January 2012

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

Volume 51, No. 1 ■ takomaparkmd.gov

WHAT'S NEW?

HOLIDAYS

City offices closed Jan. 2 and Jan. 15 for New Year's and Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday

No Monday yard waste collection Jan. 2 and 16

The Department of Public Works got a major facelift that includes changes to make the compound more efficient, and more environmentally sustainable.

Photo by Virginia Myers

Public works renovation improves efficiency, sustainability

MODERNIZATION INCLUDES REBUILDING, REARRANGEMENT OF WORK SPACE AND LEED-WORTHY GREEN FEATURES

By Virginia Myers

A laundry list of upgrades and green remodeling is nearing completion at the Public Works compound on Oswego Avenue, and though the entire facility was not rebuilt, Public Works Director Daryl Braithwaite says the changes will significantly improve the working conditions and efficiency of the department, one of the largest of the City.

Public Works staff take care of all the City's dirty work and then some. The divisions include sanitation (trash, recycling and yard waste pick-up), gardening, park maintenance, tree regulation, street work, stormwater management and building maintenance. Now they will be doing their work from buildings with improved heating, cooling and ventilation, more natural lighting, expanded equipment storage space, an improved equipment entrance and exit and a more attractive public face.

The $3 million renovation, designed by Bignell, Watkins and Hasser architects and constructed by Keller Brothers Construction, starts at the two entrances to the facility: both the Oswego and Ritchie Avenue driveways will have automated gates. The Ritchie entrance will be used

PUBLIC WORKS ☐ Page 7

Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority welcomes watershed moment

By Kevin Adler

Anyone who's lived in Takoma Park for the last decade has noticed the changes that have taken place in the "Crossroads" commercial area, where New Hampshire Avenue intersects University Boulevard.

Stretching in all four directions from this busy intersection are more than $7 million in state-funded pedestrian-friendly street upgrades. These include fences installed in the medians to stop jaywalkers, expanded crosswalks, synchronized lights, and more. Even the bus pickups were redesigned with safety in mind.

Those infrastructure improvements were complemented by City of Takoma Park investments in landscaping and "Welcome" signage. More recently, property owners have refaced some shopping center facades and renovated apartments in adjoining neighborhoods. The result is that the City's largest commercial district, by far, is poised for a new era.

CDA ☐ Page 9

Moving toward a pedestrian-friendly gateway

By Erkin Ozberk
Planning Division

The intersection of New Hampshire Avenue and Ethan Allen Avenue / East-West Highway is a major gateway into the City of Takoma Park. Most people find walking at the intersection unappealing at best and downright scary at worst. Yet, each day over 600 people board buses here, and even more live in the surrounding neighborhoods and patronize the many businesses. The City thinks more people would too, if the public area was safer, and provided more "curb appeal" to distinguish it as an important gateway.

This lively commercial center and high transit use area has been prioritized by the City for streetscape improvements oriented toward pedestrians and designed to establish stronger connections with the adjoining neighborhoods. A makeover is in the works for the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape on a scale similar to what occurred along Carroll Avenue from Old Town to Takoma Junction. It will be different, however, as it encompasses many fewer blocks, and because the area starts with less already in place.

Earlier in the fall, an engineering survey of the street was undertaken on the area stretching from the western side of the intersection to the City's eastern boundary, just beyond Kentland Avenue. This area sorely needs sidewalks that are more comfortable for pedestrians, compliant with the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and shaded by

GATEWAY ☐ Page 6

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TAKOMA TOPICS:

TUBE TP

Our City TV department has a YouTube channel and has been hard at work producing, editing and uploading video of local interest. We encourage everyone to check out the channel. www.youtube.com/TakomaParkMD

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS*

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

Tuesday, Jan. 3, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 9, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
For agendas, see www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas

FAÇADE ADVISORY BOARD

Wednesday, Jan. 4, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room
(tentative) Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
TPCC Room TBA

NUCLEAR-FREE TAKOMA PARK COMMITTEE

Thursday, Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

TAKOMA JUNCTION TASK FORCE

Thursday, Jan. 5, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room
Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Rose Room

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.
TPCC Azalea Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL LAND USE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

*All meetings are open to the public unless noted otherwise. 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 Deputy City Manager at 301-891-7229 or suzannel@takomagov.org at least 48 hours in advance.

CityCouncilAction

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

CITY COUNCIL ACTION

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 clerk@takomagov.org.

ORDINANCE 2011-52

Adopted (Nov. 21, 2011)

Authorizing Renewal of Contract with Userful for Computers, Software, and Support

This contract will provide for computers, software and support for the Computer Learning Center workstations and computers.

RESOLUTION 2011-60

Adopted (Nov. 21, 2011)

Resolution recognizing the contributions of Josh Wright as Ward 1 City Councilmember

RESOLUTION 2011-61

Adopted (Nov. 21, 2011)

Resolution recognizing the contributions of Colleen Clay as Ward 2 City Councilmember

RESOLUTION 2011-62

Adopted (Nov. 21, 2011)

Resolution recognizing the contributions of Dan Robinson as Ward 3 City Councilmember

RESOLUTION 2011-63

Adopted (Nov. 28, 2011)

Resolution providing for the reappointment of F. Noreene Wells as the Takoma Park Representative to the Montgomery County Cable and Communications Advisory Committee

Abstain: Councilmember Grimes

RESOLUTION 2011-64

Adopted (Nov. 28, 2011)

Resolution providing for the Council's winter recess

The Council recessed until Jan. 3, 2012 unless pressing business necessitates a December meeting.

Abstain: Councilmember Grimes

ORDINANCE 2011-53

Adopted (Dec. 12, 2011)

Awarding a contract to repair a failed roof top unit for heating and cooling of the Computer Learning Center

RESOLUTION 2011-65

Adopted (Dec. 12, 2011)

Establishing a Council Compensation Committee and appointing members

The City Council appointed Colleen Clay, Rachael Hardwick and Donna Victoria to serve on the Committee.

RESOLUTION 2011-66

Adopted (Dec. 12, 2011)

Appointing members to the Redistricting Task Force

The City Council appointed Richard Fawal (Ward 2) and Ellen Zavian (Ward 3) to serve on the Task Force.

RESOLUTION 2011-67

Adopted (Dec. 12, 2011)

Appointing a member to the Ethics Commission

The City Council appointed Adam Hatton (Ward 2) to the Ethics Commission

Takoma Park Grants Available

Funding Requests ($2,500 and above)

The Large Community Grant funding guidelines are available online. The deadline for applications is Jan. 20, 2012. These grants are for projects to be completed in Fiscal Year 2013. Check www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk for information. If requests for funds are granted, funds will be available after July 1, 2012.

Small Community Grants (under $2,500)

The Small Community Grant funding guidelines are available online. The deadline for applications is Feb. 15. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2012. Check www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk for information.

Election Comments?

We'd like to hear from you about the City Election that was held on Nov. 8. If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to the City Clerk, City of Takoma Park, 7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md. or email TPElections@takomagov.org .

Increased City TV Coverage

In January, City TV goes live a half hour before the City Council meetings, with information and interviews about the Council's agenda that night. Go to http://takomapark.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2 or tune your cable service to channel 13 on RCN and Comcast, 28 on Verizon Fios.

It's a New Year – Time to Step Up and Get Involved with a City Board, Commission, or Committee

There are opportunities for Takoma Park residents to serve on a number of City boards, commissions, and committees. If you feel you can make a positive contribution, please consider volunteering. 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)

Board of Elections (vacancy)

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (vacancy)

Emergency Preparedness Committee (vacancy)

Ethics Commission (vacancies)

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)

Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee (vacancies)

THE TAKOMA PARK NEWSLETTER

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The Newsletter does not accept commercial, classified, or political advertisements. Reports by community groups, letters to the editor, 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.

