

THE VILLAGE OF TAKOMA PARK

Neighbors helping neighbors to make aging in community a reality

NEWSLETTER to Seniors, Members and Friends: 1 – 2015

Non-profit status: There is a magic number provided by the Internal Revenue Service for non-profit groups which allows tax-deductible donations. To our delight, as we made plans for the official debut of the Village of Takoma Park (it's on May 9 – see below), our application for 501 (c) (3) non-profit tax status was approved. Now we can evolve from the support that we received from our fiscal agent CHEER, and we can become independent. More good news – our friends and supporters can now make tax deductible financial contributions directly to the Village.



The Board: Our tax status is also good news for the nine Board members – Pazit Aviv, Doris Duarte, Martha Feldman, Ken Flemmer, Linda Kolko, Peter Kovar, Erwin Mack, Gertrud Mergner, and Wolfgang Mergner -- who can continue implementing the Village strategic plan. The Board developed the plan last year, and in 2015 we will focus on outreach to the community, expansion of our volunteer corps, and development of our organizational infrastructure. Our Advisory Board has also had a chance to review and accept our proposed actions for this year, and they continue to provide vital input as we move forward.

Website: Another important characteristic of a mature organization is a website. Indeed, that is the first question: "Do you have a website?" The answer now is "yes, with easy access to membership and volunteer forms. Check it out at <http://villageoftakomapark.com/>.

Kick-off Event: On Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 1 – 4 PM we will be hosting the official Village of Takoma Park kick-off event at the Takoma Park Municipal Center Auditorium (7500 Maple Avenue), with live music from DeJohn. This group was one of the top performers in last year's Takoma Porch Festival. Their tongue-in-cheek humor and joyous mix of old-time country and American standards will get into your bones whether you are 5 or 85 (or any age between or beyond). Mayor Williams will give a welcome speech and there will be food and drinks for our guests, including of course Members of the Village (you can go to the website now to become a Member). In addition, Takoma Park's longest running neighbors-helping-neighbors association, the Sherman Avenue Elders, will talk about how they started and what it has meant to them to form such a cohesive neighborhood group.



Services: Information on the services provided by the Village of Takoma Park, which include friendly visits and VillageRides, will also be available on May 9. VillageRides has provided more than 100 rides to residents of Takoma Park, to shopping, to church service, to festive events and to doctor's visits. Volunteer drivers will receive magnetic panels for their cars in recognition of their service, and all the volunteers have our appreciation and thanks.

Takoma Park City Council: On May 4 the Village will present a report on its progress to the City Council at 7:00 PM. We could use your support.