February 2012

TAKOMA PARK

A newsletter published by the City of Takoma Park, Maryland

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A DAY FOR DREAMERS

Mother and daughter listen intently during the Martin Luther King Jr. community celebration on Jan. 16. For more photos and an account of the event, see page 12.

Photos by Selena Mallott

WHAT'S NEW?

Feb. 20, Presidents Day
City offices closed
No yard waste pickup

Feb. 29, Employee appreciation event
City offices closed
11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Small community grants available
Deadline Feb. 8
http://takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/sc-grants/index.html

Club life blasts over the border into Takoma Park

By Virginia Myers

Spurred by recent complaints over noise and violence at nightclubs along University Boulevard near New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park Police are working with Prince George's County to further coordinate crime-fighting efforts across county lines.

Although the nightclubs are located just outside Takoma Park city limits, noise seeps into the neighborhoods in and surrounding Ward 6, on the east side of New Hampshire Avenue, waking residents in the wee hours of the morning. Residents are also concerned about gunshots and fighting that occurred in the Aldi's parking lot last October. The gang-style incident involved 35 to 40 teens who had been at the nightclubs off University Boulevard. Takoma Park Police Chief Ronald Ricucci says "teen nights" there attract large crowds, who then spill over into Takoma Park and create trouble in the City, with fights, disorderly conduct and confrontation with police officers.

The events are often scheduled on Sunday nights over three-day weekends, said Ricucci; the last one, on Thanksgiving weekend, attracted the expected crowd,

NIGHTCLUB NOISE ☐ Page 9

New Recreation Director outlines plans for moving forward

By Virginia Myers

The Recreation Department has a new director and is developing a new vision as it moves forward into 2012. Among the possibilities are an expanded program for seniors, more developmental programming for older teens, partnerships with recreation/youth organizations, increased hours at the Recreation Center, more visual and performing arts opportunities and additional hours for a before- and after-school care coordinator.

Gregory Clark, former assistant director and a four-year employee of the department, has been acting as interim director since Debra Haiduven left her position last year; he was permanently appointed to the position by City Manager Barbara Matthews as of Jan. 1. At the City Council meeting Jan. 23, Clark laid out his hopes for a part of the City's services that have drawn repeated

NEW REC. DIRECTOR ☐ Page 11

Gregory Clark has been named at Takoma Park's new Recreation Director.

Ideas Emerge for Takoma Junction revitalization

Expanded co-op, mixed commercial, community space among possibilities

By Kevin Adler

Momentum is building for commercial development at the Takoma Junction area, and a wide array of interested parties are hoping that the City Council will green-light projects that could transform the busy but underutilized crossroads into a thriving, pedestrian-friendly hub of community life.

Located just east of the Fire Station and bisected by Carroll Avenue, Ethan Allen Avenue, and Grant Avenue, Takoma Junction contains a mix of storefronts, a park, and undeveloped city property. Its steadiest foot traffic comes from patrons of the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Food Co-op, but additional development could make the Junction a much bigger part of city residents' daily lives. That's the idea, anyway, behind the work of the Takoma Junction Task Force, due to present a report to the City Council in February after 16 months of meetings and analysis.

"I'm aware of the history of other efforts to look at the Junction. We hope that the outcome will be different this time," said Lorig Charkoudian, the Co-op's representative on the task force. "If people are hopeful about it, we'll keep it on the front burner."

The task force was finalizing the report when the City Newsletter went to press, but task force chair Howard Kohn spoke in general terms about what it would recommend. "We will have about 30 recommendations, some of which can be implement-

TAKOMA JUNCTION ☐ Page 7

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LEGISLATIVE AGENDA *Page 3*

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Mayor & Council
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Takoma Park, MD 20912

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TAKOMA TOPICS:

"Like the The New Ave on Facebook to learn and participate (and find out where all the good hidden places to eat are!) http://thenewave.com/"

City Council & Committee Calendar

OFFICIAL CITY GOVERNMENT MEETINGS*

TPCC: Takoma Park Community Center

CITY COUNCIL

Monday, Feb. 6, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 13, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Auditorium
For agendas, see www.takomaparkmd.gov/clerk/agendas

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE

Thursday, Feb. 9, 8:30 a.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

ETHICS COMMISSION

Thursday, Feb. 2, 7:30 p.m,.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

RECREATION COMMITTEE

Monday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

TAKOMA JUNCTION TASK FORCE

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

REDISTRICTING TASK FORCE

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Council Conference Room

TREE COMMISSION

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 6:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac Room

WASHINGTON ADVENTIST HOSPITAL LAND USE COMMITTEE

Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7 p.m.
TPCC Hydrangea Room

ARTS AND HUMANITIES COMMISSION

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 7:30 p.m.
TPCC Lilac 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.

RESOLUTION 2012-1

Adopted (Jan. 3, 2012)
Resolution of Condolence – Walt Rave
The Council recognized the passing of Walt Rave, former City Tool Librarian.

ORDINANCE 2012-1

Adopted (Jan. 9, 2012)
Authorizing the purchase of a Ford Fusion Hybrid for the Police Department
The Ford Fusion Hybrid will replace an unmarked car scheduled for replacement.

ORDINANCE 2012-2

Adopted (Jan. 9, 2012)
Authorizing the purchase of two Chevrolet Impalas for the Police Department
The Chevrolet Impalas will replace two unmarked cars for use by officers assigned to the Tactical Enforcement Unit.

ORDINANCE 2012-3

Adopted (Jan. 9, 2012)
Authorizing the purchase of a Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicle for the Police Department
The Ford Interceptor utility vehicle will replace a car assigned to a K-9 officer.

DO YOU NEED HELP?

This summer presents a unique opportunity for income eligible homeowners to have needed repairs made to their home – at no cost. The City of Takoma Park in partnership with the Baptist Convention and its many volunteers will be providing needed repairs to homes throughout the community.

To learn more about how you might participate, contact Takoma Park's Housing and Community Development Department at 301-891-7119.

Vacancies on Council-Appointed Boards, Commissions and Committees

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)

Commission on Landlord-Tenant Affairs (vacancy)

Emergency Preparedness Committee (vacancy)

Ethics Commission (vacancies)

Façade Advisory Board (vacancy)

Nuclear-Free Takoma Park Committee (vacancies)

Personnel Appeal Board (terms expiring in March 2012)

Washington Adventist Hospital Land Use Committee (vacancies)

MISS CITY COUNCIL ACTION?

Watch re-runs on City TV or

Look it up on online:

http://takomaparkmd.gov/cable

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.

The Newsletter is printed on recycled–content paper.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

If you would like to weigh in on issues concerning state legislation, contact your representatives. And remember, City Council will be working on Takoma Park-related issues at the state level. Stay in the loop by following City Council meetings at takomaparkmd.gov or on City TV.

Senator Jamie Raskin
Jamie.Raskin@senate.state.md.us

Delegate Sheila Hixson
Sheila.Hixson@house.state.md.us

Delegate Tom Hucker
Tom.Hucker@house.state.md.us

Delegate Heather Mizeur
Heather.Mizeur@house.state.md.us

City Council sets priorities for state legislation

By Suzanne Ludlow
Deputy City Manager and
Michele Douglas, Public Policy Partners

At its meeting of Jan. 17, the City Council discussed its priorities for the state's legislative session just as State Assembly members were beginning their work. As expected, protection and enhancement of funds for municipalities will be a major focus of the City's lobbying activities. The Council also expressed support for a Joint Resolution of the Maryland General Assembly proposed by Sen. Jamie Raskin that would call on Congress to pass a Constitutional amendment to reverse the Supreme Court's decision permitting corporations to spend unlimited funds on political campaigns. They also expressed interest in supporting the creation of food waste composting facilities.

The 2012 Maryland General Assembly was called into session at noon on Wednesday, Jan. 11 and will end 90 days later at midnight on April 9. While the budget will dominate the scene in Annapolis over the 90-day legislative session, over 1,000 bills will also be introduced and debated.

Legislative redistricting

Legislative redistricting will be among the early issues taken up by the General Assembly this year. Legislators have begun reviewing the governor's proposed redistricting map of the Legislative Districts they represent. The final bill on the redistricting map must be passed by the 45th day of session, or the governor's proposed redistricting map automatically goes into effect without any changes.

To view the proposed redistricting map, go to www.mdp.state.md.us/redistricting. If adopted as proposed, Takoma Park and nearby Silver Spring will remain in District 20, represented by Senator Jamie Raskin and Delegates Sheila Hixson, Tom Hucker and Heather Mizeur.