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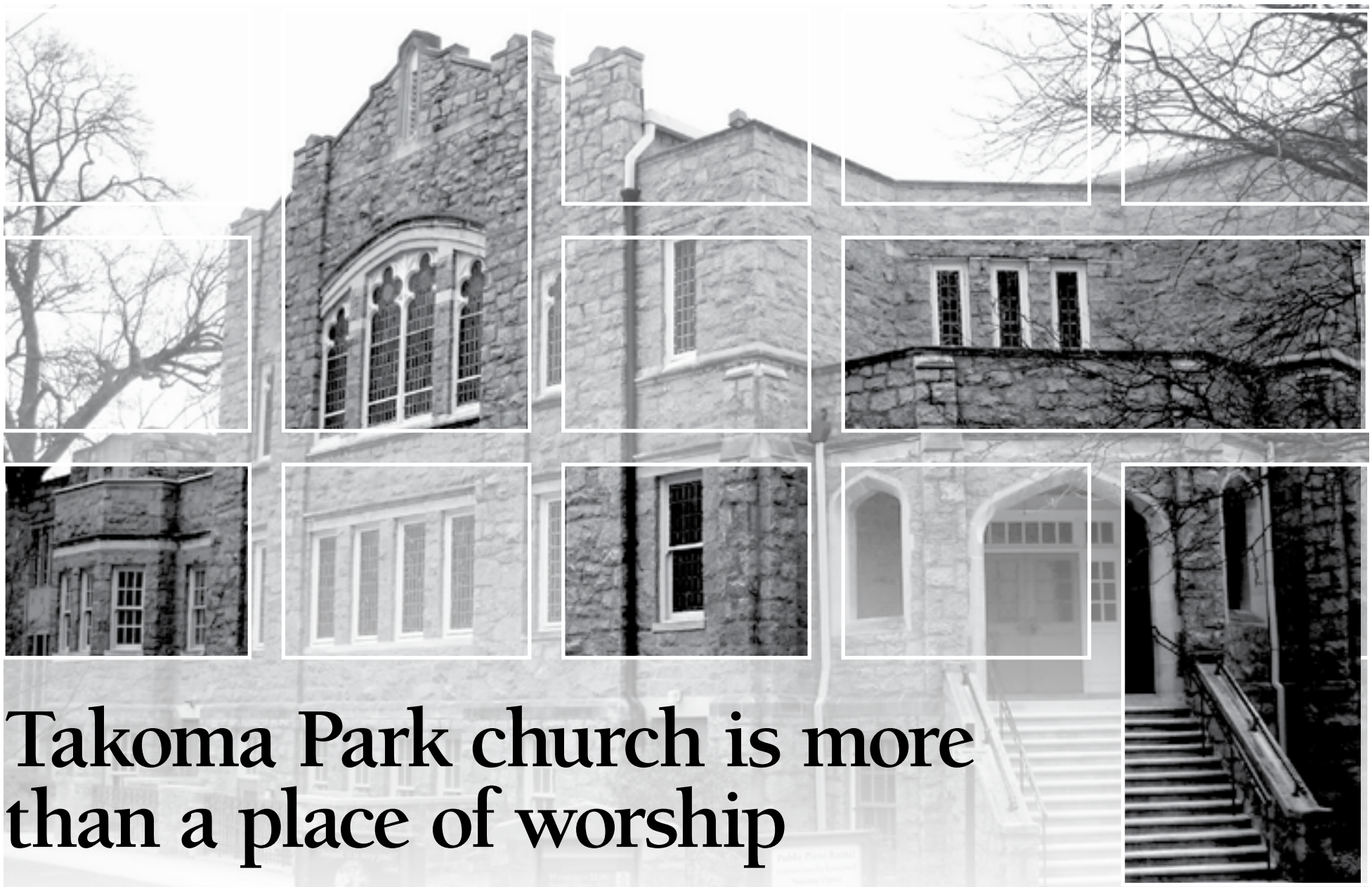


Takoma Park church is more than a place of worship

By Joy Jones

When it was founded, Takoma Park Presbyterian Church may have been out to capture souls, but over its 100-year history, the church has become a center for a broad spectrum of secular activities, and a guardian of community spirit in the heart of the city.

From the beginning, Takoma Park Presbyterian demonstrated progressive leanings, from its early pastors (like the Rev. Paul Schearrer), who were graduates of the more liberal theological seminaries and on the leading edges of social and intellectual theology. According to the current pastor, the Rev. Mark Greiner, TPPC has always had an activist bent and a decided mission of being part of, not an institution apart from, the Takoma Park community.

For example, Pastor John Patterson (1966-1978), brought together African seminary students to work with recently arrived Takoma Park African families in the 1960s. In the 1970s, the Church founded an on-site child care center expressly for low-income children, and served meals for these same children from its own kitchen. Today, although it is no longer limited to low-income families, the Takoma Park Child Development Center might be the most visible of the Church's programs, with its brightly-colored outdoor playground and frequent queues of hand-holding pre-schoolers taking teacher-led neighborhood walks and field trips. (See related story, page 11.)

Ever seeking to meet community needs, the Church, in collaboration with TPSS Coop and Crossroads Community Food Network is now hoping to renovate its old kitchen to commercial standards, to provide food handling training and micro-enterprise opportunities for Takoma Park residents (see story, Dec. 2012 Newsletter).

In its early days and for almost 20 years, Casa de Maryland used Church space to build itself into an influential advocacy organization for the local Latino population. The Church is still active in Nicaragua; its sister parish is located in the tiny town of Jiñocuao, and is featured on the TPPC website.

Consistent with its activist style of leadership, in the 1980s the church took a strong and public stand against racial apartheid, posting a permanent sign outside the edifice that read "Apartheid is contrary to the will of God." Greiner says that many people came to TPPC precisely because of that sign and what it represented: a church that was engaged in serious issues and not afraid to take a stand on its beliefs. Another example: according to Greiner, in the 1990s, the congregation formally affiliated with the Presbyterian Church's More Light movement, stating that TPPC would ordain LGBT laypeople as Church elders and deacons. The Presbyterian Church (USA) nationally would not amend its rules to allow the ordination of LGBT people until May, 2011. In the 1990s TPPC took further action by celebrating LBGT unions, something the national Presbyterian Church still does not recognize as a marriage.

Clearly, at TPPC, there is a real legacy of listening and learning and of "walking the talk." Greiner says that part of TPPC's listening and learning involves asking itself, "Who are we as a Takoma Park community? Who are we as Takoma Park Presbyterian Church? What are community needs? How should we focus our ministry? What can we do alone? What can we do with the help of others?" This kind of deep self-examination has led TPPC to self-understanding as an advocate for community change that leads to greater equality and access to resources for all members of the community.

Partnerships with other groups helps the Church maximize its advocacy and reach. Mimi Iklè-Khalsa coordinates the Alternative Gift Fair, held in the Church gym every year. The Fair (a non-religious organization), featuring up to 15 local and five international nonprofits, gives hundreds of shoppers a chance to donate, in the name of friends and family, to groups "on the ground" with people in need. Iklè-Khalsa says the mission of the Fair, to "present more meaningful opportunities for caring and joyful giving during traditional holidays," is right in sync with TPPC's mission to care for and advocate for the vulnerable: people who are poor, homeless, abused, disabled and those without a voice that can be heard on its own.

"The reality is that most people here in Takoma Park have enough," says Iklè-Khalsa. "But there are people right here in Takoma Park in real need of the basics: food, clothing, shelter, education, physical safety. Partnering with TPPC and holding the Alternative Gift Fair in the Church gym has been a concrete way to reach out to the community, in the finest tradition of the Church itself, and without any religious overtones. Just like Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, we simply provide a way for people to give in honor of caring for one another."

This caring is also reflected in the Church's close relationship with Boy Scout Troop 33. One of the oldest troops in the U.S., Troop 33 is known for so many community services that have become almost synonymous with the Scouts: leaf-raking and yard work for residents, the annual mulch sale, and most famously, the Pancake Supper, held each year in the TPPC gym. "Takoma Park Presbyterian Church has been the official sponsor of Troop 33 since 1920, the year of the Troop's chartering," says Dave Lanar, Scoutmaster of the Troop. "Every year TPPC re-commits itself as sponsor of the Troop." On behalf of the Troop

TCPC ☐ Page 9

DID YOU KNOW ?

There are approximately 200 members and friends of the congregation of the Takoma Park Presbyterian Church, of which approximately:

- 18 percent are African
- 10 percent are Caribbean and Central American
- 5 percent are African American
- 4 percent are Asian
- 64 percent are Caucasian

The congregation includes families and individuals originally from Canada, Cameroon, the Congo, El Salvador, Ghana, India, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Panama, Puerto Rico, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Trinidad.

HOUSING

Landlord Training - Fair Return Rent Increase Petition

Jan. 25 • 7 – 9 p.m.

If you are a landlord who is subject to the rent stabilization law and have found that your net operating income has decreased over the years, you should join us on Jan. 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. to learn more about the Fair Return Rent Increase Petition process. The class will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. in Takoma Park. Pre-registration is required by contacting Jean Kerr at 301-891-7216 or jeank@takomagov.org.

Rebuilding Together helps those in need

Do you know someone who might need repairs done to their home, but cannot afford to do them? Rebuilding Together Montgomery County is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing volunteers and communities together to improve the homes and lives of low income homeowners. Homeowner eligibility is based on annual household income, for example a one person household with no more than $34,178, two persons with $39,054 and three persons with $43,930.

The organization provides home repair services including home modifications to provide accessibility for the elderly and disabled, weatherization repairs to increase energy efficiency, minor plumbing and electrical work, or larger repairs such as roofs and HVAC systems under their critical needs program. Repairs are completed by community volunteers and family members working side by side. The cost of the repairs and modifications are paid by sponsoring organizations and grants, so there is never any cost to the homeowner. Because of the critical need, all applications now being accepted must show that the repairs are needed to keep homeowners safe, warm and dry.

