation Committee (vacancies)
- Safe Roadways Committee – newly reestablished (vacancies)

View information at http://takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/committees/index.html or contact Jessie Carpenter, City Clerk, at 301-891-7267 or jessiec@takomagov.org to apply or request information.

MAYOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Mayor Williams welcomes comments and suggestions. Community members are invited to meet with him during his office hours on Tuesdays:

2 – 5 p.m. by appointment

5 – 6 p.m. drop-in hours (check in at the information desk and let the receptionist know you are here to see the Mayor)

6 – 7 p.m. by appointment

For additional information or to make an appointment, contact Executive Assistant Peggye Washington at peggyew@takomagov.org or 301-891-7230.

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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Letters to the editor, reports by community groups, calendar items and other submissions will be considered for publication; send to tpnewseditor@takomagov.org or Newsletter, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912.

Name, address and telephone number must accompany all submitted material. Editor reserves the right to edit for length, clarity, style, spelling and grammar.

Published material containing opinions does not necessarily reflect the views of the Newsletter or the City of Takoma Park.

The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, political advertisements.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled–content paper.

The bartenders at the VFW are all volunteers, and welcome veterans and non-veterans alike to the club on Orchard Avenue in Takoma Park. Left, Mike Casey; right, Bob Beers.

Photos by Selena Malott

Takoma Park VFW post opens doors to all

By Kevin Adler

A man walks into a bar in Takoma Park and buys a beer…for $1.75. Impossible. Well, actually, that's pretty much what happens every night of the week at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 350, located at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Orchard Street in what was once called Hell's Bottom.

One of the oldest continually operating VFW in Maryland, Post 350 "Hell's Bottom' is a refuge for anyone seeking an unpretentious place to have a Miller Light or a Yuengling and maybe listen to some music or watch a ballgame. Mostly, it's a place to slow down.

"Cheapest beer in town," says Mike Casey, post commander and a Vietnam veteran who works at the Bureau of Printing and Engraving. "I just want people to know we're a nice quiet place. Everyone is welcome, as long as they don't start trouble."

Contrary to what might be assumed, a person doesn't have to be a veteran or a member of the military to visit VFW 350. The open-door policy isn't exactly standard military-issue, but Casey has some leeway in interpreting of the rules. New visitors help keep the financially strapped VFW 350 operating through tough economic times.

VFW 350 is a throwback. It doesn't have a theme or coordinated décor. The food is strictly popcorn, chips and other packaged snacks. The art on the walls isn't for sale. The bar features no trendy microbrews (though Sierra Nevada on tap for $3.25 is a sweet deal).

The VFW is what it is: a low concrete block building with a deck cannon on the side and an American flag waving in the breeze. Ring the security buzzer, and you enter a low-ceilinged room with a tile floor and a large horseshoe-shaped bar.

"Everyone is welcome, as long as they don't start trouble."

The Brentwood Rockers play the VFW at least once a week. From left, Dave Ruifrok and Jim Lynch; drummer Murphy Booth is just outside the frame.

Photo by Selena Malott

Above the bar hang beer and sports posters, televisions flashing Keno numbers, and a photo of the Drunk of the Month. The room has a bandstand, a pool table (never used), and a jukebox stocked with traditional (Reba, Toby, and Waylon), classic (Bob Marley) and some of the bartenders' eclectic and handmade mixes featuring the likes of Taj Mahal, Harry Nilsson and DC guitar legend Bill Kirchen.

If you go to VFW 350 a couple of times, you'll get to know the regulars, such as Casey, Bob Beers and Richard Fales. They're not only regulars, but they are its workforce; the VFW 350 is completely volunteer-operated. For example, Beers, who is a retired carpenter, rebuilt much of the interior of the place, including doors, paneling and part of the bar.

You'll also meet chatty bartenders Debbie, Kiki and Vicki. It feels more like someone's living room than a bar—perhaps because the regulars know each other so well. Debbie and Kiki are sisters, and Casey and Debbie were married for 10 years several decades ago. All three of them grew up in Takoma Park.

Camaraderie brings people to the VFW post, and it was a similar motivation that drove the formation of the VFW organization in 1899. At the time, the U.S. was finishing two nearly simultaneous wars (Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection), and wounded and sick servicemen were not receiving adequate care. Today, the VFW has about 1.9 million members, including the Women's Auxiliary, who are a powerful voice on veterans' issues and make significant volunteer contributions of time and money.

"While we may put the needs of our veterans first, the needs of our community are second on the list," says Debbie Casey, who runs Post 350's Women's Auxiliary. "The motto of the VFW is, 'We'll do anything for our country.'"

There are approximately 7,400 VFW posts in the U.S. today, according to the organization. The posts are governed by basic rules, which have been loosened over the years to welcome non-veterans.

"Back when I started coming here, you had to be a veteran of a foreign conflict to be a member," says Beers about his first visit 41 years ago. "You couldn't even visit unless you were with a member, and if they left, you had to leave. I had not been overseas, so I wasn't eligible to be a VFW member at the time."

Today, anyone can join in or watch the DC Bluegrass Society's jams on the first and third Mondays of the month, or check out the Brentwood Rockers on the third Saturday of the month and almost every Wednesday night. The VFW also has hosted Ward 3 candidates' forums, meetings of community groups and neighborhood cookouts for the Pinecrest neighborhood where it is located.

"The idea is to get people to come over, see what it's like, and visit again," says Mike Casey.

The word is starting to get around. Last year, local band Monkeyfeather hosted two fundraisers for the Takoma Foundation in the post's spacious back yard.

"It was great. The VFW couldn't have been more accommodating. We had the band, we had food trucks in the parking lot, and we had about 100 people and their kids," says Scott Ward, the Foundation's vice president.

In addition, the Takoma-based Tree House house concert series, hosted by Peter Marra, Ann Perrault, Matt Littlejohn and Janet Rumble has hosted several shows at the VFW (generally when the artists are considered to be too loud or the audience too large for shows at Tree House's home venue – Marra and Perrault's house).

An inquiry arrived recently about having a spring wedding reception in the yard. So who knows? Maybe the VFW will be the new destination for in-the-know residents.

"That would suit me just fine," says Mike Casey.

"When people come to our little bar, they are a part of a bigger picture," says Debbie Casey.

HOUSING MAILBOX

Landlords required to keep emergency info updated, paint freshened

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

I am a new city landlord, so I'm just learning about all the details of caring for a property and its tenant. For example, my tenants want to know how often their apartments will be painted, and how they can contact me in an emergency situation. Can you help?

Landlord-tenant law covers plenty of details! And these are two important ones.

Landlords must paint their properties at least once every five years. That means everything, in its entirety (see Section 6.16.050.F of the City Landlord-Tenant Law for details). It's also nice to paint between tenancies, but it's not required. What is required is that all painted surfaces in the rental unit be in clean condition and free of any peeling or chipping paint when a new tenant moves in.