Budget, budget, budget

Other hot topics for this session include efforts to raise revenue. One proposal is to raise the gasoline tax by five cents per gallon to increase funding for the Transportation Trust Fund. That fund is the source of highway user fees that local municipalities, counties and the state use to repair, maintain and build roads. Takoma Park has lobbied hard in recent years to restore its share of Highway User Revenue to levels received before the recession. At the Jan. 17 City Council meeting, Mayor Bruce Williams said he would like the Council to go on record as supporting a gas tax increase. A resolution to that effect will be considered at a future Council meeting.

Strong efforts to increase the "flush" tax to provide additional funding for the cleanup of the Chesapeake Bay will also be considered by the Legislature. The "flush" tax is directed at cleaning up contamination from septic systems and upgrading wastewater treatment facilities. This part of the State property tax affects all property owners.

Other expected proposals include legislation that would increase the number of slots parlors in the state, and to expand gambling to include table games.

If passed, these and other efforts to increase revenue would help to offset the $1 billion budget deficit that must be tackled during the session.

At the opening session, Governor O'Malley attracted headlines by mentioning that increasing the State sales tax could provide additional revenue, but his aides quickly communicated that the Governor was not proposing a sales tax increase.

Other big topics

Off-shore wind development and same-gender civil marriage bills will again dominate the 2012 legislative session. Takoma Park has advocated for same-sex marriage in Maryland for many years and will continue to do so. While the Council has not taken a position on off-shore wind development, it frequently weighs in on other environmental bills.

More than a thousand bills

Besides bills on the topics mentioned above, there are more than 1,000 bills submitted each session on a wide variety of topics. The City of Takoma Park regularly weighs in on bills affecting the environment, health care, immigration, and landlord/tenant responsibilities, among others. The City also reacts to many bills that may increase its costs, limit its flexibility, or negatively impact its residents. City Council positions on many of these topics have been set by resolution in previous years.

City Councilmembers, City staff and the staff of the City's lobbying firm in Annapolis, Public Policy Partners, work to advance the City's priorities and stay on top of the avalanche of bills that are filed each Session. In addition, the Maryland Municipal League's Legislative Committee, chaired by Takoma Park Mayor Bruce Williams, reviews bills that may impact municipalities. Takoma Park Deputy City Manager Suzanne Ludlow also sits on that Committee.

A legislative update is presented at most Takoma Park Council meetings while the Legislature is in session, to keep the Council and the community apprised of legislative matters as they arise. Resolutions establishing Council positions on the gas tax, Senator Raskin's Joint Resolution on corporate spending on elections, and urging the creation of more food waste composting facilities will be considered at future Council meetings.

Citizens interested in the positions taken by the Council or the issues under discussion in Annapolis may contact Suzanne Ludlow at suzannel@takomagov.org or 301-891-7229.

CITY BRIEFS

Police target prevention with monthly informational campaign

Takoma Park Police have launched a new program to engage residents and keep them informed about specific crimes and crime prevention. Each month, the department's Community Outreach Program (C.O.P.) will use email to feature a crime or topic of concern and provide tips on how to safeguard against it.

January's topic was stalking, and an email blast included help defining the crime, advice about how to report it, and links to further resources. February's topic is internet dating safety.

The department's goal is to increase awareness of certain topics about which most individuals have little knowledge. The Community Outreach Program will also periodically provide prevention and safety information on common crimes such as burglary and theft.

To sign up for the email blasts, or to arrange for presentations to small groups, businesses or other organizations, contact community liaison, Carla Magnaye, at 301-891-7121 or carlam@takomagov.org.

Play day plays with Takoma Park's zip code

This year Takoma Plays will be holding its Midwinter Play Day on Takoma Park's zip code, 20912: 2/09/12.

Join Takoma Plays and the Takoma Park Recreation Department as we encourage 'play' in Takoma Park. All residents and friends of Takoma Park are welcome to participate in this free event for the entire family (all ages), Thursday, Feb. 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the TP Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave.

The event will features all kinds of fun indoor play, including two sessions of Laughing Yoga, a sing-along with Wendy Lanxner and her guitar students, the "Dress-up Lady" with an assortment of costumes, a puzzle room, board games, playdough, entertainment and snacks.

For a schedule, see takomaplays.org. To volunteer during the event or to donate play dough, contact The Play Lady at pattenn58@aol.com. Teens can receive student service hours and may volunteer from 5 to 9 p.m.

Chief's Advisory Board

In 2009, Chief Ronald Ricucci of the Takoma Park Police Department implemented a new Chief's Advisory Board of 12 residents and/or business owners in the City, who advise the Chief on issues, concerns and matters affecting quality of life in the City. Ricucci updates and briefs this

CITY BRIEFS ☐ Page 5

HOUSING

Licensing rentals serves both tenants and landlords

By Code Enforcement Staff

Licensing rental properties protects tenants, keeps landlords informed of the condition of their properties, and helps them stay current with repair needs that could otherwise worsen if left unattended. Licensing is also the law.

Licensed rental properties are inspected on a regular basis and must meet certain standards in order to comply with codes regarding living space, temperature, and most importantly, safety. The inspection ensures that there are smoke detectors and proper exits so that tenants can be alerted and escape in case of a fire or other emergency. In addition to safety issues, these inspections address quality of life. Inspectors check that air conditioning and heating are functioning properly, that all appliances work as they should, and that tenants are allotted enough living space in their units.

If you are a tenant, it is in your best interest to rent a home that is licensed as you are ensured of a safer and more comfortable place to live. Inspections are beneficial for landlords because they will reveal whether the tenant is doing his or her part to keep the unit clean and the tenant will be notified if the unit is not clean, filled with junk, or generally unsanitary. Additionally, inspections will find small issues in units for the landlord that could grow into major issues if neglected.

The fee for licensing a rental unit is $98 a year; fines for failing to comply with licensure regulations begin at $1,000. If you have any questions about rental properties or this article, please call the Takoma Park Housing Department at 301-891-7119.

COLTA'S CORNER

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

Security deposit dispute settled

The Commission on Landlord Tenant Affairs (COLTA) hears and decides cases involving landlord-tenant disputes. For a copy of a decision, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov.

Radman v. Dupraw/Allen- COLTA Case 2011-8T

On Dec. 21, 2011, COLTA issued a decision on a former tenant's complaint that the landlord had failed to return a portion of his security deposit and provide him with a security deposit receipt. The tenant was seeking the return of the balance of his security deposit, interest, punitive damages and $25 for the landlord's failure to provide a receipt.

Following a hearing, COLTA ruled that the landlord complied with section 8-203.1 of the Real Property Article of the Maryland Code, as the written lease acknowledged the landlord's receipt of the tenant's security deposit and spelled out the tenant's rights with respect to the deposit.

The decision stated that the landlord had properly withheld the cost for housecleaning services, as the tenant had failed to leave the property in a clean condition at the end of his tenancy, and for the cost of repair and replacement of metal blinds.

COLTA did find that the landlord had improperly withheld the costs for replacement of a broken light fixture, because the light fixture cost was not separately indicated on the electrician's bill; and for the cost of weeding and cleaning the yard, as the tenant had not been advised he would be charged for the work. COLTA found that the landlord was not liable for punitive damages because the landlord had reason to withhold a portion of the tenant's security deposit. The landlord was ordered to refund an additional $184.70 to the tenant within 14 days of the commission's order date.

HOUSING MAILBOX

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

I am buying a multifamily rental property. What is the seller required to tell me regarding relevant housing laws?

Disclosure of housing laws has been a problem in Takoma Park, where many people buying rental buildings have complained they knew nothing of City housing laws at the time of purchase. So in 2007, the Takoma Park City Council enacted Chapter 6.28 "Sale of Rental Facilities" (Notice Disclosure and Inspection Requirements). It requires that a prospective rental facility buyer must be provided with:

- A list of the local housing laws
- Copies of the last two years of annual rent reports (if subject to rent stabilization)
- Copies of the last two years of property maintenance inspection reports

Both the seller and prospective purchaser are required to sign and date a written acknowledgement that the documents have been received and included in the sales contract. If a property is exempt from rent stabilization, an exemption form signed by the director of Housing and Community Development is required.

There are, however, a number of properties that are exempt from the entire law, such as a single family rental facility, where the purchaser does not plan to rent the property after buying it. To read the entire law, go to www.takomaparkmd.gov and click on City Code.