Although Rebuilding Together Montgomery County mainly serves the elderly, disabled, families with children and veterans, anybody who meets the income requirements and is a homeowner in Montgomery County is eligible to apply. For an application, contact Linda Walker at 301-891-7222 or lindaw@takomagov.org.

The New Ave needs YOU!

Takoma/Langley Urban Design Guidelines Draft Presentation

Tuesday, Jan. 12

7:30 – 9 p.m.

Montgomery County Planning Staff presents the County draft of Urban Design Guidelines for the Takoma Langley Sector Plan to the public for discussion. This document will guide development of more than 10,000 square feet on large properties in the Crossroads.

Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape Project

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7:30 – 9 p.m.

Share inside info with planners working on this project area, and assist in the development of a concept plan to build a commercial grade streetscape from just west of New Hampshire Avenue to the City border on East-West Highway.

Council Worksession on Urban Design Guidelines

Monday, Jan. 23

City Council will discuss the draft Takoma/Langley Urban Design Guidelines (check the City Council agenda for approximate time).

All events will be held in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium, 7500 Maple Ave. in Takoma Park. For background material, online maps and to be added to the project contact list visit www.theNewAve.com or call 301-891-7119.

HOUSING MAILBOX

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

I just moved into an apartment in Takoma Park and would like to know: Is there a date when heat has to be turned on? Also should the landlord have replaced the lock to my apartment after the last tenant moved out, and how often are landlords required to paint an apartment?

Landlords are required to maintain the temperature in a rental unit of at least 68 degrees Fahrenheit. This reading should be taken at a distance of three feet above the floor. The property maintenance code does not provide for a specific date that heat must be turned on in an apartment.

Takoma Park's Landlord-Tenant Law (Section 6.16.050) requires that landlords rekey every lock on each door which provides access to a rental unit between tenancies. Apartment locks may not be changed by tenants without prior landlord approval and landlords must be provided with a key to all apartment locks, if they are changed.

In regard to your question about painting, Section 6.16.050.F of the landlord-tenant law requires landlords to paint all rental units in their entirety at least once every five (5) years. Although repainting is not required between tenancies, all painted surfaces must be in clean condition and free of any peeling or chipping paint at the beginning of a tenancy.

If you have questions about the City's Landlord-Tenant Law, you may contact me at 301-891-7215 or mosesw@takomagov.org.

GET THE WORD OUT!

The City of Takoma Park is now on Twitter and Facebook! Keep up to date on events, news and other community info. It's a great opportunity to get the word out about your own events as well: just send an email to craigt@takomagov.org.

Help us build an on-line community that supports arts and culture right here in Takoma Park!

twitter.com/TakomaParkMD
facebook.com/TakomaParkMD

AT YOUR SERVICE

Dramatic car chase ends in shooting

On Dec. 10 at approximately 3:47 p.m., Takoma Park Police responded to the 6900 block of New Hampshire Avenue — the Sunoco Gas Station—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.

The victim had been filling his vehicle with gas and had left the vehicle to go inside the convenience mart at the gas station. He came out, saw the suspect in his vehicle, 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 the vehicle; apparently the suspect had demanded property from the victim and the keys to his vehicle.

During the confrontation, the victim resisted and then was stabbed multiple times. The suspect then ran to his Ford Focus, parked approximately 10 yards away, got in and then rammed the victim's vehicle. He then fled going northbound on New Hampshire Avenue.

Two Takoma Park officers picked up the pursuit. They lost sight of the vehicle for a period of time. The female officer, Pfc. Mary Jo Walpole, then saw the vehicle overturned at Riggs and Metzerot roads. The suspect vehicle had apparently struck three occupied vehicles and then overturned.

Walpole saw the suspect fleeing from his vehicle, pursued him on foot and, several yards away from his vehicle, confronted him and deployed her taser. It had no affect on the suspect. The suspect then charged the female officer and assaulted her.

A second Takoma Park police officer, Cpl. Keith 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 Walpole.

The suspect, later identified as Keston David Lewis, 19, of the 700 block of Linden Oak Place in Odenton was transported to MedStar Washington Hospital Center where he was pronounced dead. The victim from the Sunoco was also transported to MedStar Washington Hospital Center where he was recovering at press time.

The Prince George's County Police Department is following up with the shooting investigation, working with Takoma Park. The two officers—Largent, a 23-year veteran with the Takoma Park Police, and Walpole, an eight-year veteran—have been placed on administrative leave, which is departmental policy.

Police are seeking two "good Samaritans" who assisted with the traffic accident that followed the gas station incident. One is a black female who stopped to assist the other motorists involved, without realizing that one of the motorists, Lewis, was wanted by Takoma Park Police. Lewis attempted to carjack the woman's red BMW. During the attempted carjacking, a Hispanic male came to her aid and engaged the suspect before police arrived on the scene.

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the Prince George's County Police Department's Homicide Unit at 301-772-4925. Callers wishing to remain anonymous may call Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477), text "PGPD plus your message" to CRIMES (274637) on your cell phone, or go to www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/police to submit a tip online.

Got parking tickets? Pay online

If you got caught late paying that parking meter, or wound up in the wrong spot at the wrong time and got a parking ticket from Takoma Park Police, you can now pay the ticket online. Go to parkingticketpayment.com/takomapark, a service that accepts most major credit cards. You can also appeal the ticket here.

www.parkingticketpayment.com/takomapark/

Public CompStat Meeting

Takoma Park Police Chief Ronald Ricucci and Crime Analyst Andrew Gucciardo will be holding a public "CompStat" meeting on Jan. 24 beginning at 7 p.m. in the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. CompStat, short for Computer Statistics, is a multilayered dynamic approach to crime reduction, quality of life improvement, and personnel and resource management. It uses Geographic Information Systems to map crime and identify problems. Ricucci will also hold an open discussion with residents on crime in the City. The session will include a question and answer period.

THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

Fire, by the numbers

As of Nov. 30, the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station have responded to 684 fire-related incidents. The department addressed or assisted with 2,611 rescue or ambulance-related incidents, for a total of 3,295 this year. Totals for 2010 were 726 and 2,901. representing a decrease of 332 incidents.

Deadly fire hits city

On Wednesday, Dec. 7, at 1:57 a.m., at 29 Holt Place, a house fire resulted in the death of resident Walter Rave (see related story, page 12). When firefighters arrived from Takoma Park Station 2, they found heavy fire showing in the front. Rave was already out of the house, with major burns over his body. He was treated by paramedics and transported to the Burn Center in the District.

Fire investigators from the Montgomery County Fire Marshal Office believe the fire started in a vehicle in the driveway and spread to the porch, then to the inside of the house. Units from Takoma Park, Silver Spring, Chillum-Adelphia, Hyattsville and Wheaton responded. Approximately 75 fire and EMS personnel were on the scene. The fire, which was stoked by the extensive contents of the home, took about an hour to get under control. The fire caused an estimated $400,000 in damage.

Special thanks for holiday dinners

On behalf of the Takoma Park VFD, we want to again thank the Takoma Park Lions Club, Takoma Park VFW Post 350 and the Auxiliary from the Cissel-Saxon Unit No. 41 American Legion for their generous donations in making our 17th year "Dinners for Needy Families" a great success. We also would like to thank Dave Hooker (TPVFD) and Mike Hall (Lion's Club) for their assistance with delivering the dinners. This year, 22 families were able to enjoy one of the donated dinners on Thanksgiving Day.

New Year's resolutions and tips for a fire safe 2012

Fire Place Ashes: Be sure they are cold and store them outside in a closed metal container away from the house. Hot ashes have caused many fires.

Christmas tree: Be sure to dispose of the cut tree as soon as you're finished with it— a dry tree can spread fire rapidly. Take it to a designated pick up point—Takoma Park Public Works picks up trees from the curb on Monday yard waste pick-up days.

Smoke alarms: Install one on all levels of the home. Test them monthly. If a smoke alarm does not work, get a replacement immediately. Don't stay home without them. They do save lives.

Escape planning: Have and practice an escape plan with all members of the family. Discuss two ways out of every room in the event of a fire. Identify a safe meeting place outside the house.

House numbers: Be sure numbers are easily visible from the street. In an emergency, time is crucial. If the house numbers are not clearly displayed, firefighters and rescuers may have difficulty in locating the house.

Kitchen stove/oven: Check after each use. Don't let grease build up. Never leave cooking unattended.

Emergency telephone number: Dial 911. Make sure everyone knows how to call the fire department.

Home fire safety check: Check your home for potential fire hazards. Don't let papers and other unwanted combustibles accumulate in closets, attic, basement or garage. Dispose of them on a regular basis. Remember a clean home helps to make it fire safe.

THE ARTS

Susan Woolen was one of more than 30 artists at Takoma Park's annual Holiday Art Sale, held at the Community Center Dec. 10. Besides Woolen's "Northern Lights Pottery," there were paintings, prints, glasswork, jewelry and more.