Speaking of keeping things up to date, landlords must also keep emergency contact information current. A durable notice with the name(s) and the day/evening telephone number(s) of the landlord and/or agent tenants should be posted in an accessible and conspicuous place in the common area of the rental facility, and also distributed to all tenants at the beginning of their tenancy. Update the information whenever there is a change in the landlord/agent emergency contact information (see Section 6.16.050.H of the City code for details).

Tenants or landlords with questions regarding the City's Landlord-Tenant and COLTA Laws can contact me at 301-891-7215 or at mosesw@takomagov.org.

Flower Avenue greening project launches

Web site provides updated information

After months of planning, designers presented their initial concept for reconfiguring Flower Avenue sidewalk areas last month. Twenty residents gathered at a public meeting Jan. 17, at Washington Adventist University's Wilkinson Hall, to learn about plans to improve infrastructure along the busy street, and to create a more pedestrian-friendly, green throughway. They then broke into smaller groups that addressed individual blocks, so that residents could see how the property closest to their homes would be affected, and so they could provide feedback for designers to consider as the project moves forward.

Engineers and landscape architects described elements such as new bus stop locations, expanded areas where people can wait for buses (pads and extensions), the location of "bump outs" that increase green space, types of lighting designed to serve pedestrians, smooth sidewalk curb cuts required by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), and stormwater management elements such as rain gardens and other plantings that help process and clean stormwater before it goes into the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Maps showed the exact location of various elements of the plan.

Directing the project are engineering contractors Rummel, Klepper and Kahl, hired by the City. Their team includes the Center for Watershed Protection, to develop the environmental stormwater features, and Mahan Rykiel Associates, for landscape architecture.

Prior to the public presentation, the City hosted a site walk with the design team, and a stakeholder meeting that included representatives from the utility companies, State Highway Administration, Washington Adventist University (which lies along the route), Montgomery County Ride On and Montgomery County. The preliminary design presented in January was drawn up with input from those meetings.

A little history

Flower Avenue, between Carroll Avenue and Piney Branch Road, was Maryland State Highway 787, but it did not function as a state highway, and Maryland wanted to remove it from their inventory. The City and the State Highway Administration signed a Road Transfer Agreement on Aug. 1, 2012. The State Highway Administration (SHA) agreed to pay the City $696,000 as part of the agreement to assume ownership. Flower Avenue is now a City street and maintenance is the responsibility of Takoma Park.

The City also secured funding from Montgomery County in the amount of $200,000 to include construction of a new sidewalk on the east side of the street.

The City staff recommended that green elements be incorporated in the road improvements to address stormwater management. To assist with the initial design phase, the city was successful in receiving a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust for $20,000.

In addition to the green elements of the project, the street will be repaved and new crosswalks and lighting will be installed. Other changes will address long-time problems along the road: crumbling sidewalks, poorly marked crosswalks, which make walking uncomfortable and dangerous, and a general lack of room for waiting at bus stops, where there are no shelters or benches.

As this is a heavily used area, with many apartment buildings, small businesses, a university, a hospital and a church, traffic can be heavy and there is an ongoing need for parking – so parking spaces will be balanced with other elements of the plan.

Other considerations for planners include the multiple jurisdictions that are responsible for the various properties (including Washington Adventist University, Montgomery County and the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission), the possible move anticipated for Washington Adventist Hospital, and the eventual replacement of the Carroll Avenue bridge over Sligo Creek.

Updated plans and other relevant documents and maps are available online at www.takomaparkmd.gov/floweravenue and for viewing on the third floor of the Community Center. Upcoming public meetings will also be posted on the website.

There will be another meeting similar to the Jan. 17 gathering this spring, as well as neighborhood information sessions about stormwater management options.

Downpayment Assistance Available for First Time Homebuyers

Since 2001, the Affordable Housing Conference of Montgomery County (AHCMC) and its sponsors have provided a total of $181,000 to 26 moderate income individuals/families through its "Break the Barrier to Home Ownership" closing cost assistance program. If you are currently a resident of Montgomery County, Md. and a first-time home buyer, you may be eligible to receive $5,000 or more to use toward downpayment or closing cost assistance for the purchase of a home in Montgomery County.

To qualify, download the application and write an essay on What Home Ownership Means to Me, then mail the application and essay to: AHCMC, P.O. Box 2111, Rockville, Md. 20847. Deadline to apply is March 2, 2013. To download the application, go to http://bit.ly/TNPiwY.

Takoma Park Food Pantry

EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

For Eligible Residents of Takoma Park

The Food Pantry offers both perishable and non-perishable foods to individuals and families requesting assistance. Also, our special-needs clients (seniors or people with disabilities) will have their allotment of groceries delivered to their doorsteps every month

For Delivery or Appointment

Call 240-450-2092 or Email educare_ss@yahoo.com

Website: www.educaresupportservices.org

Center Location

7001 New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park, Md.

Requirements

- On every visit, you must provide a picture ID and proof of residency, such as a utility bill or rent receipt.
- On your first visit, you must provide identification for every member of your household - children and adults. Acceptable forms of identification include social security cards, food stamp cards, driver's license, unemployment letter, proof of income, birth certificates, passports and other legal documents.

This program is offered in partnership with the City of Takoma Park

THE ARTS

Tom Block's play, Butterfly, features a series of paintings from his Garden of the Mystical Redoubt series, including this Bunny Rabbit Mystic. For more information on the play, which premieres this month in Takoma Park, see article at left.

FEBRUARY EVENTS IN THE ARTS

World premiere production of Butterfly

Feb. 15, 16, 22, 23, 8 p.m.
Feb. 16 and 23, 2 p.m. matinee
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
$20
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/295235

We Are Takoma performance - Feb. 13, 8 p.m.
Suggested donation $20

Catch the world premiere of local playwright Tom Block's latest play Butterfly, the second in a trilogy exploring the intersection between human spiritual urges and contemporary society.

Butterfly takes place during the final day of a self-appointed prophet's life. Characters include Todd, the half-black, half-Jewish prophet and his single acolyte, Jan (a Serbian refugee); a therapist; a medieval Muslim mystic (Ibn Sina) that he called back from the dead; the bubbly Martini, a beautician; his mother and doppelganger, and his invisible father who is interred in a mental asylum in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

The production also features a series of paintings from Block's In the Garden of the Mystical Redoubt series, which explore the psychic experiences of the play's characters.

The play is directed by Wanderlust Theater Lab founder Roselie Vasquez-Yetter and will be accompanied by an original score written and performed by cellist Desiree Miller. Butterfly received its first reading at the Kennedy Center in September 2012.

Elizabethan Ardor: Passion in the Court of the Virgin Queen

Barbara Hollinshead, mezzo-soprano, and Howard Bass, lute
Saturday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Free

The lute songs and solos on this program come from the musical treasury of late 16th and early 17th century England, a time when music, poetry and drama flourished as never before (or, perhaps, since). Between 1597 and 1620, 30 books of lute songs by 20 composers were published, and hundreds of pieces for solo lute were written and preserved in manuscripts. Drawing on this exquisite repertoire, mezzo-soprano Barbara Hollinshead and lutenist Howard Bass present a pre-Valentine's Day story of love in four short acts, encompassing passionate beginnings, courtship, disappointment and the ever-hoped-for happy ending.