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

Tenant Rights in Takoma Park

Wednesday, March 14, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
Takoma Park Community Center
7500 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Md.

Light refreshments will be served ***To register, call 301-891-7215***

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.

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

Angels Against Domestic Violence reaches out

Takoma Park resident Ana Valdez is a domestic violence survivor determined to make a difference. After years of suffering at the hands of her boyfriend, and a culminating incident in which she almost lost her life, she has turned her ordeal into a positive message for other victims of this all-too-common violence.

Valdez' abuse began in 2004 when her boyfriend, Carlos Ivan Ovalle, began beating her. Like many in her situation, she was afraid to ask for help: she feared financial loss, the court system, losing her job and upsetting her children.

Finally, in 2006, Valdez summoned the courage to try and stop the violence and obtained a protective order to keep Ovalle away from her and her children.

But Ovalle violated the order—three times. He was arrested in January 2008 and then released.

Then, on a December evening in 2008, the then-22-year-old Valdez arrived home with her children to find her abuser waiting for her, in her home. News accounts of the incident were gruesome: he grabbed an 18-pound crucifix from the wall and brutally beat her in front of their two young daughters, before a neighbor called the police.

Former Takoma Park Police Officer, Angela Donovan, arrived at Valdez's home and knocked on the door. But Ovalle was holding a knife to Valdez's throat, demanding that she get rid of the officer. Their oldest daughter opened the door.

In the following moments, Officer Donovan fired her weapon to save Valdez. Ovalle was shot twice – both non-life threatening wounds. Valdez testified against him during his trial, and he was convicted. In October 2009, he was sentenced to life in prison.

Angels to the rescue

Guided by Officer Diana Dean, Takoma Park's victim's rights assistant, Valdez has been through years of therapy and wants to take a turn supporting those who have experienced trauma like hers. In June 2010, she launched her organization, Angels Against Domestic Violence, Inc., aka Angel's Project, based in Silver Spring. It is named for the police officer she says saved her life—Angela Donovan—and is designed to provide guidance, resources and comfort to people trying to escape violence in their homes.

Over the holidays, Valdez asked the Takoma Park Police Department to partner with her to collect donations of toys for children of domestic violence. "My dream is to help other victims of domestic violence by being a bridge to their independence through support, prevention education, training and classes," Valdez told the police. "Thank you for supporting this amazing organization. Because of you, victims like my children and me can get the life-saving help we need."

On Dec. 17, five large boxes of toys were distributed at a charity event Valdez organized.

Thanking the police and the contributors to the campaign, Valdez said, "Because of this collaboration, parents were able to talk to their children about how important it is to work with the police in preventing domestic violence."

Bullying panel explores prevention, intervention

What do you do when a child is being bullied in school? What do you do if you *are* that child? The answer has gotten more complicated, as bullies have made headway beyond the playground—including on the internet—and challenged new groups—including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.

To discuss best strategies to effectively address bully aggression, the Montgomery County Committee on Hate/Violence and the Office of Human Rights is holding a symposium, Bullying in Schools: A Community Symposium on Prevention and Intervention Strategies, on Saturday, Feb. 4 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Silver Spring Civil Building (One Veteran Plaza, Silver Spring). Martin Castro, chair of the U.S. Commission on Human Rights, will be keynote speaker; panelists and other participants will include Valerie Ervin, Montgomery County Councilmember; Johnnie Williams, Youth Advocate; and representatives from Mongomery County Public Schools, the National Association of School Psychologists, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and the Gay-Straight Alliance of Walt Whitman High School.

For more information, email CommitteeonHateViolence@montgomerycountymd.gov or go to www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hmrtmpl.asp?url=/content/humanrights/OnHate.asp.

THE FIREHOUSE REPORT

By Jim Jarboe

Fire, by the numbers

The grand totals for 2011 fire-related incidents were 724 fire-related incidents and 2,847 rescue-ambulance related incidents, for a total of 3,571 incidents. That's a decrease of 345 incidents since 2010. Special thanks goes out to our volunteers and the personnel of the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service assigned to the station. A job well done!

VFD welcomes three new members

At the Dec. 14 membership meeting, the following were voted in: Adam and Amee Bearne and Steven Hamrick. The department is always looking for people who have the time and commitment to serve as firefighters or EMTs. Your training and uniform are free. If interested, please contact Mike Livingston at the fire station, 240-773-8954. You'll find it will be an experience of a life time.

Remember the elders

A family fire escape plan and working smoke alarms in the home are still the top priorities when it comes to preparedness in the event of a fire. Another priority, is that we must not forget our seniors, in our homes and in our neighborhoods. Please make sure to check on them on a regular basis, and make sure they have working smoke alarms.

Thanks for Christmas tree sales

On behalf of the Takoma Park VFD, we want to thank all of you that visited our Christmas tree lot. The Department sold 348 trees and raised $7,800, which will help train firefighters, buy equipment for firetrucks and fund uniforms. This was the first tree sale in five years, following a period of renovation and construction, and firefighters were happy to visit with old friends shopping for Christmas cheer. The event will take place again next year.

Toy Drive is a success

We are proud to report that more than 150 children received toys during the Takoma Park VFD's 31st Annual Toy Drive. We'd like to thank all those who donated toys. A special thanks to Sgt. Tina Smith, TPPD and to Nancy Smith with the Montgomery County Transit "Ride On" for their assistance with sorting and bagging of the toys.

Crossing guard slated for Takoma Junction

Children who walk to school across the confusing, sometimes dangerous intersection at Takoma Junction will now have help: a crossing guard.

Council approved funding for the position on Jan. 17 and an advertisement seeking someone to fill it appeared almost immediately. Working under the police department, the guard will join others who work for the City near Piney Branch and Takoma Elementary schools, helping children cross before and after school.

The new position was prompted by a letter from residents requesting a crossing guard to keep the route to school safe. "The necessity of crossing dual streets paired with rush hour commuters who often disregard traffic signals and signs makes the Junction a daily worry for parents who walk their children to school and a great concern to parents of the many middle schoolers who cross by themselves in the early morning in often dark conditions," residents wrote.

The letter/petition was signed by 28 parents and couples whose children attend the local schools. Several parents also attended the Jan. 17 meeting to request the crossing guard, and still more have told City officials they feel the intersection is not safe enough for them to allow their children to walk to school. If there were a crossing guard there, the number of children walking across the intersection to school might well increase.

The annual cost to the City for this position, which involves working a split 4-hour shift on school days, will range from $14,600 to $20,800 annually depending on fringe benefits selected by the employee. It will be funded with speed camera revenue.

Applications will be gathered by Feb. 8 and the City hopes to hire a crossing guard by mid-April.

CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD

■ From page 3

committee on a monthly basis (and more if needed) on what is occurring in the City and the department.

Residents are encouraged to contact members of the board with concerns about community safety; in turn, board members will share information with the community through list serves, neighborhood meetings and informal conversations. To learn more, contact Cathy Plevy, cathyp@takomagov.org, or if you know one of the board members, contact them directly. Current members of the Chief's Advisory Board are:

Barre Bull
Geneva Green
Mildred Charley-Greene, Principal, Takoma Park Middle School
Glenda Kapsalis
Andy Kelemen
Christy Lopez
Susanne Lowen
Terrill North
Sean Tipton
Juan Luis Torres
Jay Ulfelder
Donna Victoria

ARTS & *Humanities*

"Lucid Dreamer"

Jawara Blake is a surrealist painter whose subject matter reflects how he sees the world — like a lucid dreamer. Apprenticed under Art Professor Charles Rogers as a child, Jawara went to art school in North Carolina where he learned to paint from his imagination. Years later, he began to paint from his dreams. Jawara's work can be viewed in the Galleries at the Takoma Park Community Center through March 15.

Across the River

Virginia-based photographer Clifford Wheeler shares his images with neighbors "across the river," as his usual audience is visitors to the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, Va.

Exhibited pieces represent collections from several bodies of work, in both color and black and white photography. The show, which runs from through Feb. 15 in Gallery 3 at the Takoma Park Community Center, is curated by Alison Carr, Takoma Park Exhibitions Director.