Photo by Sara Daines

Glass artist manipulates color, light

"Circle in Circle"

"The first thing I think about when designing a piece is how to put the colors together," says glass artist Viki Keating, whose show is on exhibit at the Takoma Park Community Center though Jan. 30. "Glass is an exciting way to deal with color because the pallet is endless and you have the added benefit of light."

Keating, a member of the National Capital Art Glass Guild, has a glass studio called Stained Glass Creations, and produces commissioned glasswork for architectural installations as well as original work for galleries. She's been working with glass for more than 26 years and uses traditional copper foil as well as fused and cast glass. Artist residency projects for elementary and middle school students are a specialty.

"I … play with glass as a texture that enhances the effects of light," says Keating, describing her work. "Nature … plays a large part in my design process. I'm fascinated by the textures of natural substances and their color and lines. Imitating nature in its many forms and taking it apart and reconstructing it is an endless source of pleasure for me."

"Toast Anyone?"

Keating's work is on display in the Corridor Gallery, next to the Computer Learning Center at the Community Center. It can be viewed Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and on Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. A portfolio of her work can be found at www.keatingproductions.com

For more information, contact Viki Keating at viki@keatingproductions.com.

GATEWAY

■ From page 1

new street trees.

With resident input, the City will be taking the next step by developing a concept plan for the future Ethan Allen Gateway streetscape design. The design will address the locations of street trees, landscaping, decorative sidewalks, public art, pedestrian-oriented lighting, way-finding signs, and upgraded benches and other street furniture. The project will also explore improving stormwater infiltration through the inclusion of sustainable design features.

Residents and business owners are invited to contribute to the development of the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape design, as it is an important step in defining the identity of the New Ave and Takoma Park.

The first public workshop for the project will be held Wednesday, Jan. 18 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. in Takoma Park. At this workshop, residents will share priorities for the area that relate to greater pedestrian comfort and safety, such as lighting, sidewalks and street trees.

In the meantime, you can contribute to the Ethan Allen Gateway Streetscape online, by posting comments to an interactive map of the project area: www.thenewave.com/development/projects/eag.

ARTS & *Humanities*

Washington Musica Viva enlivens the stage

Fans of chamber music will be pleased to learn that Washington Musica Viva's (WMV) concert series will continue this month at the Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium. According to Reva Blau of the Provincetown Banner, "Washington Musica Viva breaks out of chamber music's standard realm, striving to keep a broad range of music alive through concerts that celebrate lesser known chamber music, including contemporary and jazz."

Led by pianist and Takoma Park resident Carl Banner, the focus of WMV is on local composers, women composers, African-American composers, composers suffering under political oppression, and unfamiliar masterpieces of all kinds. They have built a "solid reputation for (their) willingness to explore relatively unknown music, especially slightly 'edgy' modern music that strays tantalizingly close to the outer borders that separate classical music from jazz or other ethnic strengths." (Stephen Neal Dennis, a critic with allartsreview4u).

Featured this month on Jan. 13 is "Spain & France," a trio for violin, cello and piano by Enrique Granados and Gabriel Fauré with Nicholas Currie on the violin, cellist Adam Gonzalez, and Carl Banner on the piano. On Jan. 20 "The Mighty Saxophone of Charley Gerard" takes the stage, with alto saxophonist Charley Gerard, Alice Tung on the viola, and pianist Carl Banner. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. There is an admission fee.

For more information, check out the website, www.dcmusicaviva.org.

Spring Art Hop planning begins

This spring the Old Takoma business district will transform into a lively arts district showcasing the talents of local artisans both young and old. Visual artists will have the opportunity to display their work in local businesses while young musicians, dancers and performers will share the streets and stages. Interested? Apply now: Applications are available at www.mainstreettakoma.org.

PUBLIC WORKS

■ From page 1

primarily for City equipment and is a great improvement over the old, poorly graded driveway, where trucks bottomed out and risked damage each time they entered. This change came from neighborhood requests that most vehicles enter and exit from the Ritchie Avenue driveway. The Oswego entrance will be used primarily by visitors, vendors and police vehicles getting fuel.

Administration

One of the biggest changes is the complete gutting and renovation of two old buildings that now accommodate administration, the City engineer, and the City gardener. A new, in-fill building between the renovated structures further expands the space. The new arrangement puts all administrative staff in one building, rather than spread out across the compound, making communication much easier, says Braithwaite. It is also ADA accessible.

The renovated administration building includes a new conference room which will be used by staff; it will eventually include a screen and projection system for training sessions and presentations. There is also a staff break room, a new feature not included in the old configuration. Staff shower facilities were also relocated to these buildings, and improved to be ADA compliant and to include individual stalls instead of group showers.

Mechanics and equipment

Elsewhere on the compound, the area used by mechanics for parts and equipment storage was demolished and relocated so that it is now adjacent to the mechanic bays, a much more convenient location (the space was previously used for bathrooms and showers). The area gives mechanics more space, better lighting and greater security as well.

Nearby, the building identified as the Equipment Bay has a new roof and one side wall, and major repairs to the back cinder block wall have made it more structurally sound. The half dirt/half paved floor has also been replaced with concrete.

Sanitation

Whereas the old building for sanitation trucks was not big enough for the trucks to fit inside, the one that replaced it is much larger and provides not only space for the trash trucks, but also covered storage space for equipment. The building is well-lit and heated—improvements over the old building, which was open on one side and had very poor lighting. The sanitation supervisor and sanitation staff locker rooms were also relocated to this building, and an additional bathroom was added.

Going green

Because the renovation includes so many green elements, City staff will apply for LEED certification for the transformed facility. The certification— Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design—requires specific steps be taken to reduce energy use in buildings. Braithwaite says Public Works may qualify for one of the higher designations, the Silver LEED certification.

Renovations to Public Works began with planning in 2009, and were almost finished by the end of last year, December 2011. Moving all the equipment and parts that have been temporarily stored elsewhere once the final occupancy permit is received, is all that remains, but Braithwaite expects to be able to show off the improvements to the public with an Open House scheduled some time this winter.

Included in the compound's green features are:

DAYLIGHTING – the use of numerous windows and skylights—in the lobby, administrative offices, and sanitation storage facility to save on electrical lighting and heating

INTERIOR FINISHES – recycled content and low-voc (low in volatile organic compounds) paints

SEALED CONCRETE –low-maintenance floor finishes to accommodate heavy activity (work boots, dirt, etc.); bamboo flooring in offices; vinyl covering with high recycled content in conference room; and cork and rubber in staff lounge

RAINWATER – harvested from the sanitation building, stored in a 4,000-gallon tank and used to water the nursery

GREYWATER – application to WSSC to install a greywater system, which would use rainwater for toilet flushing

NEW ROOFS – painted white to reflect heat

STORMWATER FILTRATION – an additional stormwater filtration system to capture pollutants from run-off and remove them so the water discharged to Sligo Creek is cleaner

GEOTHERMAL - heating and cooling systems that use geothermal wells, an efficient system that relies on the constant water temperature from the ground, rather than heating and cooling ambient air or potable water to desired required temperatures

INFRARED HEATING – for equipment storage areas

LOW-FLOW FAUCETS – and shower heads, and dual flush toilets to reduce water consumption

New bag law cuts down on plastic

Starting Jan. 1, 2012, all retail establishments in Montgomery County that sell goods and provide their customers a carryout bag (either paper or plastic) are required to charge 5 cents per bag. That includes all stores, permanent booths, service stations, grocery stores, department stores, specialty goods sellers, convenience stores, restaurants and others.

The new carryout bag law is designed to improve the environment by cutting down plastic bags—a significant source of litter. A similar program has been in effect in Washington, D.C. for the past 18 months and has already reduced plastic bag litter that clogs the rivers and streams in Washington by an estimated 65 percent.

Proceeds from the Carryout Bag Law go exclusively to programs that fight litter and provide stormwater pollution control in Montgomery County.

Residents can avoid the charge for carryout bags by bringing their own bags to carry purchases out of the store.

The 5-cent charge also applies to purchases made over the phone/Internet/fax, or at a self-checkout counter, if you are using store-provided carryout bags.

Some bags are exempt from the Carryout Bag Law. Examples include bags used to package bulk or perishable items, prescription drugs, as well as paper bags from restaurants and delis for customers to carry out prepared or left-over food.

For more information, visit montgomerycountymd.gov/bag or call 311.

Get Your Hands Dirty on the New Ave

with the Community Gardens/Greening Grant

The City offers a grant for beautifying and greening the New Hampshire Avenue corridor within the City of Takoma Park. To date, the City has provided grants for five projects and welcomes proposals for new gardens and greening along the New Ave.

Applications are open until January 31, 2012.

For location ideas, applications and additional resources, call 301-891-7213 or visit us online:

www.theNewAve.com/explore

LIBRARY

The Friends of the Takoma Park, Maryland Library give generously of their time and resources. Many of the programs listed on these pages are made possible through their efforts, including Spanish Circle Time, Comics Jam, reading groups, crafts event and more.