Docs In Progress Screening

Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7:30 – 9:30 pm
Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium
Free

This work-in-progress series provides an opportunity for local and visiting documentary filmmakers to screen their not-quite-finished films and get valuable feedback. After screening each film, a facilitator from Docs In Progress moderates a critique session with the audience.

The February screening will feature two films:

Over the Hurricane with Dr. Z (30 minutes)

by Aziza Baccouche

The wingspan of a DC-8 airplane is about the length of eight parking spaces. The average hurricane is about 600 miles wide. Imagine a DC-8 plane steering right at a hurricane, aiming to fly all the way to the eye and, hopefully, back out again. What kind of person is that pilot? And who on earth would volunteer to go along? Scientist and filmmaker Aziza "Dr. Z" Baccouche documents how NASA and NOAA scientists gear up for their dangerous mission to gather data from inside a hurricane moving over the southeastern part of the USA, featuring footage from Hurricane Katrina. This film is part of a series that connects breakthroughs in science research with the human experience.

This film will be presented with closed captioning and audio description.

Under Fire: Free Tutoring At Risk (35 minutes)

by David Long

Launched in 2001 as a provision of the Federal "No Child Left Behind" law, Supplemental Education Services (SES) provides free tutoring for low income students trapped in low performing public schools. SES has provided after-school and weekend tutoring services to millions of low-income students over the past decade, but in recent years, dozens of states have been awarded waivers to limit or discontinue SES. This film explores the value of the program and the efforts to maintain its existence.

Takoma Park PLAYS!

The Third Annual Takoma Park Midwinter Play Day
Thursday, Feb. 7, 6 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center

All are welcome to an evening of fun and games
Including storyteller Candace Wolf, bluegrass musicians Caroline and Tom Alderson, and yoga instructor Ashley Skye Litecky
Plus dress-up, board games, face painting, play dough and giant chess

FREE!

The Takoma Fitness Expo Jan. 4 included a variety of classes for residents to sample. Here, participants try out a Zumba class at the Recreation Center. A new Zumba session begins Feb. 20.

Photo by Debby Huffman

YOUTH/TEENS

Ice Skating

12 - 17 yrs.

Whether you are an experienced ice skater or just want to try it out, don't pass up this opportunity to get out and have fun. We will be heading to a local outdoor ice skating rink in Maryland. Space is limited. Register now. For more information, please contact Ms. Leicia at leiciam@takomagov.org or 301-891-7283.

Friday, Feb. 8, 4:30 – 8 p.m.

TP Community Center Teen Lounge

Free

Kid's Night Out

Ages 6 to 12

Want a night to yourself while your kids have a blast with their friends? Takoma Park Recreation Center Kid's Night Out is a fun filled night for children. It will involve activities such as games, art and crafts, movies and theme nights.

First and third Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

Free with membership card

M.A.N.U.P.

Ages 11 to 18

The mission of MANUP is to develop the next generation of successful leaders by impacting the lives of youth through the principles of education, social responsibility, self empowerment and economic awareness. The programs are gender-specific to enhance male and female development. Several programs include guest speakers, field trips to various educational and fun locations, career development and more. This mentoring program is made possible by countless volunteer hours. These mentors work in cooperation with the Takoma Park Recreation Department. For more information, please contact Ms. Leicia at leiciam@takomagov.org or 301-891-7283.

Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8 p.m. (ongoing)

TP Community Center Teen Lounge

Free

Teen Night

Ages 12-17

Nothing to do on Friday night? The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides high quality, affordable, safe and fun activities for teens. Come on out to a night of games, activities and more. Bring your friends for a cheap night out of the house.

Second and fourth Fridays, 7:15 – 8:30 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

Free with membership card

FITNESS/HEALTH/SPORT

Cardio Kick-Boxing

Ages 16 and older

Cardio KickBoxing is a total body workout that can improve strength, aerobic fitness, flexibility, coordination and balance. Kickboxing can be a great alternative for people who have become bored with weight room cardiovascular activities, such as brisk walking or jogging on a treadmill.

Mondays, Jan. 14 – March 18, 7-8 p.m.

(No class on Feb. 18)

TP Recreation Center

$50/8 weeks

Health and Wellness Workshops

Ages 18 and older

This workshop will support the Takoma Park Community's desire and commitment to live a healthier lifestyle. The goal is to create awareness and a sense of urgency to get and stay healthy! Through education, hands-on demonstrations and support, participants will be able to make healthier lifestyle choices on a daily basis. Individuals will benefit from health assessments, weight management tools, vitamin supplement education, food demonstrations and much more.

TP Community Center Auditorium

Thursdays, Feb. 7 and 21, 7 – 9 p.m.

TP residents $39

Non-residents $49

Kung Fu

Ages 4 to 16

This ancient form of self-defense provides physical and mental exercise which could help the students defend themselves by strengthening hand eye coordination. The student will gain physical fitness, mental and spiritual strength. There is a onetime, non-refundable fee of $50 paid to the instructor at the first day of class for uniforms.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

Saturdays, Jan. 26 – Apr. 6

Beginners: 10:15 – 11:15 a.m.

Advanced: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

TP residents $150

Non-residents $170

Ladies' Boot Camp I

Ages 16 and older

A total body program that includes a circuit of drills such as jumping jacks, running, push-ups, squats, crunches and weight training. A challenging workout within a quick hour. Eight weeks.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, March 12 – May 2, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

$85/8 weeks

Ladies Boot Camp II

Ages 16 and older

Ladies Boot Camp II is the next phase in cardio and muscle conditioning. It is designed to continue to give you that awesome, fierce look. This workout pushes your endurance and current conditioning. The intervals will be longer and the movements will be more complex. Core and body exercises will reach new levels of intensity. If you have taken Ladies Boot Camp I, you will love Ladies Boot Camp II.

Saturdays, January 12 – March 9,

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

(No class Feb. 16)

TP Recreation Center

$45/8 weeks

Pilates

Ages 16 and older

A fun and invigorating workout that teaches controlled movements utilizing the body's core – abdomen, back and hips. Pilates improves core control, coordination, standing alignment and balance with mat exercises. Pilates is the ultimate mind-body exercise for anyone who wants to tone, streamline and realign their body.

Wednesdays, Feb. 20 – March 27, 6–7 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

$60/6 weeks

Taekwondo

Ages 5 and older

The Korean martial art of Taekwondo promotes fitness and strength in a fun and social environment. Taekwondo (foot-hand-way) is known for beautiful and powerful kicks. Students learn self-defense and practice drills, forms and sparring. The Tenets of Taekwondo – courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self- control and indomitable spirit – are emphasized. Adults are welcome to register with their children. There is a one-time fee paid to the instructor at the first class (non-refundable) for uniform ($40 children, $50 for adult).