Caladium 1 - Archival Pigment Print, 16" x 20"

Jazz bands brawl

The Takoma Park Jazz Fest will present its 16th annual fundraiser, the Jazz Band Brawl, on Feb. 12, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. at McGinty's Public House in Silver Spring. Three up-and-coming bands will vie for a chance to play a well-paid showcase set at our June 10 festival in Takoma Park. Bands featured will be 3AM Groove, Dragonfly Mile Jazz Group and T.R.I.B.E Inc.

McGintys is located at 911 Ellsworth Ave. in Silver Spring; suggested donation is $10. For more informaion, go to tpjazzfest.org.

Arts internship, spring 2012

Takoma Park is offering a great internship opportunity for individuals pursuing a degree in arts management or a related field. Intern will assist in developing new programs and organizing, promoting and staffing planned events. Tasks range from the mundane to the challenging. The opportunity to gain real world experience in the arts is limited only by the intern's interest, creativity and time. Eligible candidates must be enrolled in a college or university program; recent graduates will be considered as well. For details, contact Sara Anne Daines at sarad@takomagov.org or 301-891-7224.

THE ARTS

Remembering Tahrir Square kicks off new film series

Thursday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m.
Screening and Discussion of *We Are Egypt*, a documentary about the seeds of the Egypt's uprising.

As we commemorate the one year anniversary of the Tahrir Square, We Are Takoma and Docs In Progress will present a documentary, *We Are Egypt*. Months before the momentous uprising in Egypt, many talked of a revolution – but no one knew when that day would come. The 85-minute film showcases Egypt's passionate democracy activists who toiled for years before seeing success from their sacrifice. It is an account of their struggle against extraordinary odds to remove an uncompromising authoritarian regime determined to stay in power. This is the story behind the story of the Arab Spring.

Following the screening, filmmaker Lillie Paquette will participate in a Q&A. Paquette has an academic and professional background in international affairs with a specialization in mass media, public opinion, and the Middle East. She learned how to make documentaries at the Silver Spring-based nonprofit media center Docs In Progress, where she produced her very first documentary about an immigrant small business owner in downtown Silver Spring.

The event is the first in a new "We are Takoma" film series. Developed in partnership with Silver Spring based Docs in Progress, the City plans to offer films that are topical, sometimes serious, occasionally a bit off-beat and not often found in the local theater. Following the screenings, audience members will have an opportunity to chat with the filmmaker, someone undertaking a similar journey, an expert on the subject, or other film aficionados. Screenings will be held on the second Thursday of each month, though dates may be flexible as the schedule develops, with a Documentary Appreciation Salon scheduled every now and then.

To learn about upcoming screenings, follow Takoma Park on Facebook and read the Newsletter. If you are a filmmaker – or know one – and would be interested in including your work in the series, contact Sara Daines at sarad@takomagov.org.

Collage artist/teacher featured in Center show

An Exhibition of Collages and Drawings by Takoma Park Artist Katie Dell Kaufman

Atrium Gallery

Opening Reception, Friday, Feb. 3, 6 – 8 p.m.

Collages and drawings by Katie Dell Kaufman will be featured in an exhibition at the Takoma Park Community Center Atrium Gallery from Feb. 3 through March 15.

Katie Dell Kaufman is an award winning assemblage and collage artist. She creates her drawings and collages using found or salvaged materials. A member of the drawing and painting department faculty at the Corcoran College of Art and Design for 21 years, Kaufman now works and teaches workshops at her studio at the Gateway CDC Art Center in the Gateway Arts District in Brentwood, Md. For the past six years she has also taught collage and drawing through the Takoma Park Recreation Department.

Katie Dell Kaufman

Kaufman's recent exhibitions include Wax in Motion at the Bowersock Gallery in Provincetown, Mass., and the Spirit of Wood, at the Zenith Gallery Sculpture Space at 1111 Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington, D.C. Her other shows in 2011 include the Publick Playhouse in Cheverly, Md, and the Black Rock Center for the Arts in Germantown, Md.

Kaufman was a recipient of a 2010-2011 Montgomery County Arts and Humanities Individual Artist Award. In addition, in 2009, she was commissioned to participate in an international, interdisciplinary, traveling exhibition, Surviving History: Portraits from Vilna from Living Imprint in London, UK. Her five biographical assemblages incorporate biographical objects provided by Lithuanian Holocaust survivors. Exhibited in Lithuania, England, and South Africa, her work is now part of the permanent collection of Living Imprint, London, UK.

Ms. Kaufman's work can be viewed in the Atrium Gallery on the main floor of the Takoma Park Community Center, 7500 Maple Ave. through March 15. The gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Local poet wins high praise

Summer Becomes Absurd

Thursday, February 16, 7:30 p.m.

Takoma Park Community Center Auditorium

Free

"Poets often find their voices at a surprisingly young age: Think of Keats, of Rimbaud. Even knowing this, one still pauses with wonder and pleasure while reading Brendan Ogg's Summer Becomes Absurd. *This is the fully assured work of an already mature poet, one who couples a chaste, understated diction with the most deeply felt emotions—fear, desire, gratitude, joy. As a result, these autobiographical poems movingly preserve both dark nights of the soul and ecstatic moments of being. Through them Brendan Ogg lives for us on the page — witty and observant, sympathetic to others, touched by and touching the world."*

***— Michael Dirda, Pulitzer Prize-winning book critic for* The Washington Post**

Brendon Ogg

Brendan Ogg grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland and graduated from Albert Einstein High School in 2007. He was majoring in English at the University of Michigan when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor during his sophomore year. Ogg drew upon his lifelong love of reading and writing to deal with his illness – and life. This month's Thursday Poetry Series presents a unique opportunity to hear Ogg's poems, learn about his influences and enjoy readings and stories from his friends, Michael Dirda, Francie Hester, Kathleen Henderson Staudt and others.

An instant can be a lifetime, and in an instant, life can change. On Dec. 24, 2008 Brendan Ogg, age 19, was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Brendan drew on his gift for writing to create a series of poems that reflect upon what happened after his diagnosis. His words offer inspiration and insight on a span of time embedded in a moment of his life.

— Francie Hester, visual artist and creator of* A Leaf of Knowledge, *a collaborative project with Brendan Ogg.

The voice in these poems speaks with the energy of youth and the wisdom of one who has met and acknowledged mortality and knows better than most of us how to embrace and celebrate life. With an ear attuned to the cadences of modern and Romantic classics, Brendan Ogg's voice names what is most precious in ordinary life, showing us how to live life whole.

***— Kathleen Henderson Staudt, author of* Waving Back: Poems of Mothering Life *and* Annunciations: Poems out of Scripture.**

TAKOMA JUNCTION

■ From page 1

ed fairly easily, such as ways to improve the sidewalks, pedestrian safety, and streetscape ambience," he said. "The heart of the report will be a seven-point plan of action for the parcels of land that the City owns at the Junction."

Those parcels—the large parking lot and adjoining concrete pad and the steeply wooded property behind the Co-op—would be utilized for a mix of commercial space and community space, such as a pavilion or perhaps a walking and exercise path. Some of the wooded area is zoned for commercial use, and some is zoned residential, but the task force's recommendations will not require that any of the wooded property be developed.

"Overall, we will recommend a combination of uses, what we are calling 'synergistic development,' that will accommodate independent, non-chain community businesses," said Kohn. "Also, we will recommend that the City retain control of the development, rather than sell to a developer, even if the developer was subject to the City's oversight."

Meanwhile, the Co-op has strong interest in the Junction, too. In October 2011, the Co-op's members authorized expansion of the current store or construction of a new, green building. "Our market analysis supports a building of 12,000 square feet, roughly 8,000 square feet of which would be floor space," said Charkoudian. "It will likely include more prepared food and may include a café and seating area." The Co-op could proceed independently of the City by expanding and retrofitting its building, but Charkoudian said that the board prefers to work with the City. "The decisions the city council makes will have an impact on what we do," she said.

Complexities Abound

Many interlocking issues must be resolved for any project to go forward. The City has to decide how it wants to utilize the parcels. Takoma Park and the State of Maryland have to iron out which entity is responsible for which roadways routed through the Junction. Traffic flow needs to be improved. The streetscape needs to be changed to enhance pedestrian and bicyclist safety. More parking is needed. The list of "needs" goes on and on.

"It's a complicated challenge, but rejuvenating Takoma Junction is definitely a priority for me," said Seth Grimes, newly elected to the City Council in November. Grimes was on the Takoma Junction Task Force until he joined the Council, as was another newly elected councilmember, Kay Daniels-Cohen.