For more information about supporting the Friends, see http://www.ftpml.org.

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, Jan. 9, 7 p.m.

Come in p.j.s, bring your teddy bear or other stuffed favorites as we read some stories and sing some songs and rhymes in this half-hour program.

Perfect for babies, toddlers, preschoolers and their grown-ups.

COMICS JAM

Tuesday, Jan. 10, 4 p.m.

Read comics on the big screen with our graphic novel guru, David Burbank.

No registration.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

Tues. Jan. 17, 7:45 p.m.

Library

FRIENDS READING GROUP

Wednesday, Jan. 18, 7:30 p.m.

"Catch 22" by Joseph Heller

Azalea Room

FRENCH CIRCLE TIME

Cancelled for January

BANNED BOOKS CLUB

Monday, Jan. 30, 7:30 p.m.

"Catch 22" by Joseph Heller

Hydrangea Room.

JUNIOR BANNED BOOKS CLUB

Monday, Jan. 30, 6:30 p.m.

"The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" by C.S. Lewis.

Registration required, but all kids in grades 3, 4 and 5 are welcome.

New Library card fees:

TAKOMA PARK RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS

Free

MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS

$37 per year

NON-MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS

$60 per year

Favorite children's, teen books rise to the top

By Karen MacPherson

As a book reviewer, I receive hundreds of children's and teen books each year from publishers. Of those books, I can read carefully only a fraction – maybe a couple of hundred titles annually. But I skim many more, and of course, I try to keep up with what is popular among the young readers in our library as well as what other reviewers are highlighting.

In the midst of all of this reading, a relative handful of books for children and teens become my favorites each year. They're the ones that I found most memorable as a reader, reviewer and children's/teen librarian.

This past year, four books stood out from the crowd of titles for me. First, for sheer genius, you can't beat "Press Here" (ages 2 up), written and illustrated by Hervé Tullet.

In the book, Tullet's brief text is paired with a series of yellow, red and blue dots highlighted on white or black pages. These are not interactive dots—they're just flat, two-dimensional images on the page—but Tullet's amazing creativity helps readers make them interactive as they "press" a dot, then turn the page to find two dots, etc. Readers are urged to shake and tilt the book to make things happen to the dots; by clapping at the dots, for example, they "grow" huge when the reader turns the page.

If you're looking for one book to entertain a wide variety of ages, "Press Here" is the one. It likely would be a top contender for the Caldecott Medal, awarded annually by the American Library Association (ALA) to the best-illustrated children's book, but Tullet lives in France, thus making him ineligible for an award given only to American citizens or residents.

Chris Raschka, the author/illustrator of another of my favorite 2011 books, however, is eligible for the Caldecott Medal, and his newest book, "A Ball for Daisy" (ages 3-6), is one of my top picks for the 2012 Caldecott Medal, which will be announced on Jan. 23.

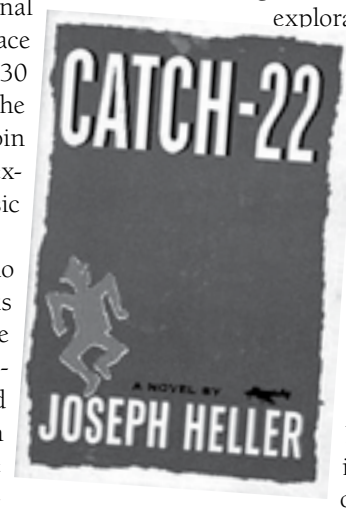
Raschka, who won the 2006 Caldecott Medal for "The Hello, Goodbye Window," uses his trademark loose-lined illustration style to tell the story of Daisy, a dog whose

BEST OF BOOKS ☐ Page 9

Intergenerational group discusses "Catch 22"

By Ellen Robbins

A lively inter-generational book discussion will take place on Monday, Jan. 30 at 7:30 p.m., when members of the Friends Reading Group join the Banned Books Club to examine Joseph Heller's classic "Catch 22."



Karen MacPherson, who started the Banned Books Club along with then-middle school student Alanna Natanson in 2008, will lead this discussion, framing it in terms of where and why the book was banned or challenged. She will also facilitate exploration of its style, characters and literary merit.

The middle schoolers who started the club are now in high school, and their reading choices have often led them into exploration of adult classics. Coincidentally the Friends Reading Group – an adult discussion group started by Merrill Leffler – also chose "Catch 22" for its January selection. Thus members of the two groups will meet together for the first time, for what promises to be a rewarding discussion.

On Jan. 18, the Friends Reading Group will hold its own own examination of Heller's work, facilitated by educator and Takoma Park Poet Laureate Leffler. All are invited to attend in the Community Center Azalea Room at 7:30 p.m. This is typically a discussion group for adult readers, but all are welcome.

"Catch 22" by Joseph Heller was published in 1961, and quickly became a best-seller. Set in World War II, it tells the story of "the incomparable, malingering bombardier, Yosarian, a hero endlessly inventive in his schemes to save his skin from the horrible chances of war." (publisher's note) *The New York Times* review praised it as "a monumental artifact of contemporary literature, almost as assured of longevity as the statues on Easter Island…" And in *The Nation:* "This novel is not merely the best American novel to come out of World War II; it is the best American novel that has come out of anywhere in years." (Nelson Algren)

For additional information on these discussions, contact Karen or Ellen at the Library.

TO REGISTER FOR LIBRARY EVENTS, go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

BEST OF BOOKS

■ From page 8

beloved red ball is popped by another dog at the park one day. Daisy is grief-stricken at the loss—Raschka's illustrations are a marvel of emotional intensity conveyed in just a few lines of watercolor and ink—but Daisy perks up when she receives a new ball, a blue one, from the other dog's owner. Young readers will love Raschka's story for the way it mirrors the ups and downs of their own days, while readers of all ages will cheer the happy ending.

My top choice for the Newbery Medal, given annually by the ALA to the best-written children's book, is "Okay for Now," written by Gary Schmidt. Although the book is aimed at readers ages 10-14, I've handed it to adults who have absolutely loved the powerful, Vietnam-era story.

Schmidt is a two-time Newbery Honor winner and in this book he connects several disparate story strands, including an exploration of a young bully's family background and his efforts to change his life, and the ethics of a town's decision to raise money by selling off pages of a copy of "Birds of America" by John James Audubon.

Schmidt weaves these story threads and others into a narrative built around images from "Birds of America"—an image from the book is presented at the opening of each chapter. Schmidt uses the images as a reflection of what's going on in the life of his emotionally and physically battered protagonist, a middle-schooler named Doug Swieteck, who was first introduced to readers in Schmidt's Newbery Honor book, "The Wednesday Wars."

"Okay for Now" isn't a perfect book, but it is a memorable one that will long resonate with readers.

It seemed the author/illustrator Brian Selznick couldn't possibly push the boundary of the novel further than he did in the Caldecott Medal-winning "The Invention of Hugo Cabret." But Selznick's newest book, "Wonderstruck" (ages 8-12) goes even further and is my fourth top favorite for 2011.

While "Hugo" tells one story in words and pictures, "Wonderstruck" tells one story in words, another story—set 50 years previously—in illustrations, and then brings the words, illustrations and stories together at the book's conclusion. It's a tour de force that highlights themes of loss, grief and reunion.

Those four books may be my top favorites of 2011, but here are some other favorites from last year:

BEST OF BOOKS

PICTURE BOOKS:

"The Money We'll Save" (ages 4-8), written and illustrated by Brock Cole

"Neville" (ages 4-7), written by Norton Juster and illustrated by G. Brian Karas

"I Want My Hat Back" (ages 4-7), written and illustrated by Jon Klassen

"Bone Dog" (ages 4-8), written and illustrated by Eric Rohmann

"Hooray for Amanda & Her Alligator" (ages 4-7), written and illustrated by Mo Willems

BEGINNING READERS:

"Buzz Boy and Fly Guy" (ages 4-6), written and illustrated by Tedd Arnold

"Dodsworth in Rome" (ages 4-7), written and illustrated by Tim Egan

"I Broke My Trunk" and "Should I Share My Ice Cream?" (ages 3-7), written and illustrated by Mo Willems

COMICS/GRAPHIC NOVELS (Thanks To My Colleague Dave Burbank For Highlighting These):

"G-Man: Learning to Fly" (ages 6-12), written and illustrated by Chris Giarusso

"Benjamin Bear in Fuzzy Thinking" (ages 4-7), written and illustrated by Philippe Coudray

"Zita the Space Girl: Far From Home" (ages 7-12), written and illustrated by Ben Hatke

"Super Diaper Baby 2: The Invasion of the Potty Snatchers (ages 6-10), written and illustrated by Dav Pilkey

"Ghostopolis" (ages 8-12), written and illustrated by Doug TenNapel

CHILDREN'S NOVELS:

"The No. 1 Car Spotter" (ages 7-10), written by Atinuke

"The Unforgotten Coat" (ages 8-12), written by Frank Cottrell Boyce

"Dead End in Norvelt" (ages 10-14), written by Jack Gantos

"Eight Keys" (ages 8-12), written by Suzanne LaFleur

"The Apothecary" (ages 8-12), written by Maile Meloy

"Lucky for Good" (ages 8-12), written by Susan Patron

"Young Fredle" (ages 8-12), written by Cynthia Voight

HYBRID NOVELS (MIX OF WORDS AND PICTURES)

"Darth Paper Strikes Back (ages 8-12), written and illustrated by Tom Angleberger

"Cabin Fever" (ages 8-12), written and illustrated by Jeff Kinney

POETRY:

"Everything On It" (ages 8-12), written and illustrated by Shel Silverstein

TEEN NOVELS:

"Beauty Queens" (ages 14 up), written by Libba Bray

"Wisdom's Kiss" (ages 12 up), written by Catherine Gilbert Murdock

"Between Shades of Gray" (ages 12 up), written by Ruta Sepetys

"Blink & Caution" (ages 14 up), written by Tim Wynne-Jones

CDA

■ From page 1

Much of the credit goes to the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority (CDA), which represents the interests of more than 150 property owners and businesses. Driving the CDA has been Erwin Mack, who stepped down, effective Jan. 1, 2012, after 25 years as president and executive director of the organization. (See more about Erwin Mack in a related article on page 11.)

With Mack's departure and the streetscape transformation nearly complete, the CDA is at, well, a crossroads. "The CDA board had serious discussions for the last year about whether we should continue. We came to the conclusion that we have plenty of work left to do," said G. Neel Teague, the CDA's president and principal in the partnership that owns the office building at 7676 New Hampshire Ave.

Melanie Isis was hired in December to coordinate the next generation of initiatives. Isis has worked on local affordable housing programs, as well as on special projects for the City of Takoma Park. "We know it will be very hard to replace someone of Erwin's dedication and knowledge and character; he's made my job as president very easy," said Teague. "But we're very excited to be working with Melanie Isis."

In the short run, the CDA will focus on raising the visibility of the Crossroads area, its businesses, and its other activities such as a mid-week farmer's market. "We are recognized for having the retail and service businesses that are needed by area residents, such as medical offices, accountants and insurance agents," Teague said. "We have a great opportunity for marketing … for making sure that everyone in Takoma Park is aware of what's available."

Looking into the future, big changes could be spurred by Montgomery County's Sector Plan for the Crossroads, which could be approved as early as February. Prince George's County has already approved its sector plan, but Montgomery's is more critical because the CDA sits entirely inside Montgomery and merely abuts Prince George's. (The CDA's actual boundaries are University Boulevard on the north, and New Hampshire Avenue on the east. It extends from that corner in the directions of Carroll Avenue and Sligo Creek Parkway.)

"I see the sector plan as potentially a watershed moment for the CDA," said Fred Schultz, Ward 6 Councilmember who serves as an ex officio board member of the CDA because the district is in his ward. "Some development ideas have been on hold while waiting for rezoning. Nothing would happen overnight, but having the plan approved would give parties the confidence to move forward."

The proposed sector plan would allow for mixed-use zoning of denser commercial development and housing, and it envisions a major transit center serving buses and the Metro Purple Line. "The potential is great," said Teague. "We've had so much change over the last 20 years, and the next 20 years could be just as exciting."

TCPC

■ From page 3

(Scout troops cannot own property), the Church also holds title to Camp Schmidt, a 42-acre wilderness site in West Virginia secured for the troop in the 1950s through donations by families of eight former Troop members who died in World War II.

Aligning itself with the Church's welcoming and straightforward leadership, Troop 33 has always reached out to a "broad constituency" of men and boys. In direct opposition to national Boy Scouts Council policy that prohibited LGBT persons to lead troops, Troop 33, under the leadership of Dean Hoge and others, established via written communication to the Council that Scoutmasters for Troop 33 would be evaluated by ability to lead, not on the basis of sexual orientation. The Boy Scouts National Council has never challenged Troop 33 on its stand.

Lanar praises TPPC as a most generous sponsor to Troop 33, not only for providing space for meetings and activities, but also for being "a real home" for the Troop's community service and community-building activities. Troop 33 returns the favor by caring for Church grounds every spring and providing break-down services for the Church's Annual Bazaar, held in the TPPC gym.

The TPPC gym itself is quite the community resource, locale for not only the Alternative Gift Fair and the Troop 33 Pancake Supper, but also as an indoor athletic and practice facility for local basketball, lacrosse and soccer teams. Ron McClain, who coordinates gym rentals for the Church, says the gym is ideal for athletic activities (special lighting and grated windows ideal for soccer, lacrosse, and basketball) as well as for family and group activities and celebrations.

Greiner says that TPPC might be the best kept secret in town as a great meeting space and venue for special events, especially for those looking for "green" facilities. TPPC has an energy plan to guide its mindful use of energy and make improvements each year based on its plan. There is available meeting and office space for like-minded community-building and service nonprofits, and if County zoning approval is acquired, the afore-mentioned kitchen will also be an available resource. Rents are much lower at the Church than at comparable facilities, and the space is versatile. Arrangements can be made by calling the Church office; proceeds from rentals support both programs and facilities upkeep.

As if the TPPC agenda is not full enough, Greiner wants the TP community to know that the Church is also "a place of Sabbath" for social activist and community organizers. He points out that social activists and community-builders need a place of "rest and rejuvenation" where they can be quiet and perhaps "retool" for future activities.

For Greiner, attending to both the activist heart and the souls of Takoma Park is what TPPC is all about, and why, even throughout 100 years, community residents continue to look to the Church in times of celebration, sorrow, controversy and societal soul-searching. It continues to stand as a testament to another of its outdoor sign postings: "Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream (Amos 5:24)."

TAKOMA PARK COMMUNITY CENTER (TP COMMUNITY CENTER)

7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park

Open 8:30 a.m. – 9 :30 p.m. Monday – Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 10 p.m. Friday

10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday

TAKOMA PARK RECREATION CENTER (TP RECREATION CENTER)

7315 New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park

Open Monday – Friday 2:30 – 9 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

RECREATION

The Afternoon Addition "Freestyle Dance Group" shows its talent. From left, Angela Pajic, Lucia Parish-Katz, Carmen Little, Selina Petros, Zoe Popovici and Mikela Stewart.

Photo by Recreation Department staff

Builder Bee - Budding Builders

2 – 4 ½ years

Explore the wonder of building to promote creativity and imagination. Children learn through projects in architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, urban planning and construction. We will build houses, towers, pyramids, castles and more. One-time materials fee of $14 due the first day of class. Parent participation optional.

Fridays Jan. 20 – Feb. 17, 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave.

TP residents $92

Non-residents $112

Let's Pretend

2 ½ — 5 years

Preschoolers love to exercise their imaginations through pretend play. Let's Pretend class members will develop this natural creative behavior through dramatic readings, improvisation, sensory exploration, physical experimentation, imagination exercises, singing/movement, props and games. We will warm up, read a story, engage in exercises and experiments based on the story and finally perform the story.

Thursdays, Jan. 19 – March 8, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

Or

Fridays, Jan. 20 – March 9, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

TP Community Center Auditorium

TP residents $105/session

Non-residents $125/session

Ladies' Boot Camp

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. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Students are required to bring their own mats.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 10 – March 1, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

Residents and non-residents $85/eight weeks

Pilates

16 and older

An invigorating workout that teaches a series of controlled movements utilizing the body's "core"—abdomen, back and hips. Pilates improves core control, coordination, standing alignment and balance with mat exercises, and is designed to create long, lean muscles while enhancing strength, flexibility, balance and posture. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Students are required to bring their own mat and hand weights.

Wednesdays Jan. 11 – Feb. 15, 6 – 7 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

Residents and non-residents $60/six weeks

Tai Chi

18 and older

Tai Chi Chuan is often referred to as moving mediation and offers many health and relaxation benefits for people of all ages. Regular practice can improve posture, balance, coordination, strength, flexibility, cardiovascular fitness and concentration. This class focuses on the basic principles of Tai Chi by learning the Yang short form style.

Thursdays Jan. 12 – March 29

Beginner 7:15 – 8:15 p.m.

Intermediate 8:15 – 9:15 p.m.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

TP residents $70/session

Non-residents $80/session

Cardio Kick Boxing

16 and older

Cardio Kick Boxing is a total body workout that increases stamina, flexibility, aerobic fitness, coordination and strength to the tune of favorite dance mixes. 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, and it provides an option for people who enjoy the "semi-dance" movements found in aerobics or step classes. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Mondays, Jan. 9 – March 5, 7 – 8 p.m.