Wednesdays, Jan. 16 – March 2, 6 – 7 p.m.

Saturdays, Jan. 26 – Apr. 6, 1 – 2 p.m.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

TP residents $125

Non- residents $145

Yoga Nidra – Meditation and Relaxation

Ages 16 and older

This meditative yoga practice helps reduce stress, increases general physical and mental well-being and brings greater joy and ease into everyday life. Students are guided through the meditation while lying on a yoga mat and blankets or seated in a comfortable position. This systematic practice uses positive affirmations, visualization, awareness of the body, breath, and self-inquiry. Each student should bring their own yoga mat, a few blankets, and a pillow.

Mondays, March 4 - March 25, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

TP residents $50

Non-residents $60

Drop-in $15

Zumba

Ages 16 and older

An exhilarating, effective, easy-to-follow, Latin-inspired, calorie-burning dance fitness program, Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Four weeks.

Wednesdays, 6–6:55 p.m. (on-going)

Saturdays, 9:15–10:10 a.m. (on-going)

Feb. 20 – March 20

TP Recreation Center

$40/4 weeks per session

$10 drop-in fee

ART

Collage

Ages 16 and older

Using a variety of collage and paper altering processes, students combine found and altered papers and lightweight three-dimensional materials. Principles of color and design will be presented including structure, balance, repetition, value and gradation. This class is suitable for beginners, as well as more experienced students. Basic materials will be provided (some personal or found collage elements may be desired to enhance the collage as well). There is a $30 materials fee due on the first day of class.

Tuesdays, March 12 - April 30, 11 a.m – 2 p.m.

TP Community Center Art Studio

TP residents $210

Non-residents $240

MAKE/Shift Studio I - Art Inspirations

Ages 8 to10

Elementary students create exciting two and three dimensional projects in this new after school class. Lessons include drawing, painting, collage, assemblage and mixed media – every class a different subject and

RECREATION ☐ Page 7

Zachary Brickey, front, participates in the Teen Fitness Demonstration during the Fitness Expo Jan. 4. Several sessions allowed participants to sample Recreation Department classes.

Photo by Debby Huffman

RECREATION

■ From page 6

medium. Children learn to express themselves and engage in visual problem solving while producing beautiful works using color, shape, line, texture and pattern. Beginning students welcome. Materials fee included.

Thursdays, March 7 - April 18, 3:45 – 5:15 p.m.

TP Community Center Art Studio

TP residents $150

Non-residents $170

MAKE/Shift Studio II - Drawing & Watercolor

Ages 11 to 14

Have fun learning to draw with black, white and colored drawing materials, paint with watercolors, use pen and ink and explore mixed media approaches to representational imagery. Subjects will include still life, portrait, landscape (weather permitting) and floral studies. Beginning students welcome. The focus of the class is appropriate for students interested in developing a portfolio for entry into the Visual Art Center at Albert Einstein High School. Materials fee of $25 due on the first day of each session.

Tuesdays, March 12 – April 30, 3:15 – 5:15 p.m.

TP Community Center Art Studio

TP residents $140

Non-residents $160

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

Babysitting Class

Ages 11 to 13

Designed for those interested in learning more about babysitting. Topics cover CPR, fire safety, first aid, infant and child care and personal safety. A certificate will be issued upon completion of all five classes and exam. Co-sponsored by the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department.

Mondays, 7 – 9 p.m., Feb. 11 – March 18

TP Community Center Lilac Room

Free, but must pre-register

In Pursuit of Destiny

Ages 22 and older

This is a seven-week women's empowerment class designed for the woman who has a sense of purpose but has faced obstacles that include, but are not limited to: relational brokenness, a recent loss, stress, depression, domestic violence, personal crisis or past trauma that has hindered her from fulfilling her potential. The class encompasses a peer support model and features a psycho-educational curriculum taught by a licensed professional counselor. There is a one-time $10 materials fee paid to the instructor at the first class.

TP Community Center Hydrangea Room

Wednesdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m., Feb. 13 – March 27

Free, but must pre register

COMPUTER/MULTI-MEDIA

High Definition Video for Community Purposes

Ages 16 and older

One-day workshop: Learn tips and tricks for creating great looking high definition video that you can upload to YouTube or burn onto BluRay DVD disks to showcase the strengths of our community. You'll learn to use a Canon Vixia high definition camcorder, learn about homemade, affordable lighting, recommended professional microphones, and Roxio Toast 11 software for burning BluRay DVD disks (on inexpensive DVD media.) Watch your crystal clear BluRay videos from the projector in our auditorium. Previous video experience helpful, but not required.

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 19, 6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium

TP residents $29

Non-residents $39

PETS

Doggie Fun and Games

Dogs of any age

This series of one day sessions will show you a variety of new activities your family can enjoy with your dog. We'll cover hide and seek, tricks, put the toy away, pick the toy, fetch, Frisbee, agility ground work, and maybe even bowling and basketball. If you have any obedience issues you don't know how to resolve, our trainer will work with you on that too.

Saturdays, March 2 – March 30,

4:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Heffner Park Community Center

42 Oswego Ave.

TP residents $20/per dog, per day

Non- residents $30/per dog, per day

UPCOMING

Adult Softball League (co-ed)

Ages 16 and older

For competitive adults of all skill levels. Team registrations must contain 50 percent Takoma Park residents to qualify for resident team entry fee. Registrations begins Feb. 1.

Sundays, April 14 – June 23, 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

No Games May 12, and May 26

Team Fee:

TP residents $545

Non-Residents $645

Includes ASA sanctioning fees.

Individual Fee:

TP Residents $55; Non-residents $65

Flag Football League (co-ed)

Ages 6 to 14

Takoma Park Recreation Department in association with Takoma Park Boys Girls Club brings you the Takoma Park

Flag Football League. This is a non-competitive, instructional, community league. The goal of our league is to teach the fundamentals of Flag Football in a safe environment. Practice begins the week of April 8 and the first game will be April 13. Registration begins Feb. 1

Divisions: ages 6-8, 9-11 and 12-14

TP residents: $40; Non- residents: $50

Spring Break Camp

Come explore with us as we experience nature. Go on a nature scavenger hunt finding nature's little secrets. Find out why the sun is so important and why water is essential to all living creatures. Hiking, swimming at Rollingcrest Pool, crafts, special guests, a trip to the Botanical Gardens and fun are in store.

TP Community Center Azalea Room

TP resident: $140

Non-resident: $160

Monday, March 25 – Friday, March 29,

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Before Care, 7 a.m. – 9 a.m.

TP resident: $35; Non-resident: $45

After Care, 4 – 6 p.m.

Resident: $35 / Non-resident: $45

Annual Egg Hunt

Get your baskets ready and join the Takoma Park Recreation Department for and "egg"citing time! There are four age categories: ages 2 and under, 3 - 4 yrs., 5 -6 yrs, and 7 - 8 yrs. The fun begins at 11 a.m.