Other commercial properties at the Junction could conceivably benefit from additional activity, too. At times, those properties have languished without tenants, due to economic or environmental factors. For example, two retail spaces on the strip along Carroll Avenue have been vacant for more than a year because of soil and groundwater contamination, most likely related to a former dry cleaner at the site. Cleanup of those two sites, the former locations of TJ's Market and Glad Rags, was scheduled to be completed in late January, based on a Response Action Plan agreement between property owner Thomas L. Oliff and the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). "We should thank Mr. Oliff and Barbara Brown, section head with the MDE's Voluntary Cleanup Program, for their efforts," said Grimes. "It will remove one roadblock in the area."

Planners and community members are hoping to make Takoma Junction more of a center for City life.

Entrepreneurs Propose Temporary Coffee Hut

At least one pair of entrepreneurs doesn't want to wait the several years that a new development at the Junction would take. Tebabu Assefa and Sara Mussie, co-founders of Blessed Coffee, have requested permission from the City Council to build a coffee hut at the Junction. They made an initial presentation in December and have been asked to present the Council with additional details.

Assefa and Mussie are seeking a two-year operating lease for the Blessed Coffee Hut. The hut would complement their thriving business selling wholesale beans sourced from growers' co-operatives in Assefa's native Ethiopia. "Eventually, I would like to open a permanent café in the Takoma Junction," said Assefa. "But while we are waiting, we can do something vibrant right now."

Assefa and Mussie envision a 12' x 12' hut, built on the concrete pad that was the home of the temporary fire station. The hut would be constructed from straw bales and recycled materials, and it would serve brewed coffee and sell packaged beans and perhaps premade snacks. They estimate that it could be fully built in six weeks.

Patrons could sit at tables in a forecourt, under a trellis. "It will be beautiful, a third place for people to meet in the community," said Assefa.

Blessed Coffee is a "benefit corporation," a special designation in which a company pledges to donate a large share of its annual profits to charitable organizations. Maryland was the first state to allow benefit corporations, and Takoma Park's Big Bad Woof was the state's first benefit corporation. Not only does that image go a long way towards explaining Blessed Coffee's early success, but Assefa says that the coffee hut would highlight Takoma Park as a community that supports local businesses operating in the right way.

"From the first week that we announced Blessed Coffee, people were calling me to say they know good storefronts we can use in Silver Spring," Assefa said. "But I want to be in Takoma Park. The collective values of Takoma Park helped inspire me to conceive of Blessed Coffee."

LET THERE BE (CHEAPER) LIGHT

Solar panel installation began on the Library, Community Center and Public Works Facility in December. These panels, on the roof of the Community Center, are among the 400 that will eventually be installed. The system, owned and maintained by Solar Solution, LLC, is provided to the City at no cost in exchange for the City's agreement to purchase the electricity generated by the panels for a period of 20 years. The initial cost of the solar power per kilowatt is less than the City is currently paying for electricity. The amount of solar power produced each year is expected to provide about 20 percent of the electricity used in the buildings.

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

Make Your Own Valentines

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2-4 p.m.

Kids: come make valentines for the special people in your life.

Materials provided; bring your creativity!

Registration required.

Bedtime Stories

Monday, Feb. 6, 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, Feb. 7, 4 p.m.

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

No registration.

Caldecott Club

Tuesday, Feb. 7, 7 p.m.

Read and discuss the winner of the 2012 Caldecott Medal.

Registration encouraged.

In the Library

French Circle Time

Saturday, Feb. 11, 10:30 a.m.

Sing songs and rhymes in French with Madame Marie.

Junior Banned Books

Grades 3 –5

Monday, Feb. 13, 7 p.m.

"The Magician's Nephew" by C.S. Lewis

Spaces limited, so please register.

Walter Dean Myers is new literature ambassador

By Karen MacPherson

For years, award-winning author Walter Dean Myers was puzzled and hurt by his adopted father's apparent lack of interest in his books. "I thought through my entire life that he didn't like my writing," Myers said. "It was only after he died and I was going through some of his papers and saw that he put X's to sign his name that I understood – he couldn't read. He didn't want to tell me that, and it was a barrier throughout our entire lives together."

Myers, 74, choked up as he related that story during a recent interview at Politics and Prose bookstore in Washington, D.C. At the event, he was introduced as the third National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, an honorary post designed to highlight the importance of reading and books in children's lives.

Drawing from his personal experience, Myers plans to use his two-year term as ambassador to reach out to parents and other adults and help them understand the importance of making reading an integral part of their children's lives. Known particularly for his hard-edged novels of urban teens, Myers has summed up his ambassador's "platform" in this phrase: "Reading is NOT optional."

"If you are not proficient in reading, it seems to me that you are risking a hard life," Myers said. "Unfortunately, it seems as if people are seeing reading as an adjunct activity… But, as I see it, if you can't read well, you will not do well."

Myers' appointment as ambassador drew cheers from many in the children's literature community. He is the first African-American to hold the post. He succeeds Katherine Paterson, a former Takoma Park resident and two-time winner of the Newbery Medal, given annually by the American Library Association (ALA) to the best children's novel. The first children's literature ambassador was Jon Scieszka, who was appointed in 2008; he is the author of "The Stinky Cheese Man," "Time Warp Trio," and other books.

Walter Dean Myers

"Long before being appointed, Walter Dean Myers has been acting as an ambassador for books and reading," said Anita Silvey, a children's book expert who writes the Children's Book-A-Day Almanac (http://childrensbookalmanac.com/). "His own life story, overcoming stuttering and problems reading, has made him sensitive to children who might be struggling with books. His natural eloquence and demeanor make him a perfect spokesperson for the press."

Our library owns 40 books written by Myers, including one of his best-known, "Monster," a look at a teen murderer. "Monster" won the first Printz Award, given annually by the ALA to the best

MYERS ☐ Page 9

Friends Reading Group to discuss "Les Miserables"

The Friends of the Library Big Book Club will begin discussing Victor Hugo's classic "Les Miserables" on Wednesday, March 14, with an introductory talk by Professor Masha Belinky. A native of Moscow, Belinky received her Ph.D in French literature from Columbia University and is currently associate professor of French at George Washington University. Her recent research focus has been on19th century French literature and culture.

"Les Miserables" was published in 1862. It took Hugo more than 20 years to complete the novel, which remains one of the greatest (and longest) works of Western literature. "It tells the story of the peasant Jean Valjean – unjustly imprisoned, baffled by destiny, and hounded by his nemesis, the magnificently realized, ambiguously malevolent police detective Javert. As Valjean struggles to redeem his past, we are thrust into the teeming underworld of Paris with all its poverty, ignorance and suffering.

"Just as cruel tyranny threatens to extinguish the last vestiges of hope, rebellion sweeps over the land like wildfire, igniting a vast struggle for the democratic ideal in France" [publisher's note].

"Hugo's genius was for the creation of simple and recognizable myth," says V.S. Pritchitt. "The huge success of 'Les Miserables' [on] behalf of the poor and oppressed is due to his poetic and myth-enlarged view of human nature."

Though considered the greatest French writer of his day, Hugo was forced to flee France because he opposed Napoleon III. Completing 'Les Miserables' while in exile helped Hugo to set the story against the background of political upheaval in France following the rule of Napoleon I.

The Friends Reading Group discussions are open to all. Scheduled discussion dates for "Les Miserables" are the following Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Center: March 14 and 28, April 11 and May 16. Contact the Library for exact locations.

MYERS

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teen novel. Myers' novel, "Lockdown" was a finalist in 2010 for the National Book Award, in the young people's category.

Myers, who grew up poor in Harlem, never graduated from high school. But he was a bright child, who read incessantly and dreamed of being a writer. Today, he is one of the most acclaimed authors for young adults. Myers wrote about his childhood and teen years in his memoir, "Bad Boy."

In 1994, Myers received the ALA's Margaret Edwards Award, which honors authors for "significant and lasting contribution to young adult literature." And in 2010, he was the inaugural recipient of the Coretta Scott King-Virginia Hamilton Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Other teen novels written by Myers include "Fallen Angels," a book set in the Vietnam War that is often on the ALA's "most challenged" books, and "Sunrise Over Fallujah," a novel set during the Iraq war. But Myers also writes poetry – one of his newest is "We Are America," featuring illustrations by his artist son Christopher Myers – and non-fiction, such as "Greatest," a biography of Muhammed Ali.