No class Jan. 16 or Feb. 20

TP Recreation Center

Residents and non-residents, $50/8 weeks

Zumba

16 and older

The Zumba program fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind, body-energizing fitness program that burns fat. Routines feature interval training, alternating fast and slow rhythms and resistance. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.

Wednesdays, Jan. 11 – Feb. 4, 6 – 6:55 p.m.

Saturdays, Jan. 14 – Feb. 4, 9:15 – 10:10 a.m.

TP Recreation Center

Residents and non-residents $40/four weeks

Yoga Nidra: Meditation and Relaxation

18 and older

Meditative yoga practice to reduce stress, increase general physical and mental well-being and bring greater ease and joy into everyday life. Practitioners report decreases in insomnia, depression, anxiety and chronic pain, as well as increased energy levels, sleep and comfort with situations they can't control. Students are guided through the mediation while lying on a yoga mat or seated in a resting position. No prior yoga or meditation experience required. Students should bring their own yoga mats, blankets and a pillow.

Mondays, Jan. 23 – Feb. 13, 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

TP residents $40

Non-residents $50

Taekwondo

5 yrs. and older

This Korean martial art 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 plus courtesy, integrity, perseverance, self- control and indomitable spirit. Adults are welcome to register with their children. One-time uniform fee due at the first class (non-refundable), $40 children, $50 for adult.

Wednesdays, Jan. 11 – Mar. 28, 6 – 7 p.m.

TP Community Center Dance Studio

TP residents $125

Non-residents $145

or

Saturdays, Jan. 21 – March 24, 1 – 2 p.m.

TP residents $105

Non-residents $125

or

Wednesdays and Saturdays, Jan. 11 – March 28

TP residents $205

Non-residents $230

No class Jan. 14 and Feb. 18

Volleyball Drop-in

Adult, co-ed

Open courts for adult drop in, for men and women ages 18 and over. All skill levels welcome. Self-officiated games.

Mondays, Jan. 9 – April 30, 8:15 – 9:30 p.m.

No program Jan. 16 or Feb. 20

TP Recreation Center

$5 (free with Recreation Center membership)

Futsal / Indoor Soccer League

Grades 2 – 4

Teams are forming now

Registration is limited — sign up today!

Sundays, Jan. 22 – March 11, 1 – 5 p.m.

TP Recreation Center

TP residents $60

Non-residents $70

Scholarship participants $10

Arts Alive

11 – 14 yrs.

Asian Brush Paintings, drawings, mixed media and paper altering, involving personal sketchbooks, mixed media materials and print-making techniques with glue and sandpaper. Class culminates with student samples incorporated in a class mural.

Wednesdays, Jan. 11 – Feb. 29, 3:30 – 5 p.m.

TP Community Center Art Room

TP residents $80

Non-residents $100

Beginner Final Cut Pro

Introduction to video editing basics using Apple's latest version of Final Cut Pro. Participants learn the general interface, keyboard shortcuts and all pertinent terminology, how to create and organize projects, log and capture video, add transitions and effects, basic text manipulation and timeline based storytelling. Participants must bring own hard drive if wanting to use personal footage.

TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS Go to http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/index.html

For more information by phone, call 301-891-7100

RECREATION

■ From page 10

Wednesdays, Jan. 11 – Feb. 15, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Multi Media Lab
TP residents $75
Non–residents $85

Intermediate Final Cut Pro

Brief review of Final Cut Pro interface basics plus more advanced concepts such as keyframing, motion effects, color correction, filters, composite modes and shapes, markers, slow motion, and advanced text manipulation. Participants must bring own hard drive if wanting to use personal footage.

Wednesdays, Jan. 11 – Feb. 15, 7:45 – 9:15 p.m.
TP Community Center Multi Media Lab
TP residents $95
Non-residents $115

Introduction to Logic Pro 101

Make Music with Logic

Opening Logic, exploring the interface, starting a project with Apple Loops, navigating the project, building an arrangement, mixing the song, and exporting the mix; recording and editing audio. Participants must bring their own hard drives.

Tuesdays, Jan. 10 – Feb. 14, 6:30 – 7:45 p.m.
TP Community Center Multi-media Lab
TP residents $100
Non-residents $120

Introduction to Logic Pro 102

Recording MIDI, quantizing MIDI recordings, merging recordings into a MIDI region, recording MIDI takes, using punch recording, using step input recording and filtering incoming MIDI events. Participants must bring their own hard drives.

Tuesdays, Jan. 10 – Feb. 14, 8 – 9:15 p.m.
TP Community Center Multi-media Lab
TP residents $100
Non-residents $120

Intro to Dog Obedience

Dogs of any age

Get a taste of basic dog obedience with this one day class. Includes basic obedience commands as well as work on any issues participants want to address, such as jumping, nipping, barking and pulling on walks. Basic commands include sit, down, come stay and stand. Be prepared to show proof of rabies vaccination.

Saturday, Jan. 7, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Ave.
TP residents $20
Non-residents $30

Leash Manners for Dogs

Dogs 6 months and older

This class is for dogs that are difficult to walk on a leash. Perhaps they pull or bark at passing dogs. Drop in to get some pointers to make your walks more enjoyable for you and your dog. Sign up for one or all three.

Saturdays, Jan. 28, Feb. 25, March 24, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m.
Heffner Community Center, 42 Oswego Avenue
TP residents $20/class
Non-residents $30/class

Out on the basketball court: from left, Lucia Campos, Aziz Mbaye, Jalen Oliver and Meile Angesom.

Photo by Recreation Department staff

SILVER FOXES

Intro to Mac for Seniors Part 1

55 and older

This course is an introduction to the Mac (OS X) and will cover the basic features of hardware and (some of the most commonly used) software. Learn finder basics, basics of Safari and the internet, the dock and the menu bar.

Tuesdays, Jan. 10 – Feb. 28, 1 – 2 p.m.
TP Community Center Multi-Media Lab
$35

Intro to Mac for Seniors Part 2

55 and older

A continuation of the information covered in Part 1. This course will go into more detail with programs like Finder, Safari, System Preferences, iChat and others. Learn how to organize information, customize and protect your computer, explore the internet safely and communicate with family and friends

Tuesdays, Jan. 10 – Feb. 28, 2 – 3 p.m.
TP Community Center Multi-media Lab
$45

Gentle Tai Chi for Seniors

55 and older

Kirk Talbott will introduce you to the ancient Chinese internal martial art of t'ai-chi ch'uan, a gentle moving meditation exercise that improves health and restores balance and calm. Eight weeks. Registration form is required. For information, please call 301-891-7280.

Mondays, Jan. 9 – Mar. 12, 11 a.m. – noon
(No class Jan. 16 and Feb. 20)
TP Community Center Dance Studio
Free

Erwin Mack: Responsibly Persistent

By Kevin Adler

Eighty-year-old Erwin Mack is described by everyone who knows him as a dynamo. Stepping down on Jan. 1, 2012, as the executive director of the Takoma/Langley Crossroads Development Authority (CDA) after 25 years at the helm of the organization will hardly leave him with free time.

Mack is the lead elder of the 3,000-member Sligo Adventist Church, supervising other elders who attend to the needs of the congregation. He's chair of the Adventist Community Action Council and the Montgomery County Pedestrian, Bicycle, Traffic and Safety Advisory Committee. He also restores Model T's and drives one of his five vintage cars in Takoma Park's Independence Day Parade every year.

Reached by phone on the day he was preparing for appearances as Santa Claus at two charity functions, Mack reflected on how he gets things done. "My motto is simple: I am not a pest. I am responsibly persistent," he said. "I make friends and allies, and we work together to make good things happen."

"Erwin Mack is a problem-solver," said Fred Schultz, Ward 6 Councilmember and an ex officio board member of the CDA. "He identifies things that need attention, focuses hard on them, gets his facts straight, and then gets people involved to fix the problem. He's also as networked as you can possibly be in this area."

Erwin Mack receives a certificate of appreciation from Mayor Bruce Williams.

One unusual achievement illustrates Mack's reach and creativity. Several years ago, he convinced the U.S. Postal Service to change the zip code to 20912 for a part of Takoma Park that had switched from Prince George's County to Montgomery County after unification, but which had retained a zip code (20783) that was associated with Langley Park and Hyattsville.

"Erwin saw the zip code change as an important part of unifying the CDA and all of Takoma Park. It had practical effects, too, such as people at shopping centers unable to get service from Montgomery County cabs," said Williams. "Everyone said it couldn't be done, that the post office never changes zip codes. But Erwin went to our members of Congress, and he got it done."

Miss Nalini to leave TPCDC

By Rick Henry

Over the last 21 years, there have been hundreds of Teddy Bears and Munchkins and Rainbows and Shining Stars at the Takoma Park Child Development Center (TPCDC). There has been only one guiding light, however.