Be sure to bring your basket and don't miss out!

Ed Wilhelm Field

(behind Piney Branch Elementary School)

March 30 (rain date: April 1)

11 a.m.

Free

Recreation staffer volunteers in Caribbean

Do you ever wonder what Recreation staff do while they are not working at the Community Center? One staff member recently volunteered for a mission trip to the Caribbean.

Stephany Sulbaran, a recreation program assistant and student at Washington Adventist University, visited Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, and the Dominican Republic in early January. She and other students provided medical supplies and health services to families on all three islands. Sulbaran is majoring in social work with a minor in forensic psychology. In addition, she enjoys helping students with their homework at the front desk in the afternoons.

This photo was taken with the children Sulbaran served in the Caribbean.

LIBRARY

Black History event brings slave story to life

In honor of Black History Month, we're offering a special program on Thursday, Feb. 21 at 7:30 p.m. for adults and teens featuring Gigi Amateau, author of a riveting new book, "Come August, Come Freedom," based on the true story of a literate Richmond, Va. slave named Gabriel who plotted a rebellion to secure freedom for himself and others.

Amateau will read from her book and then take questions. It's a great chance for both teens and adults to meet a well-regarded author and learn more about a little-known historical event. Politics and Prose bookstore will be selling Amateau's book to anyone who wants to purchase it and have her sign it, but our program is free and no purchase is required.

Because so little is known about Gabriel's life, Amateau uses a mix of original documents and a fictionalized narrative to flesh out his story. She creates a childhood for him that is shaped by his mother's love and his father's passion for freedom, as well as a friendship with his white master's son that turns sour as they grow up. Amateau also imagines a wife for Gabriel, someone who inspires him as he hopes – and fails – to buy her freedom.

Emboldened by François-Dominique Toussaint L'Ouverture's successful rebellion against Haiti's slave masters, Gabriel decides to use his blacksmith trade to help re-fashion pitchforks as swords to arm thousands of his fellow slaves. But Gabriel's plot is discovered by authorities, thanks to an informant who betrays their cause; Gabriel and two dozen of his followers are hanged.

Kirkus Reviews calls "Come August, Come Freedom," "an anguished tale told with poetry and heart," while The Horn Book Magazine says, "In this beautifully written novel, Amateau makes Gabriel a fully realized character fighting not just for an abstract ideal of liberty but also for the freedom of Nanny and their future family."

Amateau's book is recommended for ages 12 up, although adults will undoubtedly find inspiration in Gabriel's story.

Dottie Brown, age 95, has lived in Takoma Park since the mid-1950s. She is one of several residents who take advantage of the Seniors Computer Class offered by the Recreation Department at the Library's Computer Center. Here, library staffer Phil Shapiro helps Brown learn the ropes. Participants get to know the basics of computer use, including email, internet access and social media. For more information, contact the Recreation Department.

Photo: Eric Rasch

CALENDAR

Library Calendar
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

Bedtime Stories
Monday, Feb. 4, 7 p.m.
Come in pjs; for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups

Valentine Making
Saturday, Feb. 9, 1:30-4 p.m.
Kids, come make some valentines!
Registration required

Caldecott Birthday Club
Monday, Feb. 11, 7 p.m.
An evening devoted to Caldecott-winning books from the 1980s, plus a reading of the just-announced 2013 Caldecott Medal-winning book
Lemonade and cookies
All ages

Comics Jam
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 4 p.m.
Library staffer and comics guru Dave Burbank reads comics on the big screen

Friends Reading Group
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m.
"Death Comes For the Archbishop," by Willa Cather
Hydrangea Room
All invited

Friends of the Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7:45 p.m.
Library

Black History Month Program
Thursday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Author Gigi Amateau discusses her young adult book, "Come August, Come Freedom"
Best for middle-school students and up
Registration encouraged

Petites Chansons
Saturday, Feb. 23, 10:30 a.m.
Sing French songs and rhymes with Madame Marie

LIBRARY BRIEFS

Valentine DIY

Kids: don't buy valentines! Instead, come and make some of your own at our annual valentine-making program on Saturday, Feb. 9 from 1:30 to 4 p.m. We'll supply all the materials, you supply the creativity. All ages are welcome; even babies can "make" valentines with an adult willing to trace their hand or foot to create a one-of-a-kind keepsake. It's all free and loads of fun, but registration is required so that we can be sure to have enough supplies for everyone. To register, go to: www.tinyurl.com/tplibraryevents, or call us at 301-891-7259.

Comic relief

Read any good comics lately? Come and check out the latest in the comics world at our next monthly Comics Jam program on Tuesday, Feb. 12 at 4 p.m. Dave Burbank, our comics guru, will read comics on the big screen; kids also are invited to bring some of their favorites to read with Dave, or have him read them aloud to the group. Dave concludes the program by taking drawing requests from audience members. No registration required.

Caldecott klatch

Come and read the winner of the 2013 Caldecott Medal at our next Caldecott Birthday Club meeting, scheduled for Monday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m. The winner of the Caldecott Medal, given annually by the American Library Association to the best-illustrated children's book, will be announced on Jan. 28. At our February meeting, we'll also look at some of the Caldecott Medal and Honor books from the 1980s, including "The Polar Express" and "Jumanji," both written and illustrated by Chris Van Allsburg. Lemonade and cookies will be served. All ages welcome, no registration required.

Exploring a world of travels on the library shelves

No need to delay that long-awaited vacation in an exotic locale: Whether you are planning a special get-away during these cold winter months, or simply seeking an arm chair escape, the library has many brand new travel books to stimulate your imagination and bring far-away places to life.

There are now 2013 travel guides to Guatemala, New Zealand, Peru, Jordan, Sri Lanka, Honduras and Iceland, as well as popular tourist destinations such as England, India, Ireland and Puerto Rico. Destinations closer to home include Alaska, Florida and San Francisco. These are only a few of the up-to-date guides we will have in the next few months – look for Croatia, Thailand and Pakistan, France, Italy, U.S. National Parks and many others.

A New Look at Takoma Park Schools

By Anand Parikh

Among the Library's new books with links to Takoma Park is "The Diverse Schools Dilemma: A Parent's Guide to Socioeconomically Mixed Public Schools," by Mike Petrilli (Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2012). Petrilli, known to many Takoma Parkers with preschool-aged children from play-dates and birthday parties around town, is an education scholar. His book serves as a mixture of a cultural analysis, education and social policy critique and (for me) an exploration of elementary school options available to some families in our community.

Petrilli's research explores important questions, including whether racially and socio-economically diverse schools would provide a strong education for his own children, and how these same schools serve the educational needs of the different groups that make up their communities.

The book reflects the tone of conversations it wouldn't be hard to imagine Petrilli having with many friends and his former Takoma Park neighbors. Although it doesn't include too much heavy analysis, it is fully cited with relevant statistical comparisons and lends insight from his discussions with Takoma Park school and PTA leaders.