Myers' most recent novels include "Kick," a book co-written with a teenager named Ross Workman and two books in a new series called "The Cruisers." In April, he will publish a novel, "All the Right Stuff," based on Jean-Jacques Rousseau's philosophical work, "The Social Contract."

Myers said he has three goals for his ambassadorship, which is jointly sponsored by the Library of Congress and the Children's Book Council, a group representing children's book publishers. "First, I want to inform people that this (lack of importance given to reading) is the problem – we can't play with it anymore. Next, I'd like to get people reading with children, especially those between the ages of two days and four years…. Finally, I'd like to get older children reading more….

"If you can change the environment, and make reading and talking to kids as something very, very good, then you can make change happen."

TO REGISTER FOR LIBRARY EVENTS

go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html or call 301-891-7259.

NEW LIBRARY CARD FEES:

TAKOMA PARK RESIDENTS AND STUDENTS

Free

MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS

$37 per year

NON-MONTGOMERY COUNTY RESIDENTS

$60 per year

LIBRARY BRIEFS

The proactive resume: sales psychology

What does it take to convince strangers that they should call you to do the job they want to hire someone to do? That is the subject for the Library's next series of resume-building workshops.

Gabe Heilig, a Takoma Park resident whose past classes have been popular and well-attended, will offer another set of workshops on the preparation of corporate and private sector resumes and Federal/SES applications. Each of the workshops will meet twice.

In Session 1, participants will examine the ins and outs of resumes—their psychology, structure, strategy, wording. Following Session 1, attendees will have a week or more to re-draft their resumes, so that in Session 2 each attendee's resume can be critiqued by the entire group.

Registration is required for these workshops, as participation is limited. Participants must enroll in both sessions of either set (private/corporate or federal).

Corporate/ private sector workshops:
Session 1 – March 7
Session 2 – March 28
7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room

Federal/SES applications:
Session 1 – April 4
Session 2 – April 11
7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Hydrangea Room

Favorite Poem Evening Returns by Popular Demand

The "Favorite Poem Evening," sponsored jointly by the Takoma Park Maryland Library and the Friends of the Library, is now in its 13th year. Last year's event drew a record number of readers and poetry enthusiasts. This year's celebration of poems will be held in the Library on Tuesday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m. and will be hosted by Takoma Park Poet Laureate Merrill Leffler.

To participate, choose a poem you have read and admired by a published poet other than you or your friends. Poems written in languages other than English are welcome, if they are accompanied by an English translation. There are plenty of ideas for possible choices in the Library's poetry collections.

Send the name and author of the poem you have chosen and your own name and generic occupation for inclusion in a printed program to Ellen Robbins at the Takoma Park Maryland Library, or to ellenr@takomagov.org The deadline for submission is Wednesday, April 4.

Originally conceived as a national event by poet laureate Robert Pinsky, the Favorite Poem Evening in Takoma Park has been a lovely, warm and community building event for the past dozen years. All ages are welcome. Please attend and bring your friends and neighbors. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Library.

The civil rights struggle: never just black and white

On Wednesday, Feb. 22, the Library will present a special program featuring Nate Powell, illustrator of "The Silence of Our Friends," a newly published graphic novel written for older teens and adults about the civil rights movement. Powell is the author and illustrator of the graphic novel "Swallow Me Whole," an LA Times Book Prize finalist, the 2009 Eisner Award winner for Best Graphic Novel and an Ignatz Award winner.

"The Silence of Our Friends" is the creation of Powell, Mark Long and Jim Demonakos. The semi-autobiographical tale, set in 1967 Texas tells of a white family from a racist neighborhood in the suburbs and a black family from its poorest ward who cross Houston's color line, overcoming humiliation, degradation and violence to win the freedom of five black college students unjustly charged with the murder of a policeman. Events are told from young Mark Long's perspective; his father is a reporter covering the story. Semi-fictionalized, it has its roots solidly in very real events.

Powell will discuss his work at 7:30 p.m. The program is open to all, but is best suited to teens and adults. Registration is encouraged.

Caldecott Club

Kids, parents and children's book lovers are welcome to join us at our Caldecott Club meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 7 at 7 p.m., where we'll read and discuss the winner of the 2012 Caldecott Medal, plus the 2012 Caldecott Honor Books. This is a great opportunity to read some wonderful picture books together on the big screen, via our special ELMO document camera, and share thoughts about them. No registration required.

Valentines

Kids are invited to create homemade valentines for their friends and family members on Saturday Feb. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m. All materials will be provided, courtesy of the Friends of the Takoma Park Maryland Library. Kids just need to bring their creativity! Registration is required so we can be sure to have enough materials for all.

To register for any library program, go to www.takomapark.info/library/registration.html, or call 301-891-7259.

NIGHTCLUB NOISE

■ From page 1

but because Takoma Park Police were prepared, officers met them at the Aldi's lot and they dispersed before any trouble could start.

The noise has not been as big a problem for Takoma Park residents as it has been for their immediate neighbors, just blocks from the City line. "For years our neighborhood has been hearing low bass, thumping music that you hear from a nightclub," says Jeff Cronin, who lives in that area. "The noise has a way of traveling down the street." The incident at Aldi's has focused attention on the issue again, and several people showed up to testify against Crystal Night Club, at 1401 University Blvd., at a liquor board hearing Dec. 14.

Crystal's was before the board to request a Special Entertainment Permit, which would allow events involving amplified or live music. The permit requires a police-approved security plan that addresses violence prevention, among other things. The permit was denied.

Takoma Park Ward 6 Councilmember Fred Schultz, State Sen. Victor Ramirez and State Del. Jolene Ivey testified against granting the permit, as did Cronin.

Crystal's Night Club did not return the Newsletter's phone calls.

"I don't think anyone wants [the clubs] to go out of business, we just want to be able to sleep," says Cronin, adding, "If they don't get Special Entertainment Permit and they don't have concerts and go-gos, there's less likely to be the kind of violence that spills out of these clubs."

Since the hearing, noise has subsided, but residents still worry about another establishment, Mirage Hall: it does not have a license to sell alcohol but holds late-night events in the same vicinity.

To address the noise concerns and other police-related issues in the neighborhood — the robbery and assault at the Sunoco station Dec. 10 (see Jan. 2012 Newsletter), the gang-style fight at Aldi's, repeated thefts from cars at gas stations along New Hampshire Avenue, and the noise—Takoma Park and Prince George's County police held a meeting with neighbors Jan. 26 (after Newsletter press time). They will continue to monitor the neighborhood, and urge residents to call with any complaints.

GOT NOISE?

To register a noise complaint originating from Prince George's County (outside the Takoma Park city limits), residents should call the non-emergency number for Prince George's County Police, 301-352-1200.

Residents inside Takoma Park should call Takoma Park Police, 301-270-1100.

In emergencies, always dial 911.

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

Tichina Gray and Devonte Chambers enjoyed the snow tubing trip with the Recreation Department last winter. Another session is scheduled for Feb. 11. See left for details.

Photo by Faye Wright

Snow Tubing for Teens

Ages 12 -17
Grab your hat and gloves and join us for an evening in the snow as we head to Liberty Mountain in Pennsylvania to go snow tubing. Race down one of ten tubing lanes solo, or link up with a friend. During a break from snow tubing, hang inside the lodge and have a hot cup of cocoa or get a game of flag football started outside. It's your snow day so have fun the way you like. No experience necessary. Cost includes round trip transportation and two hours of snow tubing. Space is limited, so register today on line or in person.
Saturday, Feb. 11, 2 p.m.
Meet at the TP Community Center Teen Lounge
$28

Kid's Night Out

Ages 6 - 12.
Want a night to yourself while your kids have a blast with their friends? Bring your children to the Takoma Park Recreation Center Kid's Night Out! This will be a fun filled night for children with games, arts and crafts, movies and theme nights. Food and snack will be served.
First and third Fridays of each month
7 – 8:30 p.m.
TP Recreation Center
Free with membership card

Babysitting Class

Ages 11 - 13
This class is designed for those interested in learning more about babysitting. Topics covered include: 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. Five weeks. Instructor Chief Jarboe.
Mondays, Feb. 13 – March 19, 7 – 9 p.m.
TP Community Center Lilac Room
Free, but must pre-register
No class on February 20 (Presidents Day)

Teen Night

Ages 13 - 17
Looking for something exciting to do? The Takoma Park Recreation Center provides high quality, affordable, safe and fun activities for teens: games, activities and more.
TP Recreation Center
Second and fourth Fridays of each month
7 – 8:30 p.m.
Free with membership card