Nalini Jeevaraj, affectionately known as Miss Nalini to myriad students who have passed through the Center during her tenure, has guided the Center from its struggling early days with an enrollment of less than 35 to its current status as an accredited Center with a full enrollment of 150 (112 full-time), and a waiting list. More importantly, she has guided and nurtured those hundreds of Teddy Bears, Munchkins, Rainbows, Shining Stars, Explorers and School Agers (the names of the various classes) that have attended the Center.

All for a simple reason: "I love children," she says.

But on Dec. 29, Jeevaraj will leave TPCDC behind to retire and move with her husband back to their native India. Ironically, for someone who has devoted her adult life to working with children, Jeevaraj says she is moving to be closer to family because, "We don't have children and as we get older, we need someone to take care of us."

It is a bittersweet occasion.

"I don't know how I am going to leave TPCDC," she said. "Of course, I will miss all the children."

Steve Moody, co-chair of the TPCDC board, who has two sons, Owen and Conner, at the Center, says Jeevaraj has been an extraordinary leader.

"She has shown patience and flexibility with the parents who have worked with and come to her over the years," he said. "Whether it's the teachers or the children, she puts people first, and that has been the key to the center's success."

Nalini Jeevaraj

Photo by Sam Kittner

Indeed, in reflecting on her time at the Center, she praises the work of her staff and the commitment of the parent, and is especially grateful for their efforts in the early days as director, when it looked like the Center might not survive.

"When I first took over, we weren't doing well. We thought we might have to close," she said. "I wasn't sure I wanted the job, but the board chair asked me to give it a try for one month. I stayed for 16 years." Jeevaraj said she, her husband, the board and the staff at the time worked diligently to put the Center on solid footing.

Franca Brilliant, a board member at that time remembers Jeevaraj's efforts not only to build enrollment, but more importantly, to transform it into an educational institution by gaining accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

"The Center was going through a difficult transition, but she really believed that TPCDC could provide daycare and a quality learning experience for kids," Brilliant said. "She saw the accreditation through successfully. She was a great find for the Center."

And finding another "find" like Miss Nalini will not be easy. "She has brought a warmth and spirit to the Center that makes it unique," said Moody.

Community icon dies in house fire

Walt Rave was known for his activism

On Dec. 7, a house fire at 29 Holt Place erupted at 2 in the morning. Firefighters found the resident of the house, Walter Rave, in the front yard, severely burned. He was taken to Washington Hospital Center where he died three days later of complications from burn injuries. He was 66.

This is the fifth fire-related death in Montgomery County, in 2011.

The fire, which did $300,000 in damage to the structure and $100,000 to its contents, originated in the engine compartment of a Toyota pick-up truck in the driveway, according to Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Services. Most exits from the home were blocked by security bars and heavy bamboo growth, and Rave apparently exited through the fire on the porch. The fire has been ruled accidental, but is still under investigation.

Rave was known around Takoma Park for his animal rights activism; he could often be seen carrying a dead fox clamped in a steel trap and slung over his shoulder. His pick-up truck carried a sign, "Only people have a right to exist. Animals don't! You, eating meat, make it so." Another provocative sign he displayed: "Selfish? Have babies."

As a part-time City employee, Rave ran the Takoma Park Department of Public Works' tool library, a place where residents could borrow the tools they needed to complete home improvement projects. "Walt was very dedicated to the Tool Library and loved tools," says Public Works staffer Robert Allen, who supervised Rave. "He was a skilled wood worker and enjoyed showing others how to use a tool."

Rave was also involved in animal rescue efforts and, according to neighbors and friends, was an accomplished artist and astronomer. His commitment to nonviolence and peace became central to his life when he returned from the Vietnam War in 1970.

A memorial service to honor Rave's memory is being organized by Compassion Over Killing, an animal rights group based in Takoma Park, at their office, 6930 Carroll Ave, #910, on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 2 p.m. See the COK web site for details, www.cok.net.

Walt Rave was a familiar figure on Takoma Park's streets.

Photo by Julie Walt

JANUARY '12

Do you have an item for the City calendar?

Do you have an item for the City calendar? Let us know if you have a 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 January 2012 issue is Dec. 12. **To submit calendar items, email tpnewseditor@takomagov.org.** "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

City Council Meeting

Mondays, Jan. 9, 23 and 30, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesdays, Jan. 3 and 17, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
See takomaparkmd.gov for agendas

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Women Business Owners and Entrepreneurs

Panel discussion with local business owners
Monday, Jan. 9, 7 – 9 p.m.
Capital City Cheesecake, 7071 Carroll Ave.
Free
www.azaleacityassoc.com

Deadline, Community Grant applications

Jan. 20
For large grants ($2,500 and more)
See page 2 for details

Volleyball Drop-in

Open courts for adults
Mondays, 8:15 – 9:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 9
Takoma Park Recreation Center, 7315 New Hampshire Ave.
$5
See page 6 for details

ARTS AND LITERATURE

Open Mic Sundays

With Rob Hinkel
Sundays, 6 – 9 p.m.; sign-ups, 5:30 p.m.
Capital City Cheesecake, 7071 Carroll Ave.
Free
www.mainstreettakoma.org/event/446

Jazz Jam

Open mic for jazz musicians
Wednesdays, 7 – 10 p.m. call to confirm day
Takoma Station, 6914 14th St. N.W.

"I Love Color" Exhibit

Jan. 1 – 30
Art glass by Viki Keating
TP Community Center
www.facebook.com/#!/TakomaParkMD

Winter 2012 Institute for Dancers Over 50

Two-day dance intensive
Jan. 4 and 5, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Dance Exchange, 7177 Maple Ave.
http://danceexchange.org/dance-with-dx/institutes/

Mi Casa Es Su Casa

Bilingual songs, Latin rhythms, travel stories and bright characters by puppeteer Ingrid Crepeau
Saturday, Jan. 7, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
$10 advance / $12 door
www.imtfolk.org

Capital Jam Improv Lab

Improvisational workshop for dancers and musicians
January 12, 7 – 9 p.m.
Dance Exchange, 7117 Maple Ave.
$5 suggested donation
Danceexchange.org

Washington Musica Viva

"Spain & France" trios for violin, cello and piano with Enrique Granados and Gabriel Fauré
Friday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
$15 door / children under 12 free with adult
http://dcmusicaviva.org

lost, left, found & borrowed

Dance Exchange performance exploring dementia, memory and caregiving
Jan. 13 – 15,
Round House Theatre, 8641 Colesville Road, Silver Spring
$15, $10 age 30 & under, senior citizens, groups of 10+
Danceexchange.org

Blues Divas: Lea Gilmore & Sheryl Sears

Friday, Jan 13, 7:30 p.m.
Carroll Café, 276 Carroll St. N.W.
Suggested donation $15
http://carrollcafe.org

Third Thursday Poetry Reading

Poets Annastasia Ataku, Anne Dykers, Mark Fitzgerald and W. F. Lantry
Thursday, Jan 19, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Free
www.facebook.com/#!/TakomaParkMD

Washington Musica Viva

"The Mighty Saxophone of Charley Gerard," jazz-based chamber music
Friday, Jan 20, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
$15 door / children under 12 free with adult
http://dcmusicaviva.org

The Bog Band with the Shannon Dunne Dancers

Irish music and dance
Wednesday, Jan. 25, 7:30 pm
TP Community Center Auditorium
$15 advance / $18 door
http://www.imtfolk.org

KIDS ACTIVITIES

Children's Story Time

Every Wednesday, 10:30 – 11 a.m.
TPSS Co-op, 201 Ethan Allen Ave.

Mr. Gabe

Every Friday, 10 – 10:40 a.m.
Roda Movements, 7003 Carroll Ave.
Musical entertainment
$6 per child in advance
www.mrgabemusic.com

Futsal / Indoor Soccer League begins

Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m. starting Jan. 22
Registration required
See page 8 for details

SENIORS

Senior open art studio

Fun with glass fusing, watercolor and ceramics
Second Mondays, January – March, 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Art Room
Free

ONGOING

Takoma Park Farmers Market

Sundays, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Laurel Ave.

UPCOMING

Mid Winter Play Day

Playful activities with Takoma Plays
Thursday, Feb. 9 (aka 2/09/12, TP's zip code)
6 – 8 p.m.
TP Community Center
Free
Takomaplays.org

Deadline, Community Grant applications

Wednesday, Feb. 15
For small grants (under $2,500)
See page 2 for details

Jazz Band Brawl

Competition for a spot at the Takoma Park Jazz Fest
Sunday, Feb. 12, 2:30 p.m.
McGinty's Public House, 911 Ellsworth Drive, Silver Spring
Suggested donation $10/adults, $5 kids, seniors and students
www.tpjazzfest.org

MISS AN EVENT?

Watch City TV live or archived
City Council meetings
City festivals
We Are Takoma events

Go to http://takomapark.granicus.com/ViewPublisher.php?view_id=2
Or tune your cable service to channel 13 on RCN and Comcast, 28 on Verizon Fios