In his *Washington Post* review, education writer Jay Matthews observes: " I have never seen [these issues] dissected as well…It is deep, up to date, blessedly short (119 pages) and wonderfully personal."

Bryan Hassel, co-author of "The Picky Parent Guide: Choose Your Child's School with Confidence," calls it "…a must read for parents who want it all for their kids – that is, all parents. Blending facts and research with revealing stories about real families and schools, Petrilli helps readers take into account the whole picture: from the 3R's to a child's peer group and neighborhood. A vexing decision just got easier!"

The book doesn't shy away from challenging members of his target readers, the "progressive, creative class," to think about whether the risks of diverse schools outweigh the benefits. Take a peek at the book; you might be surprised at some of what you'll learn. I was.

On-line reference tools expand

By Rebecca Brown

Thanks to the Friends of the Library, the library has expanded its offering of online reference tools by purchasing a group of 50 standard reference works published by Gale, Scribner and Macmillan. Most of these are the most current editions of multi-volume sets.

This selection includes adult titles, student titles, and many that can be used by either group. Among the new titles are The American Writers Collection, The Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture, and The Gale Encyclopedia of Senior Health.

Anyone with a card from this library can access the books online, download articles in pdf format, bring up translations in any of a number of languages, listen while reading, and even download the audio versions as mp3 files. No check-outs are required. Up to 50 articles can be downloaded in a single session.

Unlike its subscription reference resources, the library owns these books. This means the only ongoing annual fee is a rather small one for web hosting. However, the library will need to discard titles when they become outdated, or replace them with new editions, just as with the print equivalents. (Subscription reference content, on the other hand, is always current, automatically updated and continually enhanced.)

This new framework also works for non-fiction and reference works from other publishers. For example, digital versions of children's DK Eyewitness books were purchased and added to the same web hosting service. Going to visit the dinosaur bones downtown? If you visit the Eyewitness book on fossils you can download the interesting sections to your mobile device and access them as you walk around the exhibits.

TAKOMA CENTRAL

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point the building was to be condominiums; now it will be apartments. The final design reflects a mix of the architectural styles of the area, incorporating a Victorian warehouse-style component, a contemporary Art Deco style building and a glass "hyphen" connecting the two. "Now that the details of the design are worked out and permitted, we are ready to go ahead with construction," says Jon Kardon, of Level 2 Developers.

Takoma Central will be a mix of studio apartments and one and two-bedroom apartments, plus retail or other commercial business on the ground floor. Amenities will include a fitness center, a resident lounge, a landscaped courtyard, a business center with WiFi, secure bicycle storage, on-site car-sharing and controlled access. The buildings are designed for LEED Certification, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating for high performance green buildings. Leasing will not begin until the project is nearer completion next year.

In the meantime, Phase I of the project has resumed with final excavation, the installation of a tower crane, and preparation for the concrete garage foundation. In February, underground utilities and concrete footings will be installed at the foundation level and excavation will begin of Phase II, in the former PMI parking lot. The developers have an ambitious schedule, expecting to have the construction done in about 18 months, subject to weather conditions.

> "I think the project across the street will push the area over the tipping point for making Takoma a real destination."
>
> *— Ben Homola*
> *Trohv Home Store*

Ben Homola, owner of Trohv, a home goods and gift store across the street from the site, is glad to see renewed activity at that location. "I think the project across the street will push the area over the tipping point for making Takoma a real destination," he says. "People will come here and have multiple options in the area. It will also increase the time that Takoma is "open for business" by adding additional commercial activity. My only concerns have been about it not getting done."

During construction, the site will have two construction entrances: one on Maple Avenue and the other on Carroll. The curb lane on Carroll will be used for a truck delivery and loading zone. The centerline of the 200 block of Carroll Street will be re-striped and shifted to the south. Flagmen will help direct traffic when trucks are loading and unloading. The sidewalk in front of the site will be closed, with pedestrians rerouted to the south side of Carroll, and metered parking will be removed in the 200 block of Carroll. The sidewalk on Maple adjoining the site will also be closed and two parking spots will be removed during the construction.

TP ON TV

■ From page 1

program airs on Mondays at 9 a.m., Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., Fridays at 7 p.m. and Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

The lack of a studio does not mean City TV has to limit its production, says Alvaro Calabia, City TV Manager. "We decided we had to create a studio out of the stage," he says. "I've seen people doing more with less. We need to bring a lot of Takoma's faces to City TV. There are great messages in our streets, but not enough cameras to spread them."

Calabia recruited Regina Reese, Akili Brown, and Bienvenido Martínez, contractors who have worked behind the cameras, as co-producers and hosts. They have invited guests ranging from representatives of the Social Security Administration to people from the Piney Branch Pool. The show even has some episodes in Spanish, *Somos Takoma*.

"Takoma has a large Hispanic population that needs to be informed, but it also needs a push to get involved in the community life and in the political arena of the City," says Martínez, co-producer and Spanish host of the show.

"Our goal, of course, is not to produce *Lost* or *24* or *Sábado Gigante* and get millions of viewers," he says. "Our mission is to bring Takoma Park to Takoma Park and Montgomery County. As much as we can, we must show the faces and ideas that are ignored, rejected and despised by mainstream television. Minds that have a lot of good information in them."

"*We Are Takoma* recognizes people and organizations that are making a difference right in their own backyards," says Reese. "It's undeniable that education changes lives and inspiration is magnetic. When you're able to use television as a vehicle to educate, that's when communities change as a whole. The show exposes the reality that this small city has such big character."

City TV has launched a new program, We Are Takoma, featuring interviews that introduce viewers to the many different members and aspects of their community. From left, Bienvenido Martinez, Regina Reese and Akili Brown, who produce and host the new program.

Photo by Robin Ratcliffe

The program is limited to a twice monthly show due to its small budget – a real challenge for producers who have so many organizations they want to feature. One schedule change might mean months of waiting until the next chance to tackle an important issue comes around, says Calabia.

And the stories just keep coming. "I love the myriad of opportunities that City TV provides me to interact with the community," says Brown. "Takoma Park has such a rich history of diversity and the medium of TV is a really great way to document and share that. The possibilities for programming are endless."

For Calabia the future looks bright. "The next step will be to go live with the show," he says. After that, who knows? Maybe tape two the same day, something we do when we cover the same topic in English and Spanish. Maybe we'll be able to produce some in French for the large African and Caribbean communities. Takoma's sky is the limit."

AT YOUR SERVICE

Takoma Park Officer cleared in 2011 shooting

By Catherine Plevy

The officer involved in a Dec. 10, 2011 shooting has been cleared and the shooting determined to have been lawful by the Prince George's County Grand Jury. The officer, Cpl. Keith Largent, is back on duty after nearly 12 months of paid administrative leave, a standard procedure after an officer fires a gun and the case is under investigation.