MANUP

Ages 11 - 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; mentors work in cooperation with the Takoma Park Recreation Department.
Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m.
Teen Lounge, TP Community Center
Free

Pilates

Ages 16 and older
A fun and 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, and balance, with an emphasis on posture. This class incorporates light hand weights for strengthening and toning the arms, hips and thighs. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department. Students are required to bring their own mat and hand weights.
Wednesdays, Feb. 29 – April 4, 6 – 7 p.m.
TP Recreation Center
Residents non-residents, $60/6 weeks

Zumba

Ages 16 and older
This fusion of hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves helps achieve long-term benefits during an hour of calorie-burning, body-energizing movements. Routines feature interval training sessions and resistance training to tone and sculpt while burning fat. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.
Feb. 15 – March 10
Wednesdays, 6 – 6:55 p.m.
Saturdays, 9:15 – 10:10 a.m.
TP Recreation Center
Residents and non-residents, $40/4 weeks

Karate / Self Defense Club

Ages 14 and older
Promote physical fitness, self-defense, leadership and cultural exchange through the practice of a traditional Okinawan karate style, Isshinryu (which means One Heart Way). Beginners welcome. For students interested in competition, there will be opportunities to participate in karate tournaments. Please wear comfortable exercise clothing to workout. Co-sponsored by the Montgomery County Recreation Department.
Mondays and Wednesdays, 7 – 8:30 p.m.
TP Recreation Center
Free

Volleyball Drop-in (Adult - COED)

Ages 18 older
This program is open to men and women ages 18 and over. Individuals of all skill levels are welcome to participate. All games are self-officiated. Program is free with membership and $5 per person without.
Mondays, Feb – April, 8:15 – 9:30 p.m.
TP Recreation Center
No program Feb. 20
$5 per person, free with Recreation Center membership)

Encaustic Collage

Ages 18 older
Encaustic collage uses bees wax as an adhesive and layers papers and lightweight found materials as a base for over-painting with oil and encaustic paint. This workshop will use translucent and opaque papers and sculptural effects that can be created with the wax with stencils, stamps and incising. Encaustic paint will be introduced, as well as principles of layering wax and wax-based paint over absorbent surfaces such as wood, cloth, canvas and watercolor paper. All materials will be provided for $35 materials fee; optional collage materials from home.
Saturday and Sunday Feb. 25, 26,
9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Art Room

TP residents	$225
Non-residents	$255

Video Editing with Final Cut Pro *Beginner*

Introduction to video editing basics using Apple's latest version of Final Cut Pro. Participants will learn the general interface, keyboard shortcuts and all pertinent terminology, create and organize projects, log and capture video,

RECREATION ☐ Page 11

SILVER FOXES

Living Well Program

55 and older
Takoma Park Recreation Department is partnering with Holy Cross Hospital and the Maryland Department of Aging to bring Takoma Park seniors a free six-week program, "Living Well—Take Charge of Your Health," specifically designed to help seniors with chronic health problems such as: arthritis, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, lung disease, diabetes, mild depression, stroke and Parkinson's disease. Registration is required; please call 301-891-7280.
Tuesdays, Feb. 7 – March 13
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
TP Community Center Senior Room
Free

Free Tax Service

55 and older
The Takoma Park Recreation Department is partnering with AARP and the Montgomery County RSVP to bring the "tax aide" program to Takoma Park seniors. This service is offered to low-income adults and covers personal tax returns only. No businesses, schedule "C," rentals, or schedule "E" returns. Please select a day and time for an appointment, then call the AARP Appointment Office, 240-777-2577, to schedule.
Wednesdays, Feb. 15 and March 14
11 a.m., 12 noon, and 1 p.m.
TP Community Center Senior Room
Free

New Game Room Hours for Seniors

55 and older
The TP Community Center Game Room has new winter and spring hours available for seniors to play pool, table tennis, basketball arcade and other active games. The Game Room is a great location to join your friends for lively social conversation during the day. Bring your lunch or snacks to enjoy between classes. Food is allowed at "snack tables" only. No food or drinks at the game tables.
Weekdays, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 12 noon
TP Community Center Game Room
Free

TO REGISTER ONLINE FOR RECREATION DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS Go to http://takomaparkmd.gov/recreation/index.html
For more information by phone, call 301-891-7290

NEW REC. DIRECTOR

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attention from Council over the last few years.

Following Council's ambitions for a department that offers more diverse recreation opportunities and increased use of volunteers, Clark highlighted his intention to expand the sorts of services offered and more intentionally involve the community. He hopes to strengthen partnerships with community organizations that support youth development, recreation and the arts. For volunteers, he plans to tap the "talented" Takoma Park community, and give individuals opportunities to teach classes or offer workshops in their areas of expertise. "One of the areas that I really want to emphasize is to get the community more involved in recreation," he told the Newsletter before the meeting. "I want to increase the amount of partnerships that we have and increase the amount of volunteers, in a coordinated effort."

Serving more seniors

Expanding programs will involve reaching past the currently thriving senior program, which Clark says is so popular it's "maxed out," and expanding. "Right now we're experiencing the Silver Tsunami," he said. "A lot of people are retiring but they're still active." Clark wants to continue popular programs like Bone Builders, yoga and dance, but also start a senior sports program for more active adults.

While the Recreation Department has a long-standing relationship with residents in the senior housing complexes, Clark hopes to reach over-55 homeowners and engage them as well; he foresees further partnerships with the Arts and Humanities Commission (which recently held a senior poetry night) and develop other relationships as well.

Clark also foresees creating a culture where seniors will stay at the Community Center for most of the day. With most of the programming for younger people occurring in the afternoon and evening, seniors could gather at the Community Center to play board games and cards, participate in programs, and enjoy one another's company, staying until late afternoon when school children begin to filter in. "I want to make the environment welcoming so seniors would want to come and stay the majority of the day," said Clark.

Reaching beyond pre-teens

City Council has also pinpointed teen programming as particularly important in Takoma Park. Clark feels a special affinity for this group; he was the first youth coordinator for the Maryland National Park and Planning Commission in Prince George's County, before coming to the City.

Clark says much of the current teen programming attracts pre-teens; he would like to reach those ages 13 and over as well. He intends to continue the current M.A.N.U.P. program (Making a New United People), which mentors young men and women in partnership with the M.A.N.U.P. organization. "They have a passion and a gift to attract the young people who need the most resources," says Clark. "I would like to build upon that."

For younger teens, Clark hopes to develop a coming of age program. Modeling themselves after the cotillion tradition, these sorts of programs involve etiquette training, grooming, dance workshops and the like. A graduation ceremony would serve as a rite of passage.

Partnerships with area businesses, where teens could begin to learn about careers and the working world, may also be developed. At the Recreation Center, he'd like to further develop partnerships with organizations like Girls on the Rise, Double Dutch and Camp Recess, and he anticipates increasing the hours there by two hours a day, twice a week.

Other proposals include improved staff training, more staff interaction with the community at City-wide events and within community groups, and opportunities for residents to give feedback on Recreation programs before, during and after their interaction with classes and programs. "I am a customer service first person," said Clark, "and I want to make sure that we're doing everything possible to provide service to the residents."

Most members of City Council praised Clark's ambitious plan: Terry Seamens called it "excellent" and "right on target." But some warned the funding he has requested — a $63,500 increase in the Recreation budget — will be difficult as the City continues to struggle with a diminished budget. Clark admitted this may be a multi-year plan, and City Manager Matthews, who called the discussion "conceptual," asked the Council to give staff guidance on priorities as they move forward and refine their plans. That guidance will be used as the FY13 budget is developed.

RECREATION

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add transitions and effects, and use basic text manipulation and timeline-based storytelling. Participants must bring own hard drive if wanting to use personal footage.
Wednesdays, Feb. 29 – April 4, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Multi Media Lab

TP residents	$75
Non–residents	$85

Video Editing with Final Cut Pro *Intermediate*

This course involves a brief review of Final Cut Pro interface basic, then adds 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, Feb. 29 – April 4, 7:45 – 9:15 p.m.
TP Community Center Multi Media Lab

TP residents	$95
Non-residents	$115

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Winter Basketball League 2012

February – March 2012
The Recreation Department is still looking for dedicated volunteers to help out with the winter basketball league. Help inspire and motivate our youth by serving the community. Positions include score keepers, time keepers, and referees. Please contact Eric Rasch for more information, ericr@takomagov.org or 301-891-7225.