On Dec. 10, 2011, at approximately 3:47 p.m., Takoma Park Police responded to the Sunoco Gas Station at the corner of New Hampshire Avenue and East West Highway for the report of an assault with a knife in progress. As the officers arrived at the scene, they were flagged down by citizens pointing to a red vehicle, later identified as a Ford Focus, operated by the suspect. The suspect was fleeing the scene at a high rate of speed.

Investigation at the scene revealed that the victim was filling his vehicle with gas and had left the vehicle to go inside the convenience mart at the gas station. The victim came out and observed the suspect in his vehicle and yelled at him to get out and screamed for people to call the police. The victim confronted the suspect as he was getting out of his vehicle; apparently the suspect had demanded property from the victim and the keys to his vehicle. At that time a confrontation occurred as the victim resisted and then was stabbed multiple times.

The suspect then ran to his Ford Focus, which was parked approximately 10 yards away, got into his vehicle and then rammed the victim's vehicle. He then fled the lot going northbound on New Hampshire Avenue.

Two Takoma Park officers who arrived on the scene picked up the pursuit, which began northbound on New Hampshire Avenue. The vehicle overturned at Riggs and Metzerot roads after striking three occupied vehicles, and the suspect fled the scene. One of the officers pursued him on foot and deployed her taser, but it had no effect. The suspect then charged the female officer and assaulted her. A second officer, Largent, arrived and demanded that the suspect stop. Fearing for the life of his fellow officer, he fired his weapon multiple times, causing the suspect to fall off of the officer.

The suspect was transported to MedStar Washington Hospital Center where he was pronounced deceased. The stabbing victim was also transported to MedStar Washington Hospital Center where he underwent surgery and remained in critical condition for a period of time. Because of the life-saving efforts of all Takoma Park Police officers involved, the victim survived and physically recovered.

NEW EATERY COMING

■ From page 1

a few times a week as well.

Danny Wells, who will be running the kitchen, is still developing the menu – loosely defined at this point as seasonal American cooking – but he's sure he'll feature seafood and some vegetarian options. And, says Wells, "Having the year-round farmer's market outside is huge"—he plans to partner with the farmers to source the menu.

Owner Jeff Black, quoted in the *Washington Post*, describes the upcoming restaurant as "off beat, nothing too serious." In other words, throw pretention aside, and don't be afraid to wear jeans. The Takoma Park vibe is in familiar hands: Wells grew up here. His first restaurant job was washing dishes at the original Savory, which is now Capitol City Cheesecake. Wells was 13 years old and in middle school, listening to his Walkman and waiting for dishes to wash, he remembers, when the pastry chef suggested he help her out. "I owe my entire career to her," he says now.

Wells worked at Savory through high school, and realized how much he loved working in restaurants. He went on to train at Johnson and Wales University College of Culinary Arts, cooked in Miami, Spain and New York, and eventually became chef de cuisine at BlackSalt and again at Pearl Dive.

Now it is Takoma Park's turn. With Wells living just a bike ride away, as he describes it, the restaurant is expected to reflect not just good food, but that special flavor that is Takoma Park.

THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

The Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire Rescue Service assigned to the station responded to a total of 639 fire-related incidents for 2012. The department addressed or assisted with 2,998 rescue or ambulance-related incidents for a grand total of 3,637 for the year 2012. Totals for 2011 were 724 and 2,847, representing an increase of 66 incidents for 2012.

Maryland fire deaths drop to record low in 2012

According to the office of the state fire marshal, "smoke alarms combined with a residential fire sprinkler system increase surviving a fire [by] 80 percent." Just 52 people died as the result of fire this year in Maryland, a record low and a 22 percent decline from 67 people who died in 2011. The total does not account for individuals still battling life-threatening injuries sustained in fires last year. Make sure you have working smoking alarms on all levels of the home, and a family escape plan.

Children receive toys for Christmas

The Takoma Park VFD 32nd Annual Toys for Needy Families provided toys for 160 children this year, representing 68 families. A special thanks, as always, goes to the following people and organizations who assisted with the sorting and bagging of the toys: Jorge Alfaro, TPVFD; Mike Hall, Takoma Park Lions Club; Marsha Dorsey, Takoma Park Public Works; and from the Takoma Park Police Department, Sgt. Tina Smith, Cpl. Kristian Pedersen, Ofc. Jeffrey Demuth, Ofc. Kyle Robison, and Demetrice White. Also thanks to Takoma Park VFD Auxiliary and the Cissel Saxon Unit 41 American Legion Auxiliary for donating money to purchase additional toys. The project would not have been possible without their help, says program coordinator Jim Jarboe.

Volunteers contribute 15,480.5 hours, new volunteers join

The Takoma Park VFD is proud to announce that the volunteer members of the department put in a grand total of 15,480.5 hours of standby duty time at the fire station during 2012. The time at the station consisted of riding on emergency incidents, training, meetings, etc. At the Jan. 9, 2013 membership meeting, the department voted into membership the following: Jesse Dubon, Tiera Curry, Brittany Ryan, Lea Sanon, Ross Williams, Wakeen Luke, Troy Bent, Thomas Miller and Nigel Draper. If you would be interesting in joining, please contact Mike Livingston at the station, 240-773-8954. All we need from you is time and commitment.

TPVFD 2013 Officers

The Takoma Park VFD 2013 Board of Directors – President Elmer Hamm, Vice President Richard Willey, Financial Secretary Steve Novik, Treasurer Bruce Allen, Directors Jorge Alfaro, Mike DeVore, Tina Willey, Tom Musgrove and Jim Jarboe, Recording Secretary Leslie deLeon, City of Takoma Park reps Mayor Bruce Williams and Councilmember Kay Daniels-Cohen. The Takoma Park VFD Auxiliary Officers – President Tina Willey, Vice President Betty Fickes, Treasurer Marion Brown and Secretary Ashlee Willey.

Has Weather Canceled City Programs?

Call the Inclement Weather Line

301-891-7101 ext 5605

For Library or Computer Center activities, call 301-891-7259

City offices will be closed or have a delayed opening when the federal government makes a declaration in the morning. Recreation programs follow Montgomery County Public Schools for program cancellations. Check takomaparkmd.gov and Facebook. Sign up for TP Alert at aviso.takomagov.org.

The Police Department is open at all times.

K9 bus gets you moving on the New Ave

By Erkin Ozberk
Planning Division

There's a new, blue bus rolling on New Hampshire Avenue during the morning and evening rush hour. The new K9 MetroExtra bus route is a limited-stop service, which means it makes fewer stops and runs faster than its counterpart the K6. The new service is intended to help relieve crowding along the busy New Hampshire corridor between Northwest Park and Fort Totten Metro Station. The existing K6 schedule is not impacted by this additional service.

The K9 is distinguished from regular Metro buses with its blue paint job. It's important for riders to know that if a blue bus passes their local New Hampshire Avenue stop, a short walk might get them to a K9 stop with a faster bus. In Takoma Park, the stops are at Kirklynn Avenue (near University Boulevard), East-West Highway / Ethan Allen Avenue, Poplar Avenue / Ray Road, and Eastern Avenue.

The K9 is the first MetroExtra bus route that extends into Maryland, which demonstrates the importance of the New Hampshire Avenue corridor in the region's transportation network. On Monday, Jan. 7, Metro hosted a press event at Fort Totten Station to launch the new service. Elected officials from the District of Columbia and Montgomery County remarked on the social and economic importance of this transit investment for the riders in the corridor.

The K9 service received strong support from City officials; it immediately benefits Takoma Park riders, and aligns with long-term plans of converting New Hampshire Avenue into a multi-way boulevard that is more pedestrian-friendly and community-oriented.

Metro officials evaluating the new K9 say the route is meeting expectations in the first two weeks of its operation, capturing about 20 percent of the morning rush hour riders in the corridor so far. Riders have provided mostly positive feedback, stating that they often wait for the K9 because it is a faster service, runs on a more dependable schedule, and they're more likely to get a seat on board.

The K9 is a weekday service, running every 16 to 18 minutes during the morning and evening rush hours. For the complete timetable, see: www.wmata.com/bus/timetables

GOING OUR WAY?

Metro has released new and improved maps for the region's extensive bus routes, including the new K9. Thick red lines on the new maps highlight routes with more frequent service. So at first glance, the most noticeable routes are those with the shortest wait between busses. The maps were released without much fanfare and are available online. Download and print one for your home or office and get rolling!

www.wmata.com/bus/maps

Senior Program seeks volunteer drivers

Transportation is one of the most common problems for seniors. Without access to safe, reliable, efficient and affordable transportation, senior adults may be unable to obtain medical care, groceries or banking services, or be able to attend social events.

The new program, Village Rides, will address this problem. Resident volunteers will drive older adults who are no longer able to drive due to cognitive or physical impairments. This program will provide escorted, door-through-door transportation seven days a week and at any time of day that rides are needed and volunteers are available. The program will support a dispatch system to match drivers with those who need rides.

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board awarded a grant to the Jewish Council for the Aging (JCA) to establish the Village Rides Program in collaboration with the Senior Connection. Five Montgomery County area "villages" will be included in the program; one is Takoma Park's Seniors and Those Who Care For Them group.

Volunteer drivers are needed from our community. Drivers will receive training and additional auto liability insurance coverage through the Senior Connection. All drivers must have their own auto insurance, as primary insurance.

To learn more, or to volunteer, contact tp.village.driver@gmail.com or call Wolfgang J. Mergner, 301-580-6649.

PUBLIC WORKS OPEN HOUSE

See Takoma Park's exemplary green building

Monday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

31 Oswego Ave.

Tours will highlight sustainable building elements

Includes solar panels, geothermal heating and cooling, rainwater harvesting, greywater utilization

FEBRUARY '13

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 City of Takoma Park residents, and we'll consider it for inclusion in the calendar.
Deadline for the March 2013 issue is Feb. 18.

To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomagov.org.

Below, "TP Community Center" is the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park.

All addresses are in Takoma Park unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC MEETINGS / OF NOTE

City Council
Monday, Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 25, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
For agenda, see www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas

Takoma Park emergency food pantry
First Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Grace United Methodist Church, 7001 New Hampshire Ave.
Bi-weekly and monthly food supplements for needy families
240-450-2092 or educare_ss@yahoo.com
www.educaresupportservices.org

Public Works Open House
Monday, Feb.18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Public Works building, 31 Oswego Ave.
Take this opportunity to see the renovated building through a self-guided tour highlighting the environmental improvements
Free

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Winter Play Day
Thursday, Feb.7, 6 – 8 p.m.
TP Community Center
Takoma Plays and the Takoma Park Recreation Department welcomes all ages for an evening of fun indoor play
Free

Food Truck Fridays
5 – 8 p.m.
Takoma Junction, next to TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.
Trohv, 232 Carroll Street, NW
Various food vendors

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Jazz Jam
Open mic for jazz musicians
Tuesdays, 7 – 10 p.m.
Takoma Station, 6914 14th St. N.W.

Takoma Spark House Jam
Wednesdays after 8 p.m., ongoing
7206 Carroll Ave. across from the firehouse
Bring an instrument or sit back and listen

Wednesday Night Drum Jams
Hosted by Katy Gaughan and friends
Wednesdays, 7 – 9:30 p.m.
The Electric Maid, 268 Carroll Street NW, Takoma, D.C.

Docs In Progress Screening
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Over the Hurricane with Dr. Z, and Under Fire: Free Tutoring At Risk
See page 5 for more info
Free

HOME: Lady Leadership Panel
Thursday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m.
Dance Exchange, 7117 Maple Ave.
Women leaders in the D.C. arts scene share their wisdom in a frank conversation
$10, $5 for students and seniors
http://danceexchange.org/

Emma's Revolution
Friday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Carroll Café at Seekers Church, 276 Carroll Street, NW
Duo of activist musicians performing intimate acoustic and full-on funk
www.carrollcafe.org

Elizabethan Ardor: Passion in the Court of the Virgin Queen
Barbara Hollinshead, mezzo-soprano, and Howard Bass, lute
Saturday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Free
Lute songs and solos from the musical treasury of late 16th and early 17th century England
See page 5 for more info
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Bruce Hutton's Folk and Jugband Odyssey
Saturday, Feb. 9, 2 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Old-time American folk music and an audience participation jug band
$12 advance, $14 door
www.imtfolk.org

Jazz Brawl
Saturday, Feb. 9, 2:30 – 6 p.m.
McGinty's Public House, 911 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring
Annual competition to qualify to play Takoma Park Jazz Fest
www.tpjazzfest.org

Butterfly
Feb. 15, 16, 22, 23, 8 p.m.
Feb. 16 and 23, 2 p.m. matinee
TP Community Center Auditorium
A play about the intersection between spiritual urges and contemporary society
See page 5 for more info
$20
We Are Takoma performance
Feb. 13, 8 p.m., $20 suggested donation
www.brownpapertickets.com/event/295235

Third Thursday Poetry Reading
Thursday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Featuring poets Barbara Goldberg, David Keplinger and Merrill Leffler
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Lily Henley CD Release
Wednesday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Singer and fiddle player, drawing on Americana and Middle Eastern traditions
$15 advance/ $18 door, students $12 advance/ $15 door
www.imtfolk.org

EXHIBITS

Alice Shih
The Galleries at the Community Center
Old paintings are reconfigured and repurposed into new compositions
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Mohamed "Amdy" Adje
Colorful paintings inspired by the artist's homeland of Senegal
The Galleries at the Community Center
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Michaele Harrington
The Galleries at the Community Center
Paintings exploring runes and Celtic heritage
Free
www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events

Thien Nguyen
The Galleries at the Community Center
Raku Pottery
Free www.facebook.com/TakomaParkMD/events