Scholarship Program

The Takoma Park Recreation Department is committed to making scholarships available to City residents who cannot pay full price for recreation programs. Scholarships give all Takoma Park residents an opportunity to learn, grow and have fun. Please visit the Recreation Department, administrative office, to receive a scholarship packet.

Are you ready for winter?

The Emergency Preparedness Committee recommends having one or more emergency kits with supplies to last at least three days. Keep a kit prepared for stay-at-home emergencies, and also consider kits for your car, for work and a portable version for home, ready to take with you.

These kits will enable you and your family to respond to an emergency more quickly, and will be useful whether you have to shelter in place or evacuate.

Home Kit

- Place items in a designated area that will be easily accessible in the event of an emergency.
- Make sure every member of your family knows where the kit is.
- Use a waterproof container or box to store the kit.

Basics

- Water—at least one gallon per person per day for at least three days (consider iodine and a filtration system to treat water if your supply runs out)
- Food—nonperishable food for at least three days (select items that require no preparation, refrigeration or cooking such as high energy foods and ready-to-eat canned meat, vegetables, fruit)
- Manual can opener
- Multi-tool
- First aid kit
- Prescription medications and medical equipment/care aids
- Flashlight
- All-hazards NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) weather radio
- Extra batteries (at the size required)
- Fire extinguisher
- Cash
- Any tools needed for turning off utilities

Portable Emergency Kit

Take this kit with you when you are ordered to evacuate. Prepack this portion of your home kit in rolling bags or backpacks that you can manage. Add as many of the other supplies as you can actually pull or carry if you have to evacuate. Make sure every member of your family knows where the kit is.

- N95- or N100-rated dust masks
- Personal sanitation supplies, such as moist towelettes, garbage bags and plastic ties
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio and cell phone charger
- Local maps and your family emergency plan
- Important documents, including will, medical and financial power of attorney, property documents, medical instructions, contact numbers
- Current photos of household members and pets with name and age written on the back
- Paper and pencil, books, games, puzzles, toys and other activities for children
- Reusable plates, cups, utensils, saucepan and portable stove (note, a metal bowl can double as a cup or plate)
- Matches or flint in a waterproof container
- Sleeping bag or other weather-appropriate bedding for each person
- A weather-appropriate change of clothes for each person
- Coats, jackets and rain gear
- Brightly colored plastic poncho (can be used as shelter, clothing or as a marker)

Additional (if applicable)

- Infant formula and diapers if you have young children
- Pet supplies, including food, water, medication, leash, travel case and documents

Workplace Emergency Kit

This kit should be in one container (e.g., backpack) to be kept at your work station in case you must evacuate from work.

- Comfortable walking shoes and spare socks at your work place in case you have to walk long distances
- Food, water, flashlight, multi-tool and a first aid kit
- Your family's communications procedure

Vehicle Emergency Kit

In the event that you are stranded while driving, keep this kit in your vehicle at all times. Try to keep the vehicle's fuel tank half full in case you have to evacuate when fuel is not immediately available or you don't have time to fuel before departure.

- Food, water, first aid kit, multi-tool, signal flares, jumper cables and seasonal clothing (coats, rain gear)
- Fix-a-Flat or equivalent for emergency inflation and sealing of a flat tire
- Tow strap or chain
- Your family's communications procedure

For Winter

- Abrasives for ice (sand, kitty litter, ice melt), ice scraper, broom (brush snow off car), collapsible snow shovel, snow chains.

Maintaining Your Kits

- Routinely evaluate your kits and their relevance to the threats in your area.
- Throw away and replace any expired or damaged medications, food or water.

Where to Find Additional Information

- American Red Cross - www.redcross.org
- Department of Homeland Security (ready.gov) - www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) - www.fema.gov/plan/prepare/supplykit.shtm

A DAY FOR DREAMERS

Takoma Park celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day with street cleanups and a food and clothing distribution; an evening celebration included, from left, step dancing by New Redeemer Baptist Church G-Force Step Ministry, "I Have a Dream" recitations by Piney Branch students, and community leader, Tebabu Assefa. The event, organized by Takoma United for an Engaged Community, CHEER (Community Health and Empowerment through Education and Research) and the Takoma Park Community Action Group, also included the Blair High School jazz band, God Glorified Church of God in Christ Choir Praise Team and a potluck meal.

Photos by Selena Malott

FEBRUARY '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 March 2012 issue is Feb. 17.

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.

CITY CLOSINGS

City offices closed

No yard waste pickup
Monday, Feb. 20
President's Day

PUBLIC MEETINGS / OF NOTE

City Council Meeting

Mondays, Feb. 6, 13 and 27, 7:30 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
See takomaparkmd.gov for agendas

Deadline, Community Grant applications

Wednesday, Feb. 15
For small grants (under $2,500)
www.takomaparkmd.gov

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Symposium on bullying

Featuring Martin Castro, Chair of the U.S. Commission on Human Rights and county and state officials
Sponsored by the county's Committee on Hate/Violence and the Office of Human Rights
Saturday, Feb. 4, 2 – 4 p.m.
Silver Spring Civic Building, One Veterans Place, Silver Spring
Free
240-777-8450

Mid Winter Play Day

Board games, puzzles, sing-alongs and more with Takoma Plays
Thursday, Feb. 9 (aka 2/09/12, TP's zip code)
6 – 8 p.m.
TP Community Center
Free
Takomaplays.org

Mardi Gras Pub Crawl

Jambalaya, gumbo, beignets, zydeco music, beads, masks and more
Tuesday, Feb. 21, 7 – 9 p.m.
Cedar Crossing, Olive Lounge, Roscoe's
Mainstreettakoma.org

Volleyball Drop-in

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

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 4th St. N.W.

"Lucid Dreams" Opening Reception

Friday, Feb. 3, 6 – 8 p.m.
TP Community Center
Exhibit of the surrealist paintings of Jawara Blake
Free
www.facebook.com/takomaparkmd

"Works on Paper" Opening Reception

Friday, Feb. 3, 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
TP Community Center
An exhibition of collages and drawings by Katie Dell Kaufman
Free
www.facebook.com/takomaparkmd

Washington Musica Viva - Chamber Music

Friday, Feb. 3, 7:30 p.m.
"Four Play," Quartets by Antonin Dvorak (Op. 23 in D) and WA Mozart (Eb K. 493)
TP Community Center Auditorium
$15 door / children under 12 free with adult
http://dcmusicaviva.org

We are Egypt Screening and Discussion

Thursday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m.
TP Community Center
Documentary about the seeds of Egypt's uprising, with filmmaker Lillie Paquette
Free
www.facebook.com/takomaparkmd

Carroll Café – David Roth Concert

Unique songs, offbeat observations, sense of the hilarious, and powerful
Friday, Feb. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Carroll Café, 276 Carroll St NW
Suggested donation $15
http://carrollcafe.org

Kim and Reggie Harris

Saturday, Feb. 11, 1 and 3 p.m.
TP Community Center
Family concert with TP favorites
$10 advance, $12 door
www.imtfolk.org

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

Summer Becomes Absurd

Third Thursday Poetry Reading
Thursday, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
Work of Brendan Ogg
Free
www.facebook.com/Takomaparkmd

Washington Musica Viva Chamber Music

"Turkish/Jewish," music for violin, piano and soprano by composers A. Adnan Saygun, Mordechai Seter, Darius Milhaud
Friday Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center Auditorium
$15 door / children under 12 free with adult
http://dcmusicaviva.org

Hanneke Cassel with Ari Friedman and Keith Murphy

Wednesday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
Innovative and eclectic fiddling influenced by bluegrass, Scottland and even China
$18 advance, $22 door, student discounts
www.imtfolk.org

Scott Alarik Book Signing and Concert

Wednesday, Feb. 29, 7:30 p.m.
TP Community Center
Folk music journalist and storyteller, with a new novel set in the open mic community
$14 in advance, $18 door, student discounts
www.imtfolk.org

HEALTH

Four definitions of love

Somatic workshops on the body and self awareness
Part of the Dance Exchange "Home" series
Feb. 2, 7 p.m., Alexander Technique movement coordination
Feb. 9, 6 p.m., Bartenieff Fundamentals movement technique
Feb. 16, 6 p.m. Love Your Badass Self creative expression
Feb. 23, 6 p.m. Couples Massage
$25 – $40, or $100 full session
www.danceexchange.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

